



#### IAEA BULLETIN

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## The IAEA @ 50

Travelling the IAEA's history over the past half century is to see signposts redirected by powerful changing winds. They lead to paths for the control and development of nuclear science and technology. Which new directions are down the road?

The IAEA in 1957 was created in times of political tension, the shadows of the bomb, the dawn of a heated arms race. It embodied the hopeful vision of 'atoms for peace' and their contribution to the world's prosperity.

The IAEA at 50 is being recreated in even more fearful, more troubling times, many believe. Seven years into a globalized computerized century, the world is closer than ever before but seems further away from its shared goals.

The founding vision of 'atoms for peace' lives a half century later, though in the constant company of dirty bomb scenarios and secret weapon suspicions. The signposts now point to controlling the atom in stronger ways.

"Nuclear threats have become more dangerous and more complex," in the view of IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei. He believes that States need to look hard at doubling the IAEA's funding, and this summer launched a comprehensive study of programmatic and financial requirements to 2017.

"We need a completely fresh look. This is a completely new Agency with expanded responsibilities and critical missions for nuclear verification, safety, security, and development," he said.

Between now and 2017, the future looks challenging and busy. As feature articles in this edition report, dozens of countries from Europe to the Middle East to Asia and South America are chasing 'atoms for peace', looking to build nuclear plants for electricity generation.

From all directions, signs at 50 point toward a reinforced and different IAEA at 60.

— *Lothar Wedekind, Editor-in-Chief*

The IAEA Bulletin welcomes Mr. Giovanni Verlini as the magazine's new managing editor. He joined the IAEA Division of Public Information in April 2007, after heading business and technology publications in London. He can be reached via e-mail at G.Verlini@iaea.org.

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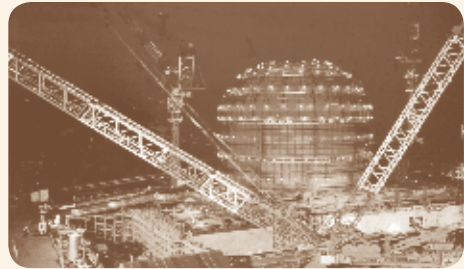
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