

The NEA 50th Anniversary

The NEA celebrated its 50th anniversary on 16 October 2008 in the presence of over 350 policy makers and nuclear energy specialists at a high-level session on nuclear energy chaired by the OECD Secretary-General, Mr. Ángel Gurría, and co-chaired by Mr. Richard J.K. Stratford, Chair of the OECD Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy. This event was an occasion to showcase the main accomplishments of the Agency over its 50-year history. It also provided an opportunity to envisage the future, both in terms of the development of nuclear energy and the challenges that lay ahead for the Agency. Secretary-General Gurría underlined the need for member countries to work together to build common understandings, shared visions and globally accepted concepts and measures that allow us to have a clearer picture of nuclear energy's advantages and drawbacks, but also to make nuclear energy more reliable. He added that the role of the NEA in supporting the scientific and technical development of promising nuclear reactor and fuel cycle technologies, and in favouring a safe, environmentally friendly and economical use of nuclear energy, has become strategic.

In his keynote address, the IAEA Director-General, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, stated that the work of the IAEA and the NEA is complementary in nuclear safety, energy and related fields. Both agencies have been successful in ensuring co-ordination and avoiding unnecessary duplication. The IAEA can also act as a multiplier by sharing OECD knowledge with the IAEA membership. There are

many examples of effective areas of co-operation, including on nuclear data and the transfer of knowledge, technology development and not least, safety.

The NEA Director-General, Mr. Luis Echávarri, provided a brief overview of the Agency's 50 years: from the beginnings of international co-operation in nuclear energy, to vast and rapid development of nuclear power plants and facilities, through the "winter years" where it was mostly only a question of "keeping the option open" and now a spring revival. He noted that throughout this time, the Agency has proved to be a flexible organisation, always capable of adapting to the challenges of the day. He commended the dedication of NEA staff, which has been fundamental to the NEA's success. He also stressed that without the contributions of the member countries that provide their best experts in the NEA standing technical committees and expert groups, the Agency would not be what it is today.

In the ministerial segment, distinguished speakers emphasized the recent changes in the nuclear energy sector as well as prospects for nuclear growth, and expressed continued support for the Agency's work. It was followed by a round table on the challenges of new nuclear build, bringing together CEOs from nuclear vendors and senior nuclear regulators. The common message was the need to establish and/or strengthen partnerships between the major stakeholders, government, regulators, vendors and utilities, as such synergies are an essential key to success.

What they are saying about the NEA:



Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, *Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency*

"...I am confident that co-operation between the IAEA and the NEA will remain excellent and will continue to grow in the next 50 years."



Spain: Mr. Miguel Sebastián Gascón, *Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade*

"...the NEA provides a worthy stock of technical and economic studies on practically all nuclear energy related issues... as a centre of excellence, NEA plays a key role in benchmarking, facilitating the exchange of experience, technical expertise and scientific knowledge."



Italy: Mr. Claudio Scajola, *Minister for Economic Development*

"The Nuclear Energy Agency plays a fundamental and irreplaceable role in promoting collaboration among our countries."



Slovak Republic: Mr. Lubomír Jahnátek, *Minister of Economy*

"The expertise available at the Nuclear Energy Agency is considered by the relevant Slovak authorities to be an essential part of our international co-operation, and an essential measure of consensus building that supports the national decision-making process. ...the future of the Agency should be marked by continued high professionalism, independence and accountability which will lead to effective, impartial and highly professional results in its activities."



France: Mr. Pierre-Franck Chevet, *Director-General for Energy and Climate, Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning (Regional Development)*

"For its part, France is pleased to host on its territory the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency whose quality of work is recognised worldwide..."



United States: Mr. Dennis R. Spurgeon, *Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy*

"The NEA now plays a key role in the global expansion of nuclear power."



Japan: Dr. Shunichi Tanaka, *Vice-Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission*

"Japan expects the NEA to further enhance and develop its efforts that are indispensable for realising the sustainable utilisation of nuclear power, through specialised technological deliberations at its various committees and through improving and developing its Data Bank services."



Czech Republic: Mr. Tomáš Hüner, *Vice-Minister for Industry and Trade*

"The Czech Republic thinks very highly of the contributions of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and considers it an honour to be a member."



Mr. Nobuo Tanaka, *Executive Director, International Energy Agency (IEA)*

"Though the world may look very different to what it did in 1958 when the NEA was created, rising global energy demand, increased prices and growing pressure to address climate change make the mission of the NEA as important today as when the Agency was created by the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation fifty years ago."



Mr. Richard J.K. Stratford, *Chair, OECD Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy*

"If the NEA did not exist today, countries with nuclear power would be looking for ways to create something like it. [...] With the right support, the Agency can help ensure that the 'expansion phase' of nuclear energy in the years ahead is the safest, most reliable and most successful phase in nuclear energy's history."



The NEA website contains a full record of the anniversary event including speeches and video recordings: www.nea.fr/html/general/50th/index.html.

The NEA's 50th anniversary commemorative brochure, a 45-page historical review of the Agency, is also available on the NEA website at www.nea.fr/html/general/reports/nea6365-50th-historical.pdf.



The NEA Nuclear Energy Outlook

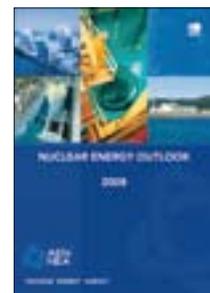
As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the NEA launched its first *Nuclear Energy Outlook (NEO)*. It responds to the changing dynamics and renewed interest in nuclear energy and arrives at a moment when energy security, climate change and the cost of energy have become priorities in both short-term and long-term energy policies.

Using the most current data and statistics available, the 460-page NEO provides projections up to 2050 to consider growth scenarios and potential implications on the future use of nuclear energy. It also offers unique analyses and recommendations on the possible challenges that lie ahead.

Topics covered by the NEO include:

- nuclear power's current status and projected trends;
- environmental impacts;
- uranium resources and security of supply;
- costs;
- safety and regulation;

- radioactive waste management and decommissioning;
- non-proliferation and security;
- legal frameworks;
- infrastructure;
- stakeholder engagement;
- advanced reactors and advanced fuel cycles.



The NEO, which represents a major Agency-wide effort, has been published in English, French and Japanese.

NEO Executive Summaries can be downloaded free of charge in Chinese, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish from the NEA website at www.nea.fr/neo/index.html. Paper copies are also being provided on request (roughly 4 500 thus far) to support enhanced knowledge and understanding of the nuclear energy option.