

# Information and Communications

*Nuclear energy decision making and stakeholder participation need to be based on understanding. The NEA seeks to provide member governments and other interested parties with a large array of information resulting from the Agency's activities, thereby enhancing awareness and understanding of the scientific, technical and economic aspects of the nuclear option.*

The NEA is an intergovernmental agency specialised in studying the scientific, technical and economic aspects of nuclear energy. Its activities cover the full range of the fuel cycle and consider future technological developments. It has no commercial interests in the nuclear industry and is not a lobby group. As such, it strives to provide high-quality, factual information in a timely manner to those with "a need to know" for their professional activities, as well as to those with an interest in learning about nuclear energy's multiple aspects.

One of the activities undertaken in 2004 to help enhance understanding of nuclear energy was the organisation of a nuclear power plant tour for the ambassadors and energy advisors of OECD member countries working in Paris. The visit was to the Nogent nuclear power plant, which has two 1 310 MWe pressurised water reactors, and included detailed explanations of nuclear power plant operation as well as a visit to the reactor building. Similar activities and information seminars are expected to be organised in the future.



Visitors to the Nogent nuclear power plant in France.

## Relations with the press

Eight press communiqués were issued during the year as part of efforts to keep journalists informed of important developments in the Agency's activities and results from its programme of work. A press briefing was organised in August in conjunction with the 19<sup>th</sup> World Energy Congress held in Sydney, Australia, during which Luis Echávarri, NEA Director-General, chaired a session entitled "Nuclear Energy: Inevitable or Irrelevant?"



Mr. Luis Echávarri, NEA Director-General, communicating to international audiences on nuclear energy issues.

Several articles were published in the specialised press by various members of the NEA Secretariat. Articles of note by the NEA Director-General included "International Perspectives on the Future of Nuclear Energy" (*World Energy Review*) and "World Energy Congress in Sydney: Energy, the End of the Taboos?" (in French in the *Moniteur officiel du commerce international*).

The recently created "Press Room", housed within the Agency's website at [www.nea.fr/html/general/press/](http://www.nea.fr/html/general/press/), also continues to provide the press with a selection of facts and analyses, along with useful links to more detailed information sources.

## Publications

The Agency produced 80 publications in 2004, a significant increase over the 70 publications produced in 2003 and the 64 published in 2002. Of these titles, 34 were put on sale and 46 were distributed free of charge. The list of these publications is provided on page 42. Best sellers included *Uranium 2003: Resources, Production and Demand* and *Nuclear Energy Data*. In addition to standard distribution of free publications (some 50 000 copies), several hundred individual requests were received. Over 8 000 reports were shipped to information and publications stands around the world.

Two issues of *NEA News* were published in English and French. They provided feature articles on the latest developments in the nuclear energy field, as well as updates on NEA work, news briefs, and information about NEA publications and forthcoming events. Sample articles and back issues are available on the NEA website at [www.nea.fr/html/pub](http://www.nea.fr/html/pub).

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- A nuclear power plant tour and information session was organised for OECD ambassadors and energy advisors.
- NEA information and publications stands were organised at 15 international conferences.
- The NEA co-sponsored 21 international conferences during 2004.

## Internet-based communication

The NEA website remains an important part of the Agency's information programme and has proved effective in raising the profile of the Agency's work. Visits to the NEA website increased during 2004, growing 13% over 2003. The most accessed report in the course of 2004 was *Chernobyl: Assessment of Radiological and Health Impacts - 2002 Update* (downloaded over 13 000 times), followed by *Nuclear Electricity Generation: What Are the External Costs?* and *Research and Development Needs for Current and Future Nuclear Energy Systems*.

The "Delegates' area" on the NEA website continues to provide an important service for many NEA committees and working groups. This section of the website provides authorised users with OECD official documents, information on forthcoming NEA meetings and contact details for other committee members. Over 5 000 official documents are available in the Delegates' area, 449 of which were added during the course of 2004. Much heavier use was made of this service in 2004 than was the case in previous years.

Individual subscriptions to the Agency's monthly electronic bulletin continued to grow during 2004, topping 6 500 subscribers by year end. Distributed free of charge, the bulletin includes monthly updates on important NEA activities and newly released reports. Subscription requests can be made at [www.nea.fr/html/signon.html](http://www.nea.fr/html/signon.html).



speeches. Particularly noteworthy were the NEA Director-General's interventions at the 19<sup>th</sup> World Energy Congress in Sydney and the November 2003 European Nuclear Assembly in Brussels. The opening address of the OECD Secretary-General at the November 2004 meeting of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) on "Nuclear in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Going Forward Together", merits special mention.

NEA information and publications stands were organised at 15 international conferences in 2004. These included stands at:

- Energy Choices for Europe (March 2004, Brussels, Belgium);
- Safe, Efficient and Cost-effective Decommissioning (September 2004, Rome, Italy);
- the 19<sup>th</sup> World Energy Congress (September 2004, Sydney, Australia);
- the International Conference on Nuclear Knowledge Management (September 2004, Saclay, France);
- the ANS Winter Meeting (November 2004, Washington DC, USA);
- COP 10 (December 2004, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

The NEA also co-sponsored 21 international conferences. Its role and presence were especially distinctive at the DisTec 2004 International Conference on Radioactive Waste Disposal (April 2004, Berlin, Germany), the International Symposium on Disposal of Low Activity Radioactive Waste (December 2004, Cordoba, Spain) and the International Conference on Nuclear Knowledge Management (September 2004, Saclay, France).

## NEA visibility in international fora

The NEA Secretariat ensured high-quality, expert presence in a wide range of international conferences and seminars. Senior staff were invited to make a number of important keynote

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