Using information and communication technologies (ICTs) to address training needs in Africa

Background...
In Africa, a growing interest in peaceful applications of nuclear techniques has brought to the forefront the need for improved education and training to build human capacity in nuclear science and technology.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are effective tools to supplement conventional education methods such as fellowships or group training. ICTs offer mass customization and can be tailored to individual learning styles, goals and abilities, while providing immediate feedback on progress made and results achieved. AFRA has incorporated ICTs into distance training and education projects.

AFRA approach and successes...
AFRA Member States have established sustainable national and regional capabilities in the use of ICTs for training and education in the fields of nuclear science and technology relating to agriculture, human health, environmental monitoring, water resources management, nuclear instrumentation and other nuclear related fields.

ICT based training and learning tools have been successfully introduced to supplement conventional training methods in several national nuclear institutions, engineering schools and universities. This has enhanced decision maker, manager and trainer acceptance of ICT in participating AFRA Member States and has facilitated the integration of this tool into the national human resource development strategies of several countries.

AFRA has emphasized the training of nuclear engineers, computer scientists and technicians with the aim of building regional capabilities to train personnel and further strengthening the use of ICT based training materials to meet national needs. This effort was linked to the provision of ICT telecentres in several AFRA Member States.

AFRA support has increased awareness in Member States regarding the potential for and requirements of ICT based training and learning methodologies.

Preparations for an ICT training course.

September 2009