



NEWSFLASH

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NNR CENTRE FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY HOSTED THE IAEA TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT ORGANISATION FORUM (TSOF) WORKSHOP FROM 25-29 NOVEMBER 2019.



The NNR's CNSS hosted the IAEA Technical and Scientific Support Organizations (TSO) Forum Workshop titled 'National meeting on Developing and Strengthening Technical and Scientific capacity' from the 25 to 29 November 2019 at the Kievitskroon Faircity Hotel in Pretoria, South Africa.

The primary objective of the workshop was to assist the NNR in establishing and maintaining TSO capability, pilot the SAQ Tool which involves the way the tool is embedded in the software, how the results are generated and identify areas for improvement.

In an opening statement, NNR CEO Dr Tyobeka said, "The IAEA established the Technical and Scientific Support Organisation Forum (TSOF) in order to strengthen the role of TSOs and their global coordination and collaboration, as well as to foster Scientific and Technical Capacity Building including Education and Training". The five-day workshop included presentations that covered topics on Technical and Scientific Support to Regulatory Functions as well as case studies and presentations on results from the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) Tool.

The tool was designed to be user friendly and covered 25 key issues, following closely the contents IAEA TECDOC 1835. The 25 keys questions that were grouped according to 8 pillars covering: Enabling; Role, Characteristics and Management; Capacity Building (including Human Resources Development) and Outreach; Technical capabilities supporting regulatory functions; Safety Assessment and Inspections; Support to the Development of Regulatory Documents; Assessment of Operational Experience; Emergency Preparedness and Response and Research and Development, which is both a technical and enabling function.

Dr Margret Mkhosi, Director: CNSS said that the national workshop was first of its kind and was dubbed a “pilot national workshop” since the TSO Initiative was recently developed. The workshop was part of the Action Plan that was developed during preparatory consultancy meeting in June 2019. Also included in the Action Plan were identified stakeholders (Lead Assessors and Team Members) to be involved in the completion of the SAQ Tool. From end of June until November, various meetings were held with Lead Assessors to demonstrate and test the tool, complete the SAQ Tool and review the results, and lastly give feedback to SAQ Tool developers on the errors identified. During workshop, the Lead Assessors presented their results in various formats such SAQ Tool itself, bar graphs and spider charts generated through the SAQ Tool to the Experts for deliberations and inputs. Thereafter, the Experts analysed the results and developed a recommendation for the NNR.

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