

**RERTR 2015 – 36th INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON
REDUCED ENRICHMENT FOR RESEARCH AND TEST REACTORS**

**OCTOBER 11-14, 2015
THE PLAZA HOTEL
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

IAEA Activities in Support of HEU Minimization: 2015 Update

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ABSTRACT

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been involved for more than thirty years in supporting international nuclear non-proliferation efforts associated with reducing the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in research reactors and other civilian activities. IAEA projects have directly supported HEU minimization efforts by providing assistance related to fuel conversion from HEU to low enriched uranium (LEU), fuel shipments, and reduction of HEU use in other applications. Current activities on the subject, such as a publication on U-Mo fuel development, conversion and removal assistance for miniature neutron source reactors, and support on LEU target development for the production of molybdenum-99 (Mo-99), are in response to Member State requests. Future efforts will be designed to match the requirements of international programmes as they evolve. This paper presents the current status, as updated from 2014, of IAEA efforts to support the global objective to minimize the use of HEU in civilian applications.