

# **Nuclear Energy research and applications**

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- IAEA atoms for peace and development
- Division of Physical & Chemical Sciences (NAPC)
- Energy and the African Continent
- R&D related to Nuclear Energy
  - Radiation and nuclear physics
  - The Fuel Cycle Waste disposal
  - Fusion research and development
  - Nuclear databases

## **Presentation Objectives**



After successful completion of this lecture, students should be able to:

- Understand the mission of the IAEA and how the Division for Physical and Chemical Sciences fits in
- Recall the added value of nuclear energy for Africa
- Recall basic information on fusion energy generation
- Know about the principles of radiation and nuclear physics

## **International Atomic Energy Agency**

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## **Atoms for Peace and Development**



"The Agency is a formidable institution that deals with issues of war and peace, of human health, of energy, food and water – fundamental concerns of all human beings."

Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General, IAEA

## **IAEA** at A Glance



1957 IAEA Statute





HQ in Vienna
Laboratories in Seibersdorf,

- Monaco and Vienna.
- Regional offices in Toronto and Tokyo.
- Liaison offices in New York and Geneva



## **Organization**

- Director General
- Director General's Office
- Secretariat of the Policy-Making Organs
- Offices of Legal Affairs; Public Information and Communication; and Internal Oversight Services, and
- 6 Departments:





# **12 unique laboratories**







### Water Resources

Food & Agriculture

Human Health

Nuclear Science

Environment

Environment (Marine)





## N 2030 Agenda - Sustainable Development Goals

### **Atoms for Peace and Development**





Nuclear science and technology for development in energy, human health, food&agriculture, water management and environmental protection.

# **AEA** response to global challenges







ZOonotic Disease Integrated ACtion



### IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency Net Zero Challenge

### #Atoms4NetZero





# **AEA - Nuclear Sciences and Applications**

## Programmes

Using nuclear technologies to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals

- Zero Hunger
- Good Health and Well-being
- Clean water
- Clean energy
- Foster Innovation
- Climate Action
- Life below water and on land
- Partnerships for goals







Physical and Chemical Sciences

## Division of Physical & Chemical Sciences (NAPC)

Nuclear Data, Nuclear Science, Physics, Radiation and Isotope Sciences & Applications, Water resource management



### Ţ **Division of Physical & Chemical Sciences (NAPC)**

Director Physical and Chemical Sciences



Head Nuclear Data Section

Arjan Koning







### Celina Horak



Radiochemistry & Radiation **Fechnologies** 





### Jodie Miller



Jennifer McKay



# The Future and (Nuclear) Energy on the African Continent

## Electricity access in Africa

Africa's low access to modern energy is undermining its development goals and ability to build climate resilience.



People without electricity

43% of African population (~600 million) lacked access to electricity in 2022, the vast majority in sub-Saharan Africa

Access varies across the continent.

20% of the world's population is in Africa, but accounts for only 6% of the global energy demand.

16 African countries considering nuclear power generation: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Africa suffers from a deficit in infrastructure investment

# **Biggest energy challenges for Africa**

- Achieving universal access, requiring
- Increased investment
- Shift to clean energy
- Renewal and extension of networks
- Balance export revenues with meeting indigenous needs





# Electricity production by source, years 1990-2021



# Geothermal energy in Africa



Expanding Kenya's Olkaria Geothermal Power Station

•Kenya current thermal capacity = nearly 1 GW; planned capacity 1.6 GW in 2030, later 5 GW

Source https://www.dw.com/en/east-africas-new-love-affairwith-geothermal-energy/a-68088872

•East African Great Rift Valley with low surface coverage conducive to exploitation



# Solar energy





Africa has 60% of the world's solar resources solar-powered solutions to energy needs include Off-grid or mini-grid projects and Very large infrastructure facilities





### Health benefits of air pollution reduction is paramount.

The UN World Health Organization estimated in 20196.7 million premature deaths worldwide per year are caused by outdoor air pollution



Who Factsheet "Ambient (outdoor) air quality and health"; https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health

# Why Nuclear? The Paris Agreement (CoP21) and IPCC

**2°C Scenario (2DS)** = concerted action to achieve >50% chance of limiting average global temperature increase to 2°C by 2100.

This requires:

- Reducing GHG emissions 25% from that in 2017 by 2030
- Energy sector offers the largest GHG reduction potential; projected reduction of cumulative 2015 -2100 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ~1,170 GtCO<sub>2</sub> (2021=36.3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>)

But...

Total annual greenhouse gases emissions continue to reach record highs



Total CO2 emissions from energy combustion and industrial processes and their annual change, 1900-2021



# **Roadmap to Net Zero**

Net Zero=balance of anthropogenic GHG produced and that removed from the atmosphere

- Phase out fossil fuels
- Increase low-carbon renewables and nuclear (double present capacity by 2050)
- Innovate technologies

## But...

- ½ emission reductions projected rely on technologies not yet commercialized
- Supply of critical minerals is limited for massive increase in wind and solar capacity





# African states with significant activity towards NPP



- Egypt: construction of 4.8 GW El Dabaa (4 units) NPP first unit operational in 2028
- Kenya: siting at Kilifi and Kwale
- Nigeria: open for bidding for 4 GW
- South Africa: Seeking new nuclear to augment 1.9 GW at Koeberg





## Nuclear energy is clean and low-C but what about the waste? Waste is a relative burden



Non-hazardous solid waste generation per capita in Europe = 4.8 kg/day



www.alamy.com - EE11CY

EU-28 nuclear waste generation from electricity generation =  $13.2 \mu g/day^*$ 



\*24.7% from 3032.1 GWh generated in 2014, producing 0.82 ng waste/J electricity for a population of 508293.4 Mio

Sources: <a href="https://whatisnuclear.com/articles/waste\_per\_person.pdf">http://whatisnuclear.com/articles/waste\_per\_person.pdf</a> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php</a>

# Key issues in nuclear waste management



- Waste inventory

   Early estimation of quantities, level of activity, other
  - characteristics
  - Waste characterization and waste streams
- Waste minimization
  - Minimize waste generation
  - Recycle, reuse
  - Use low activation materials, etc.
- Mixed wastes
  - Account for non-radiological hazards and limitations
- Established disposal pathway for radioactive and other hazardous waste

# **R&D** and the nuclear fuel cycle



Two examples:

- accelerators for waste R&D
- non-destructive testing (NDT) for waste characterisation

# AEA CRP(F11022): INWARD

- Ion Beam Irradiation for High-Level Nuclear Wasteform Development knowledge of ceramic and glass wasteform damage from self-irradiation by studying accelerated damage induced by ion beams



Comparison to An-doped, aged samples Dose rate effects? Critical dose for amorphization? Leaching behaviour? Characterisation: XRD, RBS, Raman, UV-Visible, XPS, XANES, AFM, nanoindentation, TEM, EELS

cf. CRP SMoRE-II: Ion beam irradiation as a proxy for accelerated reactor materials testing

# Outcomes and motivation



Confidence in using ion beam irradiation for predicting long-term performance of wasteforms for safe containment of high level nuclear waste through:

- Understanding damage evolution in candidate waste forms
- Comparison of ion-irradiated and natural/historical samples
- Intercomparison of dual beam vs single beam (alpha and recoil emulation)
- Development of protocols for future studies



# Facilitated access to state-of-the-art accelerator facilities

- IAEA-ELETTRAjoint XRF beamline (since 2013)
  - $_{\odot}$  Dedicated beam-time for IAEA; >20 groups from >18 MSs
  - Recent improvements of the beam line and end-station
  - o UHVC 'Mirror Facility' for training commissioned at NSIL Seibersdorf
  - TR workshop at SESAME, with remote connection to ELETTRA in 2018
- IAEA-RBI agreement (collaboration >20 years)
  - $_{\circ}$   $\,$  New ion source for dual beam capability commissioned
  - TR workshop, with hands-on-training using various ion beam techniques
  - New CRP to facilitate experiments at ion beam facilities started
  - TR workshop at Seibersdorf, with remote connection to RBI in 2018









# Non-destructive testing for waste characterisation, e.g. muon radiography





Future CRP Non-destructive Testing Using Muon Radiography

Muon radiography uses cosmic ray muons as a source, instead of gammas, Xrays or neutrons.

### Advantages:

- Highly penetrating
- Transmission detects density differences and scattering Z (scattering=f(1/Z<sup>2</sup>)

# Muon radio(tomo)graphy for waste package characterisation







- Applicable for waste confined in containment materials and encasements
- Can distinguish between nuclear fuel and other metals
- Usable for dray cask storage and legacy wastes
- Demonstrator used at Sellafield
- Can image corium and reactor debris in Fukushima Daichi reactors



# What might the future look like? Fusion Energy Research





# Why is fusion needed and what benefits does fusion bring ?

- The energy consumption increases ~ 0.2 GW each year
- Fusion has a potential of providing inexhaustible source of energy
  - without danger or CO2 emissions



# **MERITS OF FUSION**

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### $D + T \rightarrow 4He (3.5 MeV) + n (14.1 MeV)$



DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.129.075001

## Learning from the Sun – PLASMA

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More than 99% of the Universe exists as plasma, including interstellar matter, stars and the Sun.



# **Tokamaks and Stellarators**







plasn

vacuum field

Poincaré sections

# Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF)











 Atmosphere formation: Laser beams rapidly heat the compressed by the rocket-like surface of the fusion target forming a surrounding plasma envelope.

2) Compression: Fuel is blowoff of the hot surface material.

3) Ignition: During the final part of the laser pulse, the fuel core reaches 20 times the density of lead and ignites at 100.000.000 degrees Celsius.

4) Burn: Thermonuclear burn spreads rapidly through the compressed fuel, vielding many times the input energy.

Inward transported thermal energy Laser energy Blowoff

- Fuel is compressed and heated so guickly that it reaches the conditions for fusion and burns before it has time to escape
- Fuel: few milligrams of a mixture of deuterium and tritium—in solid form this is a small spherical pellet, or capsule, with a radius of a few millimetres.



All of the energy of NIF's 192 beams is directed inside a gold cylinder called a hohlraum, which is about the size of a dime. A tiny capsule inside the hohlraum contains atoms of deuterium and tritium that fuel the ignition process.

# Fusion Energy and D-T Fusion Fuel Cycle $f(T_{Li} + n \rightarrow T (2,7 \text{ MeV}) + 4 \text{He} (2,1 \text{ MeV}))$





- Tritium is not defined as a "nuclear material" by the IAEA and therefore not covered by nuclear safeguards
- In principle, fusion facilities fall outside the definition of "nuclear installation or nuclear facility"

# Fusion Research: ITER

### A GIANT

23000t Machine weight

10X THE CORE OF THE SUN 150<sub>million®C</sub>

Plasma temperature

**FUSION ENERGY** 

500<sub>MW</sub> Output power





- 35 ITER Member States: EU + Switzerland, China, Korea, Japan, India, Russia, USA
- demonstrate feasibility of large scale fusion power
- Input (heating) 50 MW → Output (thermal) 500 MW for 400 seconds
- ITER schedule:
  - –Under construction in South of France, 77% complete
  - -First Plasma in December 2025 (?) and DT Operation in 2035 (?)

# ITER under construction





# Fusion Roadmap

Main challenges:

- Real-time plasma control (Disruptions)
- Heat exhaust and helium removal (Divertor)
- Plasma Environment the Materials Challenge
- Design Integration
- Tritium-breeding blanket (coolant, plant balance)
- Remote maintenance development



Source: Fusion For All – DONES (ifmifdones.org); See European Research Roadmap to the Realisation of Fusion Energy, 2018

# Fusion at IAEA

- 1. Plasma related activities
- 2. Nuclear Data https://amdis.iaea.org/
- 3. Development of International Guidelines and Standards for Fusion Applications:
  - Safety and Security for Fusion Applications
  - RadWaste Management for Fusion Applications
  - Small Specimens Test techniques
- 4. Inertial Fusion and neutron source related activities
- 5. Socioeconomic studies
- 6. Leading events in Fusion
  - Fusion Energy Conference
  - DEMO Programme Workshop series
- 7. Nuclear Fusion Journal
- 8. Events in cooperation. Education & training
- 9. Fusion Portal and the Fusion Device Information System (FusDIS)







### **F**

## **Fusion Device Information System (FusDIS)**





https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/fusionportal/Pages/FusDIS.aspx

# **IAEA Fusion Energy Conference 2023**





### 30th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC2025)

### Background

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fosters the exchange of scientific and technical results in nuclear fusion research and development through its series of Fusion Energy Conferences.

The 29th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2023) aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a future source of energy.

The scope of FEC 2023 is, therefore, intended to reflect the priorities of this new era in fusion energy research, technology development and preparation to industrial deployment. The conference aims to serve as a platform for sharing the results of research and development efforts in both national and international fusion experiments that have been shaped by these new priorities, and to thereby help in pinpointing worldwide advances in fusion theory, experiments, technology, engineering, materials, advanced concepts, safety, socio-economics and preparation to industrial deployment. Furthermore, the conference will also set these results against the backdrop of the requirements for a net energy-producing fusion device and a fusion power plant in general, and will thus help in defining the way forward.

### Related Resources

- Announcement and Call for Papers
- How to Register for an IAEA Conference/Symposia
- % InTouch+ Platform
- % IAEA-INDICO (Paper Submissions)

FAQ

### 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>st</sup> October 2025

### (G) IAEA 30TH IAEA FUSION ENERGY CONFERENCE

13-18 October 2025



# **Types of radiation**





## **TYPES OF RADIATION**









### CONTENTS

Chapter 1 Introduction 1 Benefits and risks 2 / Public anxiety 2

Chapter 2 Atoms and radiation 3 Structure of matter 3 / Radioactivity and radiation 4 / Types of radiation 7

> Chapter 3 Radiation and matter 9 Ionization in tissue 10 / Dose quantities 11

Chapter 4 Sources of ionizing radiation 13

#### Chapter 5 Radiation effects 15

Induction of cancers 16 / Risk assessments 16 / Risk factors for cancers 17 Hereditary disease 19 / Communal risk 21 / Irradiation in pregnancy 21

#### Chapter 6 System of radiological protection 23

General principles 23 / Scope of application 25 / Justification of practices 25 Optimization of protection 26 / Limitation of doses 27 The International Basic Safety Standards 28 / Regulatory infrastructure 28

#### Chapter 7 Natural radiation 29

Cosmic radiation 29 / Gamma radiation 30 / Radon inhalation 31 Internal irradiation 32 / Total doses 32

#### Chapter 8 Medical uses of radiation 33

Diagnostic radiology 34 / Nuclear medicine 35 Radiotherapy 36 / Guidance levels for medical exposure 37 Total doses 38 Chapter 9 Occupational exposure to radiation 39 Artificial sources 40 / Natural sources 41 / Total doses 42

Chapter 10 Environmental pollution 43 Nuclear weapon tests 43 / Chernobyl accident 45 / Radioactive discharges 47 Depleted uranium 49 / Managing contaminated areas 49 / Total doses 50

> Chapter 11 Nuclear power 51 Nuclear reactors 51

Chapter 12 Waste management 53 Decommissioning 55 / Disposal criteria 56 / Other waste management practices 57

> Chapter 13 Emergencies 59 Nuclear emergencies 60 / Countermeasures 61 Intervention standards 62 / Public information 63 Other radiological emergencies 63

Chapter 14 Risks from radiation sources 65 Accidents involving radiation sources 65 Lost sources causing contamination incidents 67 / Radioactive Dispersal Devices 68

Chapter 15 Transport of radioactive materials 69

Appendix A

Glossary 71

#### Appendix B

Symbols and Units 79 / Scientific notation 79 Prefixes 79 / Symbols 80 / Units 80

### Selected References 81

IAEA Publications 81 / ICRP Publications 81 / UNSCEAR Publications 81 OECD/NEA 81 / European Commission 81



# **Some important definitions**



Radionuclides	Unstable nuclides
Radioactivity	Emission of radiation
Radiation types	Alpha, beta, gamma, neutron, and X ray
Activity	Decay rate of radionuclide
Half-life	Time to half activity

## **Decay of an excited**

# IAEA

Туре	Nuc	lear equation	Representation	Change in mass/atomic numbers	
Alpha decay	ÂΧ	${}^{4}_{2}$ He + ${}^{A-4}_{Z-2}$ Y		A: decrease by 4 Z: decrease by 2	
Beta decay	ÅΧ	$^{0}_{-1}e + ^{A}_{Z+1}Y$		A: unchanged Z: increase by 1	
Gamma decay	ÂΧ	$^{0}_{0}\gamma$ + $^{A}_{Z}\gamma$	$\underbrace{\swarrow}_{\text{Excited nuclear state}} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \underbrace{\checkmark}_{\gamma}$	A: unchanged Z: unchanged	
Positron emission	ξx	$^{0}_{+1}e + ^{A}_{Y-1}Y$		A: unchanged Z: decrease by 1	
Electron capture	ξx	$^{0}_{-1}e + ^{A}_{Y-1}Y$	X-ray X-ray	A: unchanged Z: decrease by 1	

## **Nuclear reactions have/will change(d)** the world





Nuclear energy

Medical isotopes





Nuclear fusion



# **Nuclear reaction**





Analysis 1: Measurements Analysis 2: Theory and computational simulation



# **The Fission Process**





## Nuclear reaction measurements

# Total absorption detector at n\_TOF (CERN)









# Fission Experiments at Los Alamos National Lab



Time-Projection Chamber for fission cross-section measurements



Chi-Nu setup (22 6Li glass detectors) to measure prompt fission neutron spectra

Many other facilities and detector setups in construction worldwide:

- EAR2 at CERN
- NFS @ SPIRAL2 @ GANIL
- IGISOL-JYFLTRAP
- SOFIA: Studies On Fission with Aladin (reverse kinematics) at GSI
- STEFF
- ...



SPIDER 2E-2v for fission fragment yield measurements



DANCE w/ NEUANCE for correlated measurements on prompt fission neutrons andγ rays with fission fragments





- Nuclear power
- · Homeland security
- Nuclear fusion

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• Medical applications (therapy and isotopes)

- Nuclear Structure and Radioactive Decay

   φ
   φ
   φ

   φ
   φ
   φ
   φ

   φ
   φ
   φ
   φ
   φ

   Alpha decay
   Beta decay
   Gamma decay
- Spent fuel and radioactive waste management
- Radiography, Nondestructive assay
- Safeguards
- Etc.





### Nuclear physics research: experiment + theory









### **Applications:**

organised complete recommended traceable easily retrievable

# **Nuclear data**





# **IAEA Nuclear Data Section**

The Nuclear Data Section (NDS) supports nuclear research activities in Member States by providing essential nuclear data and serving as the IAEA centre for the collection and dissemination of data from laboratories worldwide.





### Some of our Databases and Web Applications



	Application	URL	Contents
And Radioactive	Live Chart of Nuclides/Isotope browser Mobile App	<u>https://nds.iaea.org/relnsd/vcharthtm</u> <u>l</u>	Nuclear structure and decay data, user-friendly graphical interface, Python API, mobile apps
Decay	Decay Portal	https://nds.iaea.org/relnsd/vcharthtm I/decay_libs.html	Decay Data Library Comparison
	Atomic Mass Data, AME & Nubase	https://nds.iaea.org/amdc	Nuclear properties: mass, isomeric excitation energy, half- life, spin, parity, decay modes and intensities
	Electronic Stopping Power of Matter for lons	https://nds.iaea.org/stopping	Collection of stopping power measurements
0	Nuclear Electromagnetic Moments Database	https://nds.iaea.org/nuclearmoments	experimental information on nuclear magnetic dipole and electric quadrupole moments
Nuclear Reactions	Neutron Standards	https://nds.iaea.org/standards	The neutron cross section standards
	EXFOR	http://nds.iaea.org/exfor	Experimental nuclear reaction database
	Nuclear Reaction Data Explorer	https://nds.iaea.org/dataexplorer	Experimental and evaluated cross section and fission yield viewer
	TALYS World	https://nds.iaea.org/reinsd/talys/talys. html	Nuclear reaction simulation online
Nuclear Science and energy applications	Prompt Gamma-ray Neutron Activation Analysis	https://nds.iaea.org/pgaa	Prompt Gamma-ray Neutron Activation Analysis (PGAA) database and evaluated Gamma-ray Activation File (EGAF) for non-destructive nuclear method
A Nuclear energy	Beta-Delayed Neutron Emission Database	https://nds.iaea.org/beta-delayed- neutron	Experimental beta-decay half-lives, beta-delayed neutron emission probabilities, and emission spectra
	Compilation of Nuclear Data Experiments for Radiation Characterisation (CoNDERC)	https://nds.iaea.org/conderc/	Decay Heat, incident particle spectra used world wide, origen Input for shielding calculation, thermal resonane data
🕑 👗 Medical	Medical Radioisotopes Production Portal	http://nds.iaea.org/medportal	Therapeutic Radionuclides, Gamma Emitters, Positron Emitters
Safaguarda	Medical Isotope Browser	http://nds.iaea.org/mib	Medical radioisotopes production simulator
Sateguards	International Database of Reference Gamma Spectra (IDB)	https://nds.iaea.org/idb	In collaboration with IAEA-SG
	IAEA Handbook of Nuclear Data for Safeguards	https://nds.iaea.org/sgnucdat	A set of recommended nuclear data for safeguard (decay data, thermal neutron capture cross section, resonance integrals, fission product yieldetc)

### Live Chart of Nuclides



- Nuclear structure and decay data (ENSDF) viewer
  - Available <u>online</u> and mobile app
  - Levels, decay radiationscheme, schema plot, gamma lines and energies, fission yields



Livechart API + Data Science packages now also available

### Isotope Browser – for Mobile Devices

- App for Mobile Devices
  - Properties of over **4,000 isotopes**
  - No internet connection needed
  - ~180,000 downloads, 4.8



### WebApp: Medical isotope browser

- Medical isotope production simulator
  - Run the simulation <u>online</u> (accessible from any browser)
  - Setup target, projectile, the intensity and duration of irradiation, cooling time







# Thanks for your attention!

