

ESCAP 6TH Session of the Committee on Environment and Development**Dec 9-10, 2020; VIRTUAL****SPEAKING NOTES**

Jane Gerardo-Abaya
Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Center
J.Gerardo-Abaya@iaea.org

- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen
- Congratulate ESCAP for the high attention to environment and development during this 6th session of the Committee on Environment and Development
- For several decades , within its statute and mandate : “Atoms for Peace and Development”, as a science based organization of the UN family, the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA has worked with its Member States to develop specialized expertise, networks, infrastructure, and capacity that can be used in complementarity with conventional techniques to help address various environmental and marine contaminations and their associated problems.
- The IAEA technical cooperation programme collaborates with countries to build up technical expertise, and to establish appropriate regulatory systems for the use of nuclear technology. Our goal is to improve people’s lives, supporting socioeconomic development, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme addresses so many of the key challenges facing us today: climate change, food and energy security, pollution of the oceans and seas, and human health.
- As a response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the IAEA supported 127 countries and territories that includes 27 in Asia and the Pacific with more than 1800 orders for equipment, including RT-PCR for COVID-19 detection and diagnosis and other supplies.
- To be better prepared for the future, the IAEA has launched the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project to strengthen countries’ preparedness and capabilities to respond to the threats of zoonotic diseases. ZODIAC includes a new interregional project on ‘Supporting National and Regional Capacity in Integrated Action for Control of Zoonotic Diseases’, which will build global, regional and national capabilities for the surveillance, detection and control of emerging or re-emerging zoonotic diseases.

- Plastic pollution is another challenge, threatening ecosystems, imperilling food safety, and affecting human health. Nuclear technology can contribute innovative solutions to this global challenge – both upstream in plastic mitigation at the source, and downstream, as we apply nuclear technology to monitor and assess the impact of microplastics in the marine environment. Several countries in Asia and the Pacific already have advanced capabilities and initiatives that can offer nuclear solutions to this global issue.
- The IAEA has launched a new initiative, ‘NUclear TEchnology for Controlling Plastic pollution’, or NUTEC Plastic, which intends to explore and rapidly expand the use of nuclear technology to contribute to (finding) innovative solutions to plastic pollution and which will gradually integrate nuclear technology into initiatives at every level that address the plastics challenge.
- Since 2012, IAEA has invested in 24 technical cooperation (TC) projects to establish laboratories, train counterparts, and develop regulations for marine contamination control. For the programme cycle 2022-2023 alone, the IAEA Member States from all regions have proposed 19 new projects related to plastics and the marine environment.
- A more comprehensive and ambitious plan is being developed in an effort to deploy this unique technology at an integrated and large scale manner to help promote and realize, e.g. plastic circular economy, and provide reliable and accurate assessment and monitoring of both terrestrial and marine microplastic pollution.
- Additionally, the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme in Asia and the Pacific through the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) has carried out extensive work related to air pollution, water resources management, marine environmental monitoring; and most recently released a publication on the social and economic impacts of mutation breeding for the improvement of productivity of crops. The report reflects that the key impacts of conducted through RCA mutation breeding projects included increased food production, enhanced environmental protection, strengthened regional capacity and capability, and important economic impact.
- In conclusion, wishing the ESCAP every success in this meeting and for its goals for the environment and development.
- Look forward to continuing collaboration towards a comprehensive and converging actions to address current and emerging environmental challenges.

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