

Numbers For a Better World

Vienna-based International Organisations Recognise World Statistics Day 2010

When it comes to economic and social development, knowledge is power. Understanding past and current trends provides indispensable information that can be used to make decisions that will profoundly affect future generations.

Comprehending the value of accurate numerical data, the IAEA joined other international organisations based at the Vienna International Centre in Austria to recognise the first ever World Statistics Day on 13 October.

“Statistics are often considered cold and impersonal, but if you gather the right information and apply the knowledge you gain in the right way, statistics can save lives,” said Jong Kyun Park, Director of the IAEA’s Division of Nuclear Power.

The IAEA’s contribution to worldwide stats may be small, but is invaluable to the nuclear community. Its Power Reactor Information System (PRIS) is the largest collection of global statistical information on nuclear operating experience and can be used to systematically assess performance by looking at outage causes. PRIS contains two kinds of data: general and design information on power reactors, and data on operating experience with nuclear power plants.

Also, the IAEA’s Planning and Economic Studies Section (PESS) maintains information references of energy and economic data for all Member States, plus nuclear power projections through 2030. As the expert UN agency on nuclear energy, the IAEA conducts research and provides input for international negotiations on climate change and sustainable development. A project on Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development is also in progress.

-- By Sasha Henriques, IAEA Division of Public Information