

Information Programme

Nuclear energy decision making and stakeholder 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.

The NEA is an intergovernmental agency specialised in studying the scientific, technical and economic aspects of nuclear energy. It has no commercial interests in the nuclear industry and is not a lobby group. 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. 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 publications and information programme.

Publications

The Agency produced 70 publications in 2003, of which 23 were on sale and 47 were distributed free of charge. The list of these publications is provided on page 36. Best sellers included *Nuclear Energy Today*; *Nuclear Energy Data*; and *Indemnification of Damage in the Event of a Nuclear Accident*. In addition to standard distribution of free publications (some 52 000 copies), over 500 individual requests were received involving the shipment of more than 1 400 reports.



Particular efforts were dedicated to producing *Nuclear Energy Today*, which aims to inform policy makers about the scientific, technical, economic and social issues related to peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The book is based upon studies and analyses carried out by the Agency over several decades in the field of nuclear science and technology, nuclear safety, radiological protection, radioactive waste management, nuclear law, and economic and social aspects of nuclear energy

development. It provides authoritative and factual information on the multiple facets of nuclear energy relevant to national policy making and international co-operation in the field.

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.

Internet-based communication

The NEA website constitutes an important part of the Agency's information programme and is an effective tool for making the Agency's work and the corresponding results widely known. Most visitors come to the site to browse or download reports or to research a specific subject.

The "NEA Press Room" was launched in 2003 primarily to meet the needs of journalists and the staff of policy makers. In addition to the Agency's press releases, this dedicated area of the website includes background information on key nuclear energy issues, which can also be of interest to students and the general public.

A survey of the NEA website was carried out between April and June 2003. Among the main findings (based on responses from users in 43 countries) were that:

- 98% of users were either satisfied or very satisfied with www.nea.fr;
- 0% of users found it difficult to find what they were looking for on the site (87% found it to be easy or very easy);
- 96% of users found NEA publications sufficiently specialised (3% found them too specialised and 1% insufficiently specialised).

The full results of the survey are available upon request addressed to nea@nea.fr. The Agency welcomes additional comments and feedback from website visitors.

- The Agency produced 70 publications in 2003, of which 23 were on sale and 47 were distributed free of charge.
- NEA information and publications stands were organised at six international conferences.
- The NEA co-sponsored 20 international conferences during 2003.
- A "Press Room" was added to the NEA website.

Visits to the NEA website increased considerably during 2003, growing 22% over 2002. All standard website indicators were also up in comparison with 2002: page views up 172%; downloads up 53%; and visit length up 27%. The most accessed report during 2003 was *Chernobyl: Assessment of Radiological and Health Impacts – 2002 Update of Chernobyl: Ten Years On* (downloaded over 14 000 times), followed by *Nuclear Energy in a Sustainable Development Perspective* and *Society and Nuclear Energy: Towards a Better Understanding*.

The "Delegates' area" on the NEA website continues to provide an important tool 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 4 300 official documents are available in the Delegates' area, 300 of which were added during the year.

Individual subscriptions to the Agency's monthly electronic bulletin continued to grow during 2003, topping 6 200 subscribers by year end (an increase of 700 subscriptions from 2002). The bulletin is distributed free of charge and includes monthly updates on important NEA activities and newly released reports. Subscription requests can be made at www.nea.fr/html/signon.html.

In October the Agency launched a "rich site summary" (RSS) feed to inform users of updates to the NEA website as they are made. The RSS service is a list of headlines with a short description and a link to the updated page or new report on the website. Viewed with software which automatically checks the feed for any updates, the new service has enjoyed an encouraging uptake to date. The contents of each edition of the Agency's monthly electronic bulletin are included in the NEA RSS feed, as well as information about new publications and reports as they are released.

NEA visibility in international fora

NEA information and publications stands were organised at six international conferences in 2003:



NEA information and publications stands at the IEA Ministerial Meeting and Energy Technology Fair. Above: Loyola de Palacio (EC) and Luis Echávarri; right: Jacques de la Ferté, Solange Quarneau and Evelyne Bertel.



- the International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial Meeting and Energy Technology Fair (April 2003, Paris, France);
- "Supercomputing in Nuclear Applications" SNA 2003 (September 2003, Paris, France).
- the 7th International Conference on Nuclear Criticality Safety (October 2003, Tokai-mura, Japan);
- the ANS Winter Meeting and Global 2003 (November 2003, New Orleans, LA, USA);
- "Decommissioning Challenges: An Industrial Reality?" (November 2003, Avignon, France);
- the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP9 (December 2003, Milan, Italy).

The NEA also co-sponsored 20 international conferences. It was particularly implicated in the international conference on "Geologic Repositories: Political and Technical Progress" held on 8-10 December in Stockholm, Sweden. The conference aimed to further strengthen international co-operation for the safe, secure and environmentally sound disposal of radioactive materials.



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