

FOREWORD

Many experts on energy production are convinced that nuclear power can contribute significantly to satisfy the world's growing need for environmentally clean energy and that to this end fast reactors are needed.

For more than twenty-six years the International Working Group on Fast Reactors (IWGFR) has concentrated on the development of fast reactors in IAEA Member States through the organization of symposia, meetings, co-ordinated research programmes and technical documents.

Based on the IWGFR members' request, the IAEA organized a special meeting on Fast Reactor Development and the Role of the IAEA in May 1993. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the status and recent progress made in fast reactor development, to present major changes in fast reactor programmes and to recommend future activities on fast reactors.

The IWGFR took note that in some Member States large prototypes have been built or are under construction. However, some countries, due to their current budget constraints, have reduced the level of funding for R&D programmes on fast reactors.

The IWGFR noted that in this situation the international exchange of information and co-operation on the development of fast reactors is highly desirable and stressed the importance of the IAEA's programme on fast reactors.

These proceedings contain important and useful information on national programmes and new developments in sodium cooled fast reactors in Member States.