

# Information Programme

***Decision making and participation need to be based on understanding. The NEA Information Programme 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.***

People are rarely indifferent to nuclear energy, with some in favour, and others against. These different views are reflected in government circles where decision making on energy policy takes place. Furthermore, civil society is looking to increase its role in this decision-making process. Providing factual information is a first step in helping that decision making take place in an informed and objective manner. Providing information in an effective way, at the right time and in the correct place is also important.

It is in this context that NEA activities related to civil society issues are being carried out in the fields of radioactive waste management; radiation protection; nuclear safety and regulation; and nuclear development. These activities are described in the section on "Nuclear Energy and Civil Society".

Various means are used at the NEA to inform both Member governments and other interested parties of the results of NEA activities. In addition to maintaining contacts with the media throughout the OECD area, considerable efforts are made to disseminate these results through the publications, Internet and international conference channels.

## Publications

The Agency produced 60 publications in 2001, of which 27 were on sale and 33 were distributed free of charge. The list of these publications is provided on page 34. In addition to standard distribution of free publications (some 50 000 copies), close to 500 individual requests were received involving the shipment of more than 2 300 reports.

In connection with the OECD Forum on Sustainable Development and the New Economy held in May, a special issue of *NEA News* was produced on this theme. In his lead article on "Sustainable energy for future generations", Donald Johnston, OECD Secretary-General, pointed out that "The future of energy is not the future of any one part of the globe: it is the future of the fragile planet Earth. To safeguard this future, we must mobilise scientific expertise and material resources in support of accelerated energy research in all areas." An article was also contributed from the Secretary-General of the World Energy Council. All of the articles contained in this special issue are available at [www.nea.fr/html/pub/welcome.html](http://www.nea.fr/html/pub/welcome.html).

A new NEA introductory brochure was printed in both English and French and distributed widely. It was intended, in the first instance,

to help familiarise government officials and academics with the extensive range of activities being carried out by the Agency and to raise public awareness of the NEA. Copies may be requested at [nea@nea.fr](mailto:nea@nea.fr).



Two collective opinions were produced in the area of nuclear safety. The first concerned "The Role of Research in a Nuclear Regulatory Context". The second collective opinion was on "Major Nuclear Safety Research Facilities and Programmes at Risk: Joint OECD Projects and Centres of Excellence". The collective opinions were widely disseminated in paper format and are also available on the NEA website.

Improvements to the publications programme database were implemented in 2001. These improvements will have a positive effect on programme management and the timely publication of reports.

## The NEA website

In addition to the systematic review and updating of the 25 000 html pages on the Agency's website, two new sections were added in 2001:

- "Facts and figures", which includes basic information on nuclear energy in OECD countries such as the number of nuclear units connected to the grid and the share of nuclear electricity generation in OECD countries ([www.nea.fr/html/general/facts.html](http://www.nea.fr/html/general/facts.html));
- "Sustainable development", which highlights some of the main points set out in the NEA publication *Nuclear Energy in a*

## Highlights

*Sustainable Development Perspective*, and provides links to related material ([www.nea.fr/html/sd](http://www.nea.fr/html/sd)).

A section on nuclear energy and civil society is also being developed.

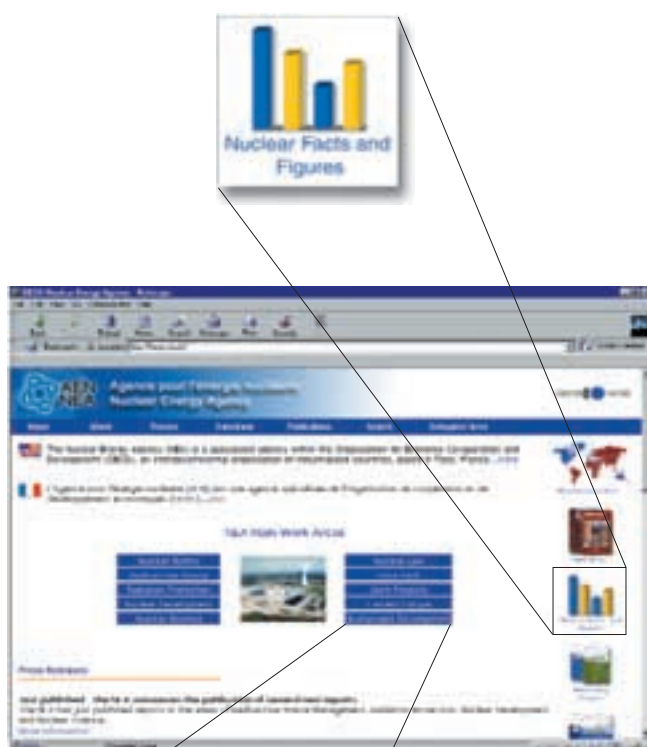
At the same time, preparations were made to launch the website's new graphical interface at the beginning of 2002. The Agency welcomes comments and feedback from visitors.

Individual subscriptions to the Agency's monthly electronic bulletin continued to grow, attaining 5006 in December 2001. The bulletin provides monthly updates on the major milestones achieved in the Agency's scientific, technological and economic programmes of work, as well as on all new publications and reports. Links are provided to the OECD online bookshop for publications on sale; free reports are made available for immediate download. Subscriptions to the bulletin are free of charge and can be made at [www.nea.fr/html/signon.html](http://www.nea.fr/html/signon.html).

The number of visitors to the website also continued to rise, reaching a half a million total for the year. *Chernobyl – Ten Years On: Radiological and Health Impact* (OECD/NEA, 1996) continued to be the most often downloaded report, followed by the *Nuclear Waste Bulletin and Nuclear Energy in a Sustainable Development Perspective* (some 9 000 downloads during 2001). By the end of the year, over 2 000 reports were available in full.

- The NEA developed several activities on nuclear energy and civil society, focusing on stakeholder confidence and involvement in nuclear energy decision making, and more generally, ways to improve the overall process of governance in this field (see page 33 for further details).
- A total of 60 publications were produced in 2001 covering the full range of NEA activities.
- The NEA website was reviewed and updated in detail, while preparations were made for introducing a new graphical interface at the beginning of 2002.
- NEA information and publications stands were organised at five major international conferences.
- The NEA co-sponsored nine international conferences during 2001.

New developments on the NEA website.



Sustainable Development

### NEA visibility in international fora

NEA information and publications stands were organised at five major international conferences in 2001:

- The OECD Forum 2001 on Sustainable Development and the New Economy, Paris, France, 14-16 May;
- Global 2001 International Conference on the "Back-end of the Fuel Cycle: From Research to Solution", Paris, France, 9-13 September;
- The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Radioactive Waste Management and Environmental Remediation (ICEM '01), Brugge, Belgium, 30 September-4 October;
- The International Conference on Nuclear Data for Science and Technology (ND2001), Tsukuba, Japan, 7-12 October;
- The ANS Winter meeting, Reno, Nevada, 11-15 November.

The NEA co-sponsored nine international conferences.



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