**IAEA held Regional Coordination Meeting on**

**“Quality Management Practices in**

**Radiation Processing Facilities” in Suzhou,China**

*The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held a Regional Coordination Meeting on "Quality Management Practices in Radiation Processing Facilities", conducted in the context of the IAEA technical cooperation project RAS1028, from 4 to 8 March 2024 in Suzhou, China.*

The meeting was hosted by IAEA and commissioned by CAEA to be organized by CIRA, China Isotope and Radiation Association, and co-organized by 3 leading companies in this industry: China Isotope & Radiation Corporation, CGN Nuclear Technology Development Co.,Ltd, and Zhongjin Irradiation Incorporated Company. Bumsoo Han, Technical Officer of IAEA, and 23 irradiation technology experts from 13 Asia-Pacific member countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, attended the meeting to discuss how to improve the quality management of radiation processing facilities to ensure safe, reliable and efficient operation. The participants shared the latest technologies, experiences and best practices in the field of radiation processing in their respective countries and discussed the challenges and solutions. The opening of this event attracted the attention of the radiation processing industry in China. More than 20 heads of major institutes and enterprises attended and communicated with the participants.

The primary objective of the meeting was to review and assess results obtained since this RAS1028 regional coordination project started in 2022, and presented: progress, results, and achievements; development of future guidelines for the quality management practices in radiation processing facilities. During the meeting, IAEA emphasized the importance of international cooperation, arguing that it is only by sharing knowledge, experience and resources that countries can work together to advance the level of quality management in radiation processing facilities.

The consensus among all participants resoundingly affirms the regional project RAS1028 as an invaluable platform for the in-depth examination of ongoing and forthcoming activities in the realm of quality management of irradiation facilities, conducted by participating institutes. With a view to advancing the common objectives and achieving a final outcome, the representatives of the countries made the following conclusion:

1. The representatives of each country emphasized the pivotal role of the RAS1028 project in the realm of dosimetry, as well as the influence on national R&D activities and their subsequent economic implications, particularly in medical and industrial research and development applications.
2. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the RAS1028 project witnessed the successful accomplishment of most planned deliverers during its project since 2022.
3. The RAS1028 project welcomed two Member States, which are Lao P.D.R and Nepal.
4. The dosimetry inter-comparison exercise, led by KARA (Korean Association for Radiation Application), attracted participation from 12 gamma facilities and 7 EB facilities across the region.

All participants agreed that strengthening the quality management of radiation processing facilities was not only the key to ensuring public health and safety, but also an important step in promoting global economic development and sustainable development.

As emphasized by Bumsoo Han, Technical Officer of IAEA, “The IAEA works for the safe, secure and peaceful rules of technology, contributing to international peace and securities,” he also pointed that, “the imperative of quality management practices within the regional processing facilities identifies as the high priorities in the meeting, quality assurance and quality control (QA&QC) should also require attention.”

In the future, consensus from Member States to continue the project to the next phase in 2026/2027, with discussions on activities such as sterilization dose validation (microbiological test), 2nd and 3rd round of dosimetry inter-comparison exercise, and specific quality documentation for food irradiation, sterilization and cross-linking.

They committed themselves to continue to strengthen international cooperation to address the challenges in the field of radiation processing and to promote technological innovation and exchange of experience.

Through this meeting, IAEA has set a good example for the improvement of quality management in radiation processing facilities around the world and laid a solid foundation for future international technical cooperation and exchanges. It is believed that, with the joint efforts of all countries, radiation processing technology will continue to make greater contributions to human well-being and social progress.