

## ARMENIA

### Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Armenia has been involved in NATO science activities since 1993. In total, scientists and experts from Armenia have had leading roles in 143 activities, and have joined other cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.

Today, NATO science activities enable close collaboration on the two key priorities of **defence against terrorism** and **countering other threats to security** and are managed under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. SPS activities contribute to NATO's strategic objective of partnership, helping to connect scientists and experts from NATO countries with their counterparts from Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries through workshops, training courses, team collaborations and multi-year projects.



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All activities supported by the SPS Programme are approved by NATO nations on the basis of consensus.

### Examples of Activities

A SPS workshop in Yerevan, Armenia, that took place on 26-29 May 2009, examined topics related to **“Nuclear Power and Energy Security”**. The workshop analyzed the status and potential of nuclear power as an option for meeting future energy needs. This SPS event gathered representatives from the local government, industry and academy who discussed the interrelated challenges involved, mainly focused on the relatively high economic costs, health and environmental safety risks, possible security risks stemming from nuclear proliferation, and the challenges of long-term management of nuclear wastes, as well as ways to overcome them. [ref 983474]

As part of a multi-year project, **“Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis of Obsolete Pesticides in Armenia”**,

Armenian scientists are cooperating with those from the Czech Republic and Greece to catalogue polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other discarded pesticides, laying the groundwork for their proper disposal. The task is to compile an inventory of the stocks of these chemicals throughout the territory of the Republic of Armenia and to map the contaminated sites where they have been used. This will also entail the establishment of an analytical laboratory, including modern equipment and training for personnel. The laboratory will be used for the assessment of existing chemical stocks and contaminated areas, as well as for the continual monitoring of PCBs in soil, surface water, food and agricultural products. An accompanying assessment will be made of the health risks posed. [ref 982812]

Researchers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the United States, Italy, Greece, Canada and Turkey are cooperating on a new project to gather comprehensive seismic observations, conduct hazard analyses and prepare for effective response to emergencies in the Southern Caucasus region. The project, entitled **“Caucasus Seismic Emergency Response (CauSER)”**, will update a regional seismic network by adding

**the South Caucasus”**. The project involves the demonstration of state-of-the art irrigation techniques and use of more accurate methods of estimating water use. To this end, a 6.5 ha demonstration plot with a 4.5 ha drip irrigation scheme was established in Georgia. The drip irrigation scheme has resulted in yields that are four to five times higher than those obtained with traditional irrigation systems, as well as water savings that are up to four to five times.

There has been much interest shown by local producers in purchasing drip irrigation systems, and local farmers have begun to participate in the project. The experts also foresee the establishment of a South Caucasus Scientific Research, Information and Extension Centre. [ref 982227]



Aftermath of an earthquake in Armenia.

additional instrumentation and recording equipment. The experts intend to create a regional earthquake attenuation model and study the response of buildings and structures to strong earthquakes. A communication network will link Data Acquisition Centres in the region and allow them to acquire earthquake data. The project co-directors have established contacts with the end-users of the project, including the Departments of Urbanization and Construction, Nature Protection and Emergency Structures in Armenia. [ref 983284]

Starting in April 2007, scientists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the United States have cooperated in improving the **“Water Resources Management of Agro-Ecosystems in**

SPS networking infrastructure grants provide Internet connectivity,

information technology and network equipment for academic institutions in NATO's Partner countries. Ongoing networking projects include the development, improvement and expansion of the **Armenia Research and Educational Network Association (ARENA)**. The projects have enabled academicians and young scientists to have easy access to the World Wide Web and the possibility to exchange large documents and datasets with their local and foreign counterparts. In addition, researchers can sign up to distance learning programmes and set up video conference facilities. This helps promote collaboration and integration in the international scientific community.