Knowledge Transfer Methods:
A Research Result at the Argentinean National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA)

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Headquarters

U Mining

Fuel Manufacturing Plant

Heavy Water Plant

340 MWe

600 MWe

NPP Alucia I - PHWR

NPP Embalse - CANDU

Spent MTR Fuel Storage

DIOXITEK

FUESMEN

Nuclear Diagnosis Center

LLW Management

Argentina

Abu Dhabi, 14-18 March 2010

Vetere Claudia
As a consequence of the Nuclear Plan launched in 2006, the Argentinean Nuclear Area is facing the challenge of meeting manpower demand to maintain their nuclear capabilities as well as the growing number of staff required for the operation of the projected nuclear facilities in the coming years.
Knowledge transfer to future generations plays a decisive role in nuclear knowledge development and maintenance. CNEA through its Nuclear Knowledge Group has carried out a study on knowledge transfer methods with the aim of setting strategies and methodologies that ensure an effective transfer.
Knowledge Transfer Process

The transmitter transfers the scientific or technological knowledge to the receiver. The channel involves the applied methodology and the tools that facilitate the process. The transfer code is shared by both agents in order to make knowledge transfer possible. The whole process can be affected by noise which is all the circumstances that turn knowledge transfer into a difficult process. The transfer ends with the internalization that takes place at the receiver where the knowledge is assimilated to be put into practice.

**TRANSFER = TRANSMISION + INTERNALIZATION**
On-the-job training - which involves the concept of “learning by doing”- is definitely the best technique for transferring knowledge and training people.
Then it is possible to consider several methods to transfer knowledge which could be useful for training a large number of people. These methods may be formal or informal, direct or indirect and with some kind of IT component.
CNEA Nuclear Knowledge Group carried out a survey, on a population of professionals and technicians of various specialties working at CNEA, to investigate the preferences and experiences at the time of learning.

The study was extended to students and young professionals graduated in engineering studies from non-nuclear universities, since those are the ones who constitute an important workforce to operate the NPP.
The findings related to the use of different ICT (Information and Communication Technology) elements, tools and applications are categorized according to the age groups. The results definitely show a massive use of search engines and emails, then, the wikis, the online dictionaries, the eBooks and the virtual library are the next favorite tools.
People were asked to rank different training methods in order of preference. The methods considered are those with only face-to-face knowledge transfer to those with some digital component. Although only the 21% of the total population has taken an e-learning course at least once before, they have obtained good results with this method.
Certainly, the face to face transfer methods are the better ones. However, a good strategy could be complemented with ICT solutions (for example e-book, e-learning, simulators, Web communities, Web portals and experts capture material).

The effects of globalisation introduced by the ICT advent have as well resulted in homogeneous behaviours and characteristics of youth. Thus it is possible to devise common strategies regarding the application of knowledge transfer methods to generations born after 1970.
Thank you very much for your attention