



International Society for Tracer  
and Radiation Applications

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**Regional Training Course (RTC)  
on Applying Radiation Technologies in Industries  
from March 18 until April 13, 2018 in Vienna and Seibersdorf**

The International Society of Tracers and Radiation Applications (ISTRA) has done it again! The society has successfully certified another batch of tracers and radiation technology users at a training course, kind courtesy the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The special RTC (under RAF 7/018), which came off from March 18 to April 13, 2018 at Vienna and Seibersdorf, Austria, pooled participants from African member states including, Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria, Algeria, Sudan and Ghana, in addition to four expert lecturers. Like a double-edged sword, the purpose of the training aimed at developing the capability of national project team members for diagnosing industrial processes using radiotracers technique and gamma column scanning and thus to promote the technology in MSs industries, and certifying practitioners of the technologies. A total of thirteen participants with females representing nearly 40% registered for the training. Highly impressive!

The training had two (2) aspects to it: Practical (Hands-on) and theoretical sessions. The theoretical training comprised lectures which reviewed the radiotracer technique, tracer injection, data acquisition treatment, interpretation and RTD modeling from experiments on the flow-rig, and basic nuclear instrumentation among others. These theoretical concepts found expression during the practical sessions as participants worked in groups to perform radiotracer experiments using Tc-99m including injection, use of the data acquisition system, data treatment, analysis and modelling. The practical demonstration of the gamma column scan was particularly exciting and intriguing as groups took turns to load the physical model of the column with all manner of objects, with the aim of making the interpretation of the scan profile impossible! Participants found this session most effective.



Another highlight of this course was the bit on nuclear instrumentation basics including setting-up radiation detectors for radiotracer experiments using basic tools such as Cs-137 calibration source and oscilloscope.

At the end of the training and examination, successful participants received provisional certificates of competences from the certification body (ISTRA) for Level 1 or 2 in Radioactive Tracers Method, Residence Time Distribution Technique (RTM/RTD) and Sealed Sources Method and Column scanning technique (SSM/CST). Participants, upon providing evidence of an industrial experience, will receive an upgraded certificate valid for five years.

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