



SUSTAINED DIALOGUE ON PEACEFUL USES

Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses

Concept Paper: SDPU Regional Workshop on Food Security in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands

As a part of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses (SDPU), CRDF Global plans to host a regional program from July 9-11 in Bangkok, Thailand on food safety, security, and productivity using nuclear science and technology in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. This program will feature expert discussions on the opportunities, success stories, challenges, and risks relating to UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) – Zero Hunger – as well as touch upon SDG3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG6 (Clean Water), SDG9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG12 (Sustainable Cities), SDG15 (Life on Land), and multiple targets under SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It will seek to include representatives from organizations across the public and private sectors, including regulatory agencies, academic institutions, development organizations, private companies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The program aims to synthesize discussions into project concepts that advance progress on UN SDGs that can be paired with existing funds from government donors, development funds, private equity, and other sources as available.

Program

The goal of this program is to convene a wide range of experts and stakeholders from regional organizations and centers to build awareness of the applications of nuclear science and technology that can contribute to sustainable development, encourage discussion of challenges to access to the relevant nuclear technology, and spark new and non-traditional collaboration between groups of experts. It is planned that the agenda will feature speaker presentations solicited from a wide range of participating organizations and supplemented with experts and international authorities that are selected by CRDF Global and its partners in close consultation with the IAEA.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Insect sterilization to protect crops and livestock
- E-beams vs. Co-60 for food irradiation and food safety
- Mutagenesis in developing higher yielding, more resilient crops
- Remote monitoring of soil moisture and precision irrigation
- Monitoring sources of water, waste, and pollution
- Food authenticity with isotopic monitoring
- Nutrition uptake and dietary monitoring with isotopic techniques
- Data sharing strategies and policies
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and sustainable financing of food systems
- Public outreach and communication
- Intergovernmental relations and policy advocacy
- Food inequality issues
- Workforce development and supporting professional supply
- Affordability and financing of technical investments and new technology adoption

Implementers & Partners

CRDF Global has partnered with the International Joint Center on Food Security (IJC-FOODSEC) based in Thailand, to co-host this program and aims to connect with other appropriate science and technology organizations focused on development in the food sector and/or nuclear technology.

Under the SDPU, CRDF Global has coordinated a series of workshops focused on various peaceful uses topics in coordination with host country partners. CRDF Global specializes in and has funding available under a grant from the U.S. Department of State to provide the following support as a co-host: setting up planning meetings, addressing travel and logistics for virtual and in-person events, engaging and contracting subject matter experts, conducting participant outreach and communication, and developing event reports, and other public materials. Host country and regional partners play a key role in agenda development, invitation list creation, participant outreach, event logistics planning, and other substantive areas of input in collaboration with CRDF Global.

Background on the Sustained Dialogue

The United States and United Kingdom launched the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses (SDPU) at the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in August 2022, in consultation with a large number of other NPT parties. The goal of the SDPU is to increase the visibility of and access to nuclear technology as a development tool in areas like healthcare, food security, and environmental resource management for developing countries to achieve the UN SDGs. The SDPU is being facilitated by the non-profit CRDF Global and seeks to gather a diverse cadre of development and technical experts and engage NPT States Parties in a voluntary and non-binding way that responds to the most pressing development needs of participants. The IAEA is a key partner in building the dialogue, and the SDPU will develop actionable ideas for project concepts that complement and amplify the work of the Agency, and which could be funded under the SDPU or presented as bankable projects to the NGO/development community and private industry.

This project series supports multiple SDGs including SDG2 – Zero Hunger (Targets 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, and 2.a), SDG3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG6 (Clean Water), SDG9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG12 (Sustainable Cities), SDG15 (Life on Land), and multiple targets under SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

For more information, including event registration, visit the SDPU virtual webpage at <https://www.sustaineddialogue.com>.

To express interest in engaging with the SDPU and to sign up for events, please send an inquiry to sdpu@crdfglobal.org.