



## Project Description for ARASIA TC Programme

### TC Cycle 2020-2021

**Project Number:** RAS0087

**Project Title:** Enhancing the Management for Improved Effectiveness of the Programme (ARASIA).

**Overall Objective:** To enhance ARASIA management and programme and ensure programme sustainability and alignment with ARASIA medium term strategies (MTS) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) when possible.

**Project Duration:** (2020 – 2021)

**Project Description:** This project aims at leveraging the Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA) management for an effective and efficient implementation of the ARASIA programme, as well as facilitating the development of this programme in line with the medium term strategy (MTS) 2018-2027. This project focuses on the systematic and sound management of the ARASIA programme and coordination of functions and outputs within the framework of ARASIA and technical cooperation (TC) policies and procedures. In this regard, as a step towards mutual learning among ARASIA countries to accelerate development in the area of nuclear technology, the necessary modalities, procedures and concrete timeframes for the designation of ARASIA regional centres was discussed and agreed upon.

**Problem to be addressed:** The ARASIA agreement is a relatively young agreement as compared to its sister agreements. Through the last decade, the quality and nature of its TC programme, as well as its implementation rate, have improved. However, there is a need to improve the quality of the ARASIA programme and align it with the MTS for 2018-2027. The recent development of the ARASIA strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis and recommendations made by the working group in this regard will provide a significant opportunity to enhance the ARASIA programme and its impact in the region. This project will address some of the identified weaknesses upon prioritization by the ARASIA Board of Representatives (ABR) 2017: (1) Resource mobilization and partnership; (2) ARASIA regional resource centres; (3) outreach activities; (4) key performance indicator for ARASIA TC Programme; (5) re-conduction of the agreement; and (6) re-enforcement of guidelines and operating rules (GORs). In this respect, this project will address these issues and will provide a framework for the implementation of the related activities and any other emerging needs and challenges with the aim of enhancing ARASIA sustainability and efficiency.



**This project is proposed as a regional activity for the following reason(s):** This project will provide a platform to enhance the ARASIA management and programme and to build on strengths, deal with weaknesses, exploit opportunities, and alleviate the potential effect of threats under each category which are outlined below: (1) Generalities/policy; (2) institutional and management setting; (3) strategic planning; (4) development of the programme; (5) implementation and monitoring (evaluation); (6) partnership and resource mobilization; and (7) outreach.

**Stakeholders:** Stakeholders will include ARASIA States Parties (SPs), represented by ARASIA national representatives, ARASIA project lead coordinators and ARASIA national project coordinators, ARASIA SP organizations and the IAEA. The ARASIA Chair and ARASIA national representatives (NRs) will play a key role in the management of the agreement and the policy decisions. The ARASIA Secretariat will be communicating all the decisions and important actions to all SPs. The IAEA will be supporting ARASIA NRs in the implementation of the agreed activities under the framework of this project. All other institutions in ARASIA SPs will be involved in the programme implementation.

**Partnerships:** Several partners could potentially be included and three types of partnership will be explored under ARASIA upon ABR decision: (1) strategic (regional and international organizations); (2) technical (regional resource centres); and (3) financial (donors and funding bodies).

**Role of nuclear technology:** This project will contribute to strengthening the agreement's ongoing and future TC programmes. Although by itself it is not a project that falls in one of the thematic areas, all the policy and management decisions supported by the project support the ARASIA programme quality and implementation.