Features in CONNECT

⇒ Discussion forums on both common and special topics

⇒ Expert search function; find the person who can help you with your problems

⇒ Library of documents, presentations, videos, software tools, glossaries, and other resources

⇒ E-learning: nuclear education and training, on demand video, and archived presentations and seminars

⇒ Resources, including calendar of meetings and events, training courses, webinars and online meeting workspaces

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Atoms for Peace

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Connecting the Network of Networks for Enhanced Communications and Training (CONNECT)

Providing an integrated, internet based experience to enable IAEA Network participants to find needed technical expertise and quality training resources in a timely manner

What is CONNECT?

The term 'CONNECT' stands for Connecting the Network of Networks for Enhanced Communication and Training. CONNECT will provide a common web based platform suitable for use by all IAEA professional communities of practice (i.e. Networks).

The key functions of CONNECT are to facilitate collaboration between Network participants, for example through online interactions such as discussion forums and cooperative document production, and sharing experience and expertise through 'lessons learned' and by direct consultation between participants.

CONNECT will provide a gateway for interconnecting existing and planned IAEA Networks, increasing the participation of individuals and organizations involved in them, and making available additional sources of information that complement existing training workshops and meetings.

Potential benefits to users

Networking provides an opportunity for users to discuss current technical challenges and potential solutions with peers, both informally and more formally (in a structured sense), i.e. 'brainstorming' with other users.

In addition, participation in such discussions by participants from less advanced programmes, involving scientists and engineers with a wide range of experience, may provide novel 'out of the box' thinking.

Common problems are best addressed by common solutions, to increase confidence in those solutions, to reduce duplication of effort and to minimize costs and time. This applies to experiments, technical developments and demonstration projects equally.

Facilities, equipment and expertise may be made available that would otherwise not be easy to find commercially in a user's own country.

Early collaboration in experiments that may not currently be possible in one's own country may be possible (e.g. to demonstrate the feasibility of alternative concepts).

Regulators may be positively influenced by arguments based on the results obtained from Network collaborations (rather than simply theoretical arguments).

Involvement in a Network under the auspices of the

IAEA will lead to greater recognition of a user's collaborative efforts by national governments and ministries, as well as by the public. It also reflects well on governments in international forums.

Independent peer review and critiquing is possible at low cost to users.

Training and education of junior and senior scientists from countries with less developed programmes demonstrates 'good global citizenship' and increases the global pool of experienced and competent scientists.

Good novel technologies developed by commercial companies can be brought to market more rapidly, increasing efficiency across the board.

In summary, CONNECT will provide these and other benefits to users and to Member State institutions at no cost. However, active participation is needed to make the platform a viable, vibrant and effective solution.

To find out more, check frequently at http://www.iaea.org/ for updates on CONNECT, and also check the web pages for your Network if you are already involved. CONNECT will be available on the web site: http://www.iaea.org/CONNECT

Timeline

CONNECT is currently in development, but is expected to be running by the fourth quarter of 2011.