Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne) has actively supported the international transfer of peaceful applications of nuclear technology throughout its existence. Its first international training activities, in 1955, were organized and administered under the International School of Nuclear Science and Engineering as part of the Eisenhower Atoms for Peace Program. Participants came from around the world to learn about the new and rapidly developing field of nuclear reactor technology. Many graduates later became leaders of national programs involving peaceful applications of nuclear technology in their home countries. In 1976, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) designated Argonne as the host institution for U.S. participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) Nuclear Power Training Program, which is now administered by Argonne’s International Programs Section of the Nuclear Engineering Division.

Since 1976, the IAEA Training Course Program has evolved and the International Programs Section has hosted 188 joint IAEA-Argonne training courses with approximately 4,500 participants from over 135 countries. Recent courses have focused on nuclear safety, nuclear security, energy planning and comparative analysis, and non-power topics such as hydrology and human health. The Section organizes and implements between six to 12 training courses each year, in partnership with the IAEA. Courses are one to two weeks in length, and typically involve 15-30 participants from Member States.

In 1987, the International Programs Section began administering the IAEA Meeting Nominations Program, which facilitates the clearances of U.S. citizens participating in IAEA meetings regarding peaceful nuclear applications, safety and security. Each year, the Section process an average of 500 invitations and about 1,200 nominations for U.S. experts. In 2013, the total number of meetings processed by the Section was 729, nearly 200 more than in 2012. U.S. nominees who participated in these 2013 events totaled more than 1,400.

Since 2003, the International Programs Section has administered the IAEA Fellowship Program. This program brings scientists, engineers and physicians from developing countries to the U.S. for research and training in the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies and applications. U.S. host institutions provide technical instruction for durations ranging from one week to 10 months. Since 2003, more than 780 fellowships have been completed in the U.S.

The International Programs Section also works to increase U.S. representation at the IAEA. Since its start in 2005, the IAEA Careers Outreach staff have sought well-qualified U.S. candidates for positions at the IAEA. To increase U.S. representation, which is currently at 14.5% of the overall professional staff at the IAEA, the Section implemented a staffing strategy that includes various outreach and marketing methods, such as social media, email notifications and trade shows. Additionally, the International Programs Section provides direct assistance to U.S. candidates throughout the application process and actively communicates with staff at the U.S. Mission in Vienna and other interagency staff in Washington to assist U.S. candidates.

For more information, contact

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