

NEWS ROUNDUP FROM THE IAEA WORLDATOM WEB
PAGES AT [HTTP://WWW.IAEA.ORG](http://www.iaea.org)**Technical Visit to the DPRK.**

A technical team from the IAEA visited nuclear facilities in the Nyongbyon area of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) from 15-19 January 2002. The visit included the Isotope Production Laboratory, an installation that the DPRK has stated was involved in the early stages of development of their nuclear programme.

"This is a small but welcome step towards a return to full-fledged inspections required under North Korea's safeguards agreement," said Mohamed ElBaradei, IAEA Director General, in a press release of 10 January.

Since 1993, the IAEA has been unable to fully implement its comprehensive safeguards agreement with the DPRK, and has been therefore unable to verify the completeness and correctness of the DPRK's initial 1992 declaration of its nuclear inventory. If it were to resume these inspections, the Agency estimates the work required to verify that all nuclear material in the DPRK had been declared to the Agency would take 3-4 years with full co-operation on the DPRK side.

In May 2001, the Agency proposed to the DPRK concrete steps that need to be carried out in that verification process, and indicated its readiness to start implementing these measures immediately. At a technical meeting between the DPRK and the Agency in Vienna in November 2001, the DPRK did not agree to promptly start to implement those proposals, citing



the delay in implementation of the USA/DPRK Agreed Framework as the principal reason for declining. However, the DPRK did agree to a visit, not an inspection, by Agency inspectors to the Isotope Production Laboratory.

Pursuant to a UN Security Council request and in accordance with the "Agreed Framework" between the USA and the DPRK, the Agency has since November 1994 been monitoring the "freeze" of the DPRK's graphite moderated reactors and related facilities. It has also maintained a continuous inspector presence at the Nyongbyon site.

The DPRK withdrew its membership from the Agency in June 1994. The Director General encourages the DPRK to normalize its relations with the Agency including resumption of full safeguards inspections.

Water for Development. The IAEA is the lead United Nations agency for the 2002 celebration of World Water Day. The theme for 22 March 2002, Water for Development, is a very fitting one. The UN

General Assembly resolved to observe World Water Day following the recommendations of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The year 2002 marks not only the 10-year anniversary of that landmark event, but also the year that the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be held, in Johannesburg in September 2002. Visit the Web site for World Water Day at <http://waterday2002.iaea.org>

Radwaste Management Status & Trends. The Department of Nuclear Energy has recently issued the report referenced as IAEA/WMDB/ST/1, "Radioactive Waste Management Status and Trends, Number 1". To order a free copy on readable compact disc (CD ROM), send requests by electronic mail to WMDB@iaea.org, or to the IAEA Department of Nuclear Energy, PO Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Review of Safety Issues at Temelin Nuclear Plant. In November 2001, at the request of the Czech Government, the

IAEA assembled a team of national experts from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom, with an observer from Austria, to review safety issues at the Temelin power plant that were identified in 1996 as relevant to reactors of the generic Temelin design (WWER-1000/320 type).

Following a detailed on-site review from 18 to 23 November 2001, the experts concluded that most identified issues had been addressed and resolved. Work is continuing on the few remaining issues. These issues, however, are not judged by them to be significant and would not from the experts' standpoint preclude the safe operation of the Temelin nuclear power plant.

New Member States of the IAEA. The Republic of Tajikistan and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia became members of the Agency on 10 September 2001, and 31 October 2001, respectively, by depositing Instruments of Acceptance of the Statute with the depositary Government. As of December 2001, the membership of the Agency comprises 133 States.

Nuclear Energy & the Environment in the 21st Century. The outlook for nuclear energy, particularly from the perspective of the developing world, is examined in a new book by the former head of the Cuban Commission of Atomic Energy, Prof. Fidel Castro Diaz-Belart. He presently is Academician at the Cuban Academy of Science.

Entitled *Nuclear Energy: Environmental Danger or Solution for the 21st Century?*, the book covers the historical



development and future prospects of nuclear energy in Cuba and on a global scale. Chapters address both nuclear power for electricity generation and the application of nuclear techniques and technologies for peaceful uses in medicine, agriculture, and other fields.

The book is published in English, Spanish, Russian, French, and Italian. More information is available from the publisher, Palcograf, or from the author at the Academy of Science in Havana, Cuba.

Statement of IAEA Director General to the UN General Assembly. IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei addressed the 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly 22 October 2001. His statement highlighted the important roles the Agency plays as a catalyst for development and as a cornerstone for nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear safety. It specifically reviewed the IAEA's activities in terms of its three fundamental functions: to bring about the development and transfer of peaceful nuclear

technologies; to build and maintain a global nuclear safety regime; and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ensure the security of nuclear material and facilities. The statement is accessible on the *WorldAtom* site, in the Press Centre section, at <http://www.iaea.org>.

UN General Assembly Urges Support of IAEA Roles. On 14 December 2001, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution urging all Member States to support the IAEA in preventing acts of terrorism committed with nuclear and other radioactive materials. It further addressed the importance of supporting the IAEA's work in areas of safeguards; improving nuclear safety; and technology transfer. The UN press release on the resolution is accessible on *WorldAtom* at <http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/Press/News/GA9999.pdf>.

Photo: Training in fields of nuclear science and technology is an important part of the IAEA's technical assistance to States.