

Radiation Studies Training Program  
for Marshall Islands

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I. Objective: To help the residents of the Marshall Islands understand radioactivity and radiation and the possible effects of radiation on human health.

II. Approach: Teachers and other qualified Marshallese will be trained and prepared to convey knowledge about radiation and radiation effects to the residents of the several atolls and islands. This could be done as part of their regular classroom work and/or as part of a continuing education program for both children and adults.

III. Elements of the Program

A. Training Teachers

Training of Marshallese teachers and other qualified Marshallese would be accomplished through one or more of the following:

1. helping develop a radiation studies curriculum by participating in the curriculum development meetings currently being held at Majuro in the Marshall Islands;
2. teaching a radiation studies course in the continuing education program conducted at Majuro for teachers;
3. bringing teachers to PNL or other national laboratories

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on a rotational basis for about one month of classes and laboratory experience with radiation instruments, etc.;

4. developing special radiation studies program at Majuro for the specific purpose of training teachers and others.

#### B. Developing Teaching Materials

Various teaching aids would be developed. These aids would include at least the following:

1. writing and printing books for Rongelap, Utirik, and other Marshall Islands as appropriate - continuing the Enewetak and Bikini series;
2. writing and printing a general text for radiation studies in schools and for wide distribution to the population;
3. developing and/or assembling demonstration equipment to illustrate properties of radioactivity, radiations, and radionuclides;
4. assembling demonstration materials to illustrate biomedical topics relevant to radiation effects.

### C. Measuring the Effectiveness of the Training Program

An important part of the program will be a continuing effort to measure its effectiveness in advancing the people's understanding of radiation matters. Information gained from this will be used to alter the training program as necessary.

## III. Problem Areas and Areas Requiring Investigation

### A. Language barrier

The ability of the teachers we train to speak, read, and write English will affect our plan. Our classes may have to be taught in Marshallese--this will require a well-qualified interpreter, which is difficult to find.

### B. Forum for getting information to adults and children

School classes and adult education classes are possible avenues of communication. The availability of other means for disseminating information about radiation needs to be explored. These might include newspapers, radio, television and existing community, religious, and social activities.

### C. Compensation for teachers

Salaries and expenses of teachers during training periods and when teaching at their home islands will need to be provided.