

Nuclear security: a global response to a global threat

By Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA

The threat of nuclear terrorism is real. The possibility of criminals getting hold of nuclear and other radioactive material cannot be ruled out. Much progress has been made in tackling this threat nationally, regionally and globally, but more needs to be done. International cooperation is vital.

As the global platform for cooperation in nuclear security, the IAEA helps countries to establish and maintain robust and sustainable national nuclear security regimes. We help ensure that measures are taken to protect nuclear and other radioactive material, as well as the facilities in which such material is housed, from malicious acts.

This has been an important year for nuclear security with the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. This establishes legally binding commitments for countries to protect nuclear facilities as well as nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport. I encourage all countries that have not yet done so to adhere to this Amendment and thereby contribute to a stronger global nuclear security regime.

In this edition of the *IAEA Bulletin*, you will learn about the different areas of security where our work is making a real difference. We highlight the progress made in a number of countries.

For example, in Kazakhstan, the world's leading uranium producing country, security measures developed with the IAEA have helped to make uranium reserves more secure (page 4).

You will learn about how nuclear security measures are part of the fabric of Cuba's modernization of its hospitals (page 20), about Viet Nam's investment in industrial radiography (page 16) and about Zimbabwe's border control programme (page 6). You will also learn about Hungary's experience in using nuclear forensics to support criminal prosecution (page 8), and about Indonesia's experience in establishing a nuclear security culture methodology (page 14). You will also meet three young women who won the first IAEA essay contest on how to improve nuclear security worldwide (page 23).

The primary responsibility for nuclear security lies with each individual country. But the threat to nuclear security is global and requires a global response. One of the ways in which the IAEA contributes is by bringing together political leaders and technical experts to share experience and learn from each other.

The *IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security*, taking place at ministerial level in Vienna in December 2016, is an opportunity to set priorities in nuclear security for the coming years. It offers a chance to consider whether there are any weaknesses in the global nuclear security framework that need to be addressed. I expect that the conference will also reaffirm the IAEA's central role as the global platform for cooperation on nuclear security.

I trust that this edition of the *IAEA Bulletin* will give you an insight into this very important area of our work.



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— Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA



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