



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme



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The Kyrgyz Republic has been involved in NATO science activities since 1993. In total, scientists and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic have had leading roles in 49 activities, and more joined various 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.

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

Examples of Activities

An advanced training course in Bishkek on the **“Use of Force in Countering Terrorism”** was co-organised by experts from Kyrgyz Republic and the NATO Centre of Excellence – Defence Against Terrorism in Ankara, Turkey. The course, which took place in September 2008, aimed to provide a forum for an exchange of views and to promote increased international dialogue and cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The trainees examined the concept and parameters of the use of force in countering terrorism and were introduced to relevant international law and treaties related to counter-terrorism and armed conflict.

[ref 983231]

A recently initiated project involving scientists from the Kyrgyz Republic, Slovak Republic, Russian Federation and Belgium has the goal of **“Prevention of Landslide Dam Disasters in the Tien Shan”**. This mountainous region in the Kyrgyz Republic is prone to major earthquakes and at the same time contains nuclear waste storage areas, which are vulnerable to the resulting landslides. Seismic ground motions also severely damage the stability of both natural and man-made dams. The work to mitigate the damage caused by landslides will involve regional mapping, field investigations, and 3D-modelling of

the hazards and resulting risk scenarios. These tools will facilitate greater collaboration between scientists and governmental authorities, and the work will be pursued in close collaboration with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations. This project was developed as a result of the SPS workshop on “Security of Rockslide Dams” that took place in Bishkek in 2004. [ref 983289]

Scientists from the Kyrgyz Republic, United Kingdom, Italy and Uzbekistan have been working together on a project aimed at increasing **“Geo-Environmental Security of the Toktogul Hydroelectric Power Station Region”**, with respect to seismic hazards. This region lies in the centre of the largest hydroelectric irrigation area in Central Asia. The approach is to evaluate the seismic security of the Toktogul region, formulate threat scenarios, develop recommendations for risk mitigation measures, and disseminate information on the potential hazards using a GIS database. Another principal objective is to identify the threats arising from earthquake-related disturbances to dumps of uranium tailings. The end-users of the results and recommendations of this study include the relevant ministries in the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, as well as the Kyrgyzenergo Holding Company which runs the Toktogul operation. [ref 983142]

Investigators from the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Slovenia have cooperated since February 2006 in a project to manage uranium

industry wastes in order to prevent adverse effects on the health of local populations and on the environment. The project, **“Uranium Extraction and Environmental Security in Central**



Taking Radon measurements in a home in Shekaftar, Kyrgyz Republic. (photo courtesy of project co-directors)

Asian Republics”, involves determining how radionuclides migrate, the extent of local contamination and the doses to which different population groups have been exposed, with particular focus on drinking-water supplies near uranium tailing and waste ore deposits. Since the start of the project, missions have been carried out to selected uranium waste sites, including Minkush and Kadji Sai in the Kyrgyz Republic. The results of this work are of particular interest to various municipal and national regulatory authorities in the countries involved, who will have access to data on radon levels in private homes and public buildings, as well as on radioactivity in drinking water supplies located in close to uranium waste deposits. Recommendations will also be made on ways to limit exposure. [ref 981742]