TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Since the Agency first began to supply technical assistance in 1958, the lion's share – forty per cent – of the total has gone to the countries covered by the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. During 1964, the Agency provided to these various countries a total volume of assistance estimated at $727 000, comprising the services of some 43 experts, 113 fellowship awards and a considerable quantity of equipment.

Major projects in the region are the co-ordinated rice research programme, the pre-investment power study in the Philippines, and the neutron crystal spectrometer programme, also in the Philippines; these are described elsewhere in this issue. There are many other Agency activities, principally training courses and the provision of expert advice.

A regional training course on the application of radioisotopes in medicine was held in Manila towards the end of 1964. Another course, on the use of radioisotopes in soil and plant investigations, is to be held during 1966.

Since a number of research reactors have reached criticality and have started normal operation in the region, there is a growing demand for technical assistance in experimental nuclear and neutron physics, radiochemistry and irradiation techniques (including radioisotope production). Agency experts have helped in making more effective use of research reactor facilities in Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. The Agency is helping countries without research reactor programmes to improve the teaching of nuclear sciences (as in Afghanistan and Burma), or to set up laboratories for applications of radioisotopes in agriculture (Cambodia and Ceylon).

Towards the end of 1964, a 250 kW research reactor reached criticality in Indonesia. Visiting professors have lectured on solid state physics and nuclear physics, and an expert in the use of radioisotopes in agriculture was assigned to the Bogor Faculty of Agriculture.

In Iran, an Agency expert has been assigned to supervise construction of a 5 MW swimming pool research reactor, and assistance is also being provided in health physics. Similar assistance is being provided to Pakistan, where a swimming pool research reactor and associated laboratories are being built at the Rawalpindi Institute of Nuclear Science, and visiting professors in theoretical physics, radiochemistry and neutron physics have been sent. The Agency is also helping in the development of the Atomic Energy Centre at Dacca, East Pakistan. Assistance in the fields of nuclear physics, instrumentation and the setting up of a cobalt irradiation installation is being furnished.

Technical assistance projects in food preservation are being undertaken in India and Thailand. In Bangkok, a panel meeting was held recently under the joint auspices of IAEA and FAO on "Co-ordination of Research on the

Use of Induced Mutations in Rice Breeding". An Agency expert in this field is also being assigned to Thailand. The Agency Regional Adviser in Hospital Physics is being based in Bangkok, besides another expert in hospital physics previously appointed to Thailand. An advanced regional Summer School on the use of radioisotopes in medicine was recently held in Bangkok, and an Agency expert has helped to introduce radioisotope techniques to some hospitals in Saigon, Vietnam.

An inter-regional training course on the use of research reactors for the production of radioisotopes and activation analysis was held in Trombay, India, in 1964, and also a regional training course on general applications of radioisotopes in Tokyo. A short advanced regional training course in waste management is also being held in Japan in 1965.

Because of the level of development already achieved in atomic energy in Japan, that country has sought short-term consultation services of specific persons who are authorities, or well-known specialists. Recently IAEA has assigned such short-term consultants in radiobiology, radiation physics, plutonium metallurgy, and spent fuel reprocessing.