

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.

Highlights

- The Agency produced 66 publications in 2005, of which 31 were put on sale and 35 were distributed free of charge.
- A tour of the COGEMA spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at La Hague was organised for OECD ambassadors and energy advisors.
- NEA information and publications stands were organised at 12 international conferences.
- The NEA co-sponsored 23 international conferences during 2005; the international conference at ministerial level on Nuclear Power for the 21st Century was organised by the IAEA in co-operation with the OECD and the NEA.

The NEA is an intergovernmental agency specialised in studying the scientific, technical and economic aspects of nuclear energy. It strives to provide high-quality, factual information in a timely manner to member countries, as a complement to national energy analyses. Through a varied information and communications programme, this information is also made available to other interested parties wishing to learn about nuclear energy's multiple aspects and the results of the Agency's work. NEA activities cover the full range of the fuel cycle and consider future technological developments. All of these activities are reflected in the Agency's large selection of publications and reports.

Public affairs and relations with the press

Various activities were undertaken in 2005 to promote awareness and understanding of the scientific, technical and economic aspects of the nuclear option. In July, a tour of the COGEMA spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at La Hague was organised for the ambassadors and energy advisors of OECD member countries working in Paris. This follows on from the visit organised for the same group in 2004 to the Nogent nuclear power plant. The NEA also co-operated with OECD staff at headquarters in preparing the session on Nuclear Energy: A Serious Option?, held during the OECD Forum in May on Fuelling the Future: Security, Stability, Development.

In terms of relations with the press, a press briefing was held in March in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) on the occasion of the release of a new report on *Projected Costs of Generating Electricity*. The NEA Director-General, Luis Echávarri, also presented the results of the study in various fora, including the European Parliament. In conjunction with the Nuclear Power for the 21st Century

conference, he participated in two press conferences and granted numerous interviews. These activities contributed to the event being reported in media around the world. In June, a press conference was organised in co-operation with the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission at the NEA Safety and Regulation Forum on Multilateral Co-operation in Nuclear Safety Research and Regulation, which commemorated 40 years of multilateral exchanges under NEA auspices in the field of nuclear safety and regulation.

Several articles were published in the specialist press by members of the NEA Secretariat during 2005. Of particular note was the article by NEA Director-General L. Echávarri on *L'énergie nucléaire au 21^{ème} siècle* in the French publication *La revue de l'énergie*.

The "Press Room" on the NEA website (www.nea.fr/html/general/press/) provides an important information service for journalists and interested members of the public. In addition to the Agency's press releases, regularly updated press kits provide introductory information on major nuclear issues. This section of the website attracted about 10% of all visits to the NEA website during 2005.

Publications

During the course of 2005, the Agency produced 66 publications, of which 31 were put on sale and 35 were distributed free of charge. The list of these publications is provided on page 54. Best sellers included the radioactive waste management workshop proceedings on *Dealing with Interests, Values and Knowledge in Managing Risk and Projected Costs of Generating Electricity: 2005 Update*. All free reports published by the NEA are reproduced in full on the NEA website. The most

highly accessed report in 2005 was *Chernobyl: Assessment of Radiological and Health Impacts – 2002 Update* (downloaded over 57 000 times), followed by *Nuclear Competence Building: Summary Report* (downloaded over 50 000 times, English and French versions combined). In addition to standard distribution of free publications (some 50 000 copies), several hundred individual requests were received. Roughly 7 000 reports were shipped to information and publications stands around the world.

In order to keep NEA correspondents and other interested professionals abreast of key developments in the Agency's programme of work, *NEA News* continues to be published twice a year in both English and French. *NEA News* provides feature articles on the latest developments in the nuclear energy field and how they relate to NEA work under way, advance findings and updates on NEA studies and joint projects, news briefs, and information about NEA publications and forthcoming events. Starting in January 2006, *NEA News* will be available free of charge, including on the NEA website at www.nea.fr/html/pub.

Internet-based communication

The NEA website continues to form a key part of the Agency's information programme and has proved effective in raising the profile of the Agency's work. It provides background information on the full range of work being undertaken at the Agency, updates on the status of ongoing activities and joint projects, and access to the main findings and conclusions of the majority of the Agency's published reports. It also caters to a more generalist audience by providing basic facts and figures about nuclear energy, and a press room for journalists. At the end of 2005 the site's graphical interface was updated, information presented on the home page was restructured to improve clarity and ease of navigation, and several technical adjustments were made to improve the speed with which pages can be downloaded.

The "Delegates' area" on the NEA website remains an important source of information 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 7 000 official documents are available in the Delegates' area, roughly 400 of which were added for 2005.

Individual subscriptions to the Agency's monthly electronic bulletin continued to grow during 2005, topping 6 700 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.

NEA visibility in international fora

The NEA Secretariat provided expert presence at a wide range of international conferences and seminars in 2005. In parallel, senior staff were invited to make a number of important keynote speeches. Particularly noteworthy were the NEA Director-General's interventions at ICON 13, in Beijing, China in May, at the informal meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in Strasbourg, France in September, and at the European Nuclear Assembly in Versailles, France in December. The opening address by

the OECD Secretary-General at the international conference at ministerial level on Nuclear Energy for the 21st Century also merits special mention.



Ministère délégué à l'Industrie, France

During the Nuclear Energy for the 21st Century conference in Paris, France.

NEA information and publications stands were organised at 12 international conferences in 2005. These included:

- PIME (February 2005, Paris, France);
- Second International Meeting on Clays in Natural and Engineered Barriers for Radioactive Waste Confinement (March 2005, Tours, France);
- Nuclear Energy for the 21st Century (March 2005, Paris, France);
- SRF 2005 Multilateral Co-operation in Nuclear Safety Research and Regulation (June 2005, Paris, France);
- M&C 2005 – International Topical Meeting on Mathematics and Computation, Supercomputing, Reactor Physics and Nuclear and Biological Applications (September 2005, Avignon, France);
- 2005 NCS Topical Meeting Integrating Criticality Safety into the Resurgence of Nuclear Power (September 2005, Knoxville, TN, USA);
- NUCNET – 15th Anniversary Symposium (September 2005, Prague, Czech Republic);
- International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Disposal (October 2005, Tokyo, Japan);
- Global 2005 – Nuclear Energy Systems for Future Generation and Global Sustainability (October 2005, Tsukuba, Japan);
- ISOE Annual Meeting (October 2005, Tokyo, Japan);
- ANS Nuclear Technology Expo 2005 – Talk About Nuclear Differently: A Good Story Untold (November 2005, Washington, DC, USA);
- ENC 2005 – Nuclear Power for the 21st Century: From Basic Research to High-tech Industry (December 2005, Versailles, France).

The NEA also co-sponsored 23 international conferences. In March 2005, the international conference at ministerial level on Nuclear Power for the 21st Century was hosted by the French government, and organised by the IAEA in co-operation with the OECD and the NEA. Some 65 countries were represented at the conference, which included presentations by more than 30 ministers. The conference demonstrated a renewed interest among policy makers for the nuclear option in terms of its capacity to enhance security of energy supply, to reduce environmental impacts of energy production and use, and to provide electricity to consumers at affordable costs.

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