

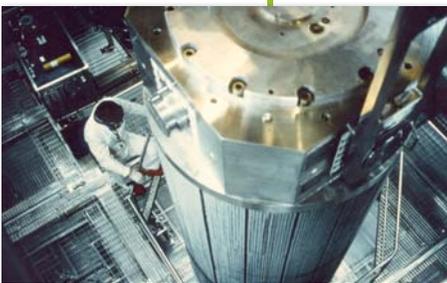
INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy

It is imperative that all nations with existing or new nuclear power programs play an active role in global efforts to address the safety, security, and safeguards implications of nuclear power.

The Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), through the International Nuclear Energy Cooperation (INEC) program, advances U.S. nuclear energy technical and policy objectives through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. The goals are to foster the safe, reliable, and environmentally sustainable use of nuclear energy and to minimize the risks of proliferation. This includes the establishment of domestic and international frameworks to engage other nations in civil nuclear energy cooperation and promote best practices in the safety, regulatory, and security issues associated with civil nuclear energy.

SOLVING THE GRAND CHALLENGES



*Bottom two photos
courtesy of IAEA*

- It is widely recognized that nuclear energy has the potential to curtail dependence on fossil fuels and greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions while promoting greater energy security.
- Given the stakes associated with the use—and potential misuse—of nuclear energy around the world, it is imperative that all nations with existing or new nuclear power programs play an active role in global efforts to address the safety, security, and safeguards implications of nuclear power.
- As President Obama has stated, we must consider a new framework that allows interested countries to enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy while limiting the risks of nuclear weapons proliferation. This new framework must include measures that improve energy security and an international fuel bank.
- Today, access to nuclear energy faces significant challenges: the development of sound infrastructure, the availability and viability of new technology options, the financing of nuclear power programs, and the safe and secure management of used fuel and nuclear waste.

The INEC program initiative aims at addressing these challenges and realizing the President's vision for an international nuclear framework with strengthened global standards for safety, security, and nonproliferation.

Program Budget

International Nuclear Energy Cooperation
(\$ in Millions)¹

FY 2012
Request
\$3.0

¹ In FY 2012, additional international R&D activities are funded under the Reactor Concepts RD&D and Fuel Cycle R&D programs in coordination with INEC.

MISSION

The INEC mission is to support NE program offices in implementing international cooperative research and development (R&D) activities that further NE's mission; provide technical, policy, and administrative support to carry out the civilian nuclear energy aspects of officially approved international agreements and other relevant U.S. international commitments; provide advice and support to other DOE offices and Federal agencies that are planning and/or implementing new agreements or commitments having civilian nuclear energy aspects; and provide advice to other DOE offices and Federal agencies on general issues related to the international use of civilian nuclear energy.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the INEC program are to:

- Provide policy analysis and guidance on international civil nuclear technical cooperation activities that allow DOE to undertake R&D more efficiently by collaborating in key facilities and in the development of technologies unique to the foreign partners;
- Serve as the central coordinating program for international engagement within NE and represent NE in international nuclear policy interactions with other government agencies;
- Develop, negotiate, and execute international bilateral and multilateral agreements; and
- Support U.S. participation in international organizations that engage in technical collaboration and influence global nuclear energy policy, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, Nuclear Energy Agency, the Generation IV International Forum, and International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation.

PLANNED PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY 2011

- Support international activities dedicated to the sharing of technical expertise for nuclear energy R&D projects of mutual interest in several key countries through specific bilateral action plans, working groups, R&D initiatives, and multilateral fora.
- Engage technical expertise from DOE national laboratories in the NE roadmap, and bilateral and multilateral support.
- Use national laboratory and/or private sector technical support to examine and analyze potential regional sites for used nuclear fuel disposition. Analyze logistical approaches for used fuel storage and disposal (such as deep geological locations), and challenges to such strategies.

FY 2012

- Coordinate continued international collaboration on civil nuclear energy development through the exchange of technical information for nuclear energy R&D projects of mutual interest, and share U.S. technical expertise with priority countries through bilateral action plans, working groups, R&D initiatives, and within multilateral fora.
- Engage DOE national laboratories' technical expertise to advance nonproliferation goals identified in the NE roadmap through international technical engagement in bilateral and multilateral venues.
- Use national laboratory and private sector technical support to identify solutions to partner countries' needs for comprehensive nuclear fuel services, including interim storage or disposition of used nuclear fuel. Analyze roles of commercial sector and government in developing instruments to enable countries to obtain commercial services that would remove the incentive to develop domestic enrichment and reprocessing capability.

The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) held an Executive Committee Ministerial Meeting on November 4, 2010. Forty-four countries attended the meeting chaired by Dr. Khaled Toukan, Chairman of the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission.

