

## IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETINGS

At meetings in November 1998, the IAEA Board of Governors, among other actions, approved the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme for 1999-2000 and six more Additional Protocols to safeguards agreements with States.

The approved technical cooperation programme embodies key characteristics — a growing trend towards regionalization; a heightened attention to the issue of safety; and the establishment of country profiles and country-specific action plans.

The six Additional Protocols are with the States of Cyprus, Hungary, Japan, Monaco, Slovenia, and China. Previously the Board has approved Additional Protocols with 32 States.

In his introductory statement to the Board, IAEA Director General ElBaradei said that a number of further Additional Protocols are being discussed with relevant States, and that some of them may be finalized before the next Board meeting, scheduled in March 1999.

*Board Composition for 1998-99.* The IAEA General Conference in September 1998 elected eleven Member States to the IAEA Board.

Member States newly elected were Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Sudan, and Uruguay.

The other twenty-four Member States of the Board which have either been designated by the Board or elected by the General Conference are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa,



Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Viet Nam.

**Board Chairman.** At its first meeting in September 1998, the newly-constituted IAEA Board elected Mr. Miroslav Gregoric (*photo above*) of Slovenia as Chairman for the 1998-99 period. Mr. Gregoric is the Director of the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Authority, a position he has held since 1989. He has headed his country's delegations to the IAEA General Conference on a number of occasions.



*At left: Among the States that have concluded Additional Protocols with the IAEA is Austria. Ambassador Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl signed the Protocol for Austria at the IAEA General Conference in September 1998. (Credit: Calmal/IAEA)*

## THE IAEA AND Y2K

At the request of Member States, the IAEA is serving as a clearinghouse and contact point on the year 2000 computer issues — known as the Y2K problem — as it concerns peaceful nuclear-related technologies and services. As part of its work, the Agency has put into place an action plan that covers relevant activities related to nuclear safety, medical applications, safeguards, and the IAEA's databases and information systems. Regarding nuclear safety activities, the IAEA is surveying its Member States about Y2K actions they have taken and have planned.

Information gathered from the questionnaire will be disseminated among Member States. In the area of safeguards, the Agency is convening an international seminar in February 1999 on Y2K issues as they affect nuclear safeguards-related systems and the security of nuclear materials.

For detailed information and progress reports about the IAEA's work in this area, visit the IAEA's *WorldAtom* services on the Internet at <http://www.iaea.org>. A special series of pages are devoted to the Y2K problem, including links to national authorities and other organizations in IAEA Member States.

## GC BACKS STRONGER PROGRAMMES



States meeting at the IAEA General Conference in Vienna strongly supported measures to strengthen the Agency's programmes related to nuclear verification, technical co-operation, and nuclear, radiation, and waste safety. They adopted resolutions in each of these areas during the Conference's closing sessions.

The General Conference was held 21-26 September 1998 in Vienna and attended by Ministers and high-level governmental delegates from 105 of the Agency's Member States. Elected as President of the General Conference was Ambassador Roberta Lajous Vargas of Mexico.

Resolutions adopted by the Conference included those on:

- *Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of the Safeguards System and Application of the Model Protocol*
- *Strengthening of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Activities*
- *The Safety of Radiation Sources and the Security of Radioactive Materials*
- *Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials*
- *Study of the Radiological Situation at the Atolls of Mururoa and Fangataufa*



Ambassador Roberta Lajous Vargas of Mexico was elected President of the IAEA General Conference. (Credit: Calma/IAEA)

- *The Convention on Nuclear Safety*
- *Measures to Address the Year 2000 Issue*
- *Implementation of the Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*
- *Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions Relating to Iraq*
- *Measures Against Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Materials and Other Radioactive Sources*
- *Nuclear Testing*
- *Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East*
- *Plan for Producing Potable Water Economically*
- *Regular Budget Appropriations for 1999.*

IAEA NUCLEAR  
INSPECTIONS IN IRAQ

In a statement issued 16 November 1998, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei welcomed the decision by Iraq to resume full cooperation with the IAEA and the United Nations Special Commission.

IAEA personnel who were temporarily relocated to Bahrain on 11 November for safety concerns have returned to Baghdad. They commenced an intensive programme of facility inspections in order to re-establish continuity of knowledge of the status of Iraq's relevant technical assets. Additional IAEA personnel were sent to Baghdad to participate in these initial activities and to continue with previously planned work, with the aim of full implementation of the IAEA's mandate in Iraq, including its right to full and free access.

In the November statement, Dr. ElBaradei said that he hopes to be able to report to the United Nations Security Council in the near future that all the necessary IAEA activities are being carried out with the full co-operation of the Iraqi authorities.

Expenditures of US \$224.3 million were approved.

■ *Technical Cooperation Fund for 1999.* A target of US \$73 million was approved.

*The full texts of resolutions, as well as Conference documents, press releases, summary statements, and background information, are accessible over the IAEA's WorldAtom services on the Internet at <http://www.iaea.org/GC/gc42>.*

**STATEMENTS OF IAEA  
DIRECTOR GENERAL**

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei addressed the United Nations General Assembly in November 1999 to report on the work and challenges before the Agency. The full text of the statement is accessible over the Agency's *WorldAtom* Internet services at <http://www.iaea.org>; check the Quick Index for links to the Director General's statements.

Added to *WorldAtom* recently have been Dr. ElBaradei's statements in a number of countries. They include:

■ **International Cooperation and the Future of Nuclear Power**, statement to the European Nuclear Congress 1998, in Nice, France, 26 October 1998.

■ **Statement at the International Symposium on Marine Pollution**, Monaco, 5 October 1998. Dr. ElBaradei presented the opening statement at this symposium, which examined major



cooperative projects for protecting the oceans and seas. (See item, page 51.)

■ **Statement at the Marine Environmental Assessment of the Black Sea Region Ministerial Meeting**, Monaco, 5 October 1998. In an opening address, the Director General highlighted progress and problems in the context of the IAEA's cooperative Black Sea projects.

■ **The Contribution of Nuclear Energy Cooperation to a New Global Age**, to the Nuclear

Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organization for Cooperation and Development, Paris, France, 30 September 1998. The address was on the occasion of the NEA's 40th anniversary.

■ **Address to the OECD Council**, Paris, 30 September 1998. Dr. ElBaradei presented an overview of the IAEA's work in the context of the OECD's interests.

*Photo: United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Dr. ElBaradei in New York*

**US AND RUSSIA SIGN  
NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS**

During the IAEA General Conference in September 1998 in Vienna, US Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson (*left in photo*) and Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Yevgeny Adamov signed an agreement to bring commercial enterprises to ten Russian "nuclear cities".

They also signed a joint report that outlines a framework to resolve the problems with the agreement for US purchases of uranium from Russian nuclear weapons (known as the highly enriched uranium, or HEU, deal).



The HEU joint report provides the framework to remove potential obstacles to implementing an agreement signed in 1993. Under that agreement, Russia is converting

highly enriched uranium extracted from dismantled nuclear weapons to low-enriched uranium that is delivered to the US for use in commercial nuclear reactors.

## MORE STATES JOIN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Over the past year, more States took steps to join international conventions in safety and related fields that have been adopted under IAEA auspices.

■ **Convention on Nuclear Safety.** In 1998, seven more countries – Italy (15 April 1998, ratified), Portugal (20 May 1998, ratified), the Republic of Moldova (7 May 1998, acceded), Ukraine (8 April 1998, ratified), Armenia (21 September 1998, ratified), Belarus (29 October 1998, acceded), and Denmark (13 November 1998, accepted) — have agreed to be bound by the Convention.

As of December 1998, the Convention had sixty-five Signatories and forty-nine Parties.

■ **Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.** In 1998, a number of additional States have signed or ratified the Convention.

They are Canada (7 May 1998, signed and ratified), Croatia (9 April 1998, signed), Denmark (9 February 1998, signed), Greece (9 February 1998, signed), Hungary (2 June 1998, ratified), Italy (26 January 1998, signed); Norway (12 January 1998, ratified), Peru (4 June 1998, signed), Philippines (10 March 1998, signed), Spain (30 June 1998, signed), Austria (17 September 1998, signed), Bulgaria (22 September 1998, signed), Slovakia (6 October

1998, ratified), Germany (13 October 1998, ratified), and Australia (13 November 1998, signed).

As of December 1998, thirty-seven States had signed the Convention and five States had become Parties.

■ **Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.** In 1998, Uzbekistan and Moldova deposited instruments of accession (9 February 1998 and 7 May 1998, respectively) and Bosnia and Herzegovina an instrument of succession (30 June 1998, with effect from 1 March 1992).

As of December 1998, the total number of Parties stands at sixty-three States.

■ **Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.** In 1998, Belarus deposited an instrument of ratification (9 February 1998), Moldova an instrument of accession (7 May 1998), and Bosnia and Herzegovina an instrument of succession (30 June 1998, with effect from 1 March 1992).

As of December 1998, the total number of Parties to the Convention stands at thirty-one States.

■ **The Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.** As of December 1998, fourteen States have signed the Protocol. They are Argentina, Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Morocco, Peru, the

Philippines, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine.

■ **Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.** As of December 1998, thirteen States have signed the Convention. They are Argentina, Australia, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Ukraine, and the United States.

■ **Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.** In 1998, Moldova acceded to the Convention (7 May 1998) and Bosnia and Herzegovina succeeded to it (30 June 1998, with effect from 1 March 1992).

As of December 1998, the total number of Parties is seventy-seven States.

■ **Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident.** In 1998, Moldova acceded to the Convention (7 May 1998) and Bosnia and Herzegovina succeeded to it (30 June 1998, with effect from 1 March 1992).

As of December 1998, the total number of Parties stands at eighty-two States.

*For updated status reports and texts of the Conventions, visit the IAEA's WorldAtom services on the Internet at <http://www.iaea.org>. On the front page, click on "Nuclear Law" in the Quick Index for easy access to the pages.*

## MARINE SYMPOSIUM ON THE WORLD'S OCEAN ENVIRONMENT

The International Symposium on Marine Pollution in Monaco recently highlighted key issues the world is facing, and defined future cooperative directions on the global agenda. The Symposium — convened 5-9 October 1998 — was co-sponsored by the IAEA, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Leading scientists in marine pollution and representatives from relevant UN bodies and other organizations attended.

Addressing the Symposium, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei stressed the importance of marine pollution investigations, where nuclear and isotopic methods play an important role. More than 400 international experts from 61 States and eight international organizations

participated in the meeting. New achievements were reported in identifying the sources of pollution; on the behaviour and fate of contaminants in seawater, biota, and sediments; on the use of radioactive and other tracers for studies of ocean transport and circulation processes; on studies of radioactive waste dumping sites and nuclear test sites; and on computer modelling of the transport of contaminants. New developments in high-sensitivity analytical measurements of contaminants, with emphasis on nuclear and isotopic methods, also were presented. Detailed coverage of Symposium papers is planned by the *Journal of the Science of the Total Environment*. Symposium proceedings are being issued by the IAEA.

**Black Sea Declaration.** During the week, environmental ministers from countries of the Black Sea region signed a Declaration

that defines future cooperative efforts. Among other points, the Declaration notes the key role of an IAEA technical cooperation project in assisting Black Sea countries to upgrade their capabilities in scientific assessments of the marine environment.

More information about the Symposium and the IAEA's Marine Environment Laboratory can be found by visiting the IAEA's *WorldAtom* services on the Internet at <http://www.iaea.org/monaco>.

*Photo: The new premises of the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratory (MEL) in Monaco were officially inaugurated at the IAEA Symposium in the presence of Prince Rainer III (second from left) and Prince Albert (left). Also attending the inauguration ceremony were IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei (right), Mr. Hugh Livingston, MEL Director (third from left), and Ambassador Y. Ikeda, Chairman of the IAEA Board of Governors.*



## PROGRESS TOWARD IAEA VERIFICATION OF EX-WEAPON MATERIAL

Further steps are planned by the United States, Russia, and the IAEA through their Trilateral Initiative to investigate issues associated with IAEA verification of weapon-origin fissile material no longer required for defense purposes. Progress was reviewed in September 1998 by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, US Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson, and Minister of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation Yevgeny Adamov at a meeting during the IAEA General Conference.

The meeting followed the US-Russia Summit at which Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton on 2 September 1998 signed a "Joint Statement of Principles for Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes". It includes a commitment for the US and Russia to develop acceptable methods and technology for transparency measures, including appropriate international verification measures.

Russia and the US have each identified about 50 tonnes of plutonium that will be addressed through a future bilateral agreement stemming from this Joint Statement. The management and disposition of that plutonium will involve storage for a lengthy period. In the years to come, steps will be taken to render that plutonium unsuitable for nuclear weapons use.

Over the past year, technical workshops were held in the US, Russia, and at IAEA headquarters. Further

workshops are scheduled in the year ahead, as the technical work shifts from concepts to practical implementation.

The Parties also are seeking to develop a model verification agreement. It anticipates that other States possessing nuclear weapons may undertake similar arrangements in conjunction with future arms reductions and would be one means through which international verification of nuclear disarmament would be effected. The Parties are also

considering options for financial arrangements. One option is a Nuclear Arms Control Verification Fund, as proposed by Dr. ElBaradei recently.

Secretary Richardson, Minister Adamov, and Dr. ElBaradei agreed that work over the next year would proceed for verification activities to commence as needed. They agreed for the Parties to meet again in September 1999 to review progress and plans.

## NEW INSTRUMENTATION SYSTEM AT SAL

Specialists at the IAEA's Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL) in Seibersdorf, Austria, are applying a powerful new analytical tool for analysis of nuclear materials. The new analytical capability results from the joint support of France and the United Kingdom through their respective Safeguards Support Programmes. The instrumentation — the Inductively Coupled Plasma/Mass Spectrometer (ICP/MS) — was donated by the United Kingdom, and France provided the associated glove boxes, installation, testing of the unit, and training of Seibersdorf scientists.

As part of system trials over the past year, SAL analysts have used the new instrument to analyze samples collected during IAEA safeguards inspections. These measurements were professionally and accurately done. SAL now plans to more fully apply the tool as more new technologies are developed for the preparation of samples.

Shown in the photo below are SAL analysts and officials from France and the United Kingdom during a demonstration of the unit.



**Spent Fuel Symposium.** Experts from 35 countries and four international organizations recently met at the IAEA's International Symposium on Storage of Spent Fuel from Power Reactors in Vienna. The meeting reviewed the global situation and national policies and practices. A summary is on the IAEA's *WorldAtom* at [www.iaea.org/worldatom/update/spentfuel.html](http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/update/spentfuel.html).

**COP-4 in Buenos Aires.** The IAEA was an official observer at the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, held 2-13 November 1998 in Buenos

Aires, Argentina. The Agency now is analyzing the implications for nuclear power prospects of the various mechanisms adopted at the meeting as part of an action plan that the Parties adopted for finalizing outstanding details of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

**Nuclear Medicine on the Internet.** Up-to-date and accurate information about the most effective prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of health problems using nuclear technologies will become available worldwide via the Internet. The Internet initiative in nuclear medicine is a joint effort of the IAEA, the World Federation of Nuclear

Medicine and Biology, and the Cochrane Collaboration, a non-profit organization founded in 1993. For more information, visit the IAEA's Human Health pages on the *WorldAtom* Internet site.

**Living with Radiation.** The National Radiological Protection Board in the United Kingdom has published a new edition of its popular book, *Living with Radiation*. The illustrated 70-page book provides basic information on the nature, uses, and risks of radiation. More information may be obtained from the NRPB, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0RQ, or via its Web site at [www.nrpb.org.uk](http://www.nrpb.org.uk).

**Inter-Agency Cooperation.** The work of the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation — an inter-agency body of 47 member countries — has been extended for another three years. Its present mandate was set to expire in May 1999. The group is a joint arm of the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, and IAEA. More information may be obtained from the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, which serves as the group's secretariat, at IAEA headquarters in Vienna.

**Correction.** In the *IAEA Bulletin*, Vol. 40, No. 3, page 25, a photo was inadvertently mis-captioned. The caption should read: "Analytical work in the chemical laboratory at the University of Malaya in Malaysia. The university hosted a CRP meeting of participants in June 1995." The editor regrets the error and any inconvenience to readers.

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