

## 11<sup>th</sup> IEMPT

### OECD/NEA Welcome Address

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning,

On behalf of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, I am very pleased to welcome you all to this 11<sup>th</sup> Information Exchange Meeting on Actinide and Fission Product Partitioning and Transmutation.

First of all I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our hosts, the Idaho National Laboratory and the chair of the meeting, Kathryn McCarthy, as well as to all INL staff and the members of the scientific advisory committees, who have worked hard in preparing and shaping this meeting. I would also like to thank the European Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency for their cooperation in the organisation of the meeting.

This year is the 20 years anniversary of this series of meeting. In 1988, based on the OMEGA project initiative of the Japanese government, the NEA was invited to conduct an international project on partitioning and transmutation. One of the outcomes of this international initiative is this series of information exchange meetings on P&T, whose objective is to provide a forum for experts to present and discuss their initiatives and the results of their research.

The first meeting was held in Mito, Japan in November 1990. At this occasion, there were only about 20 presentations covering chemistry and physics of P&T. After about 10 years, the size of the meetings have grown significantly and the scope of the meetings have been extended to cover scientific and technological aspects of advanced nuclear fuel cycles, as well as related strategies and policy issues. At this 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, there will be about 150 papers presented either in oral or poster sessions, which makes it is the largest meeting ever in terms of

number of papers and possibly participants. I am very pleased to note that the interest in P&T is still increasing after 20 years of activities.

The current meeting will cover various topics of P&T including the traditional chemistry and physics issues related to P&T, fuel cycle strategies and transition scenarios, radioactive waste management strategies, radioactive waste forms, impact of P&T on geological disposal, as well as systems design, performance and safety. Following a decision in 2007 of the NEA Nuclear Science Committee, every second information exchange meeting will comprise a half-day session dedicated to a specific field of research, replacing the reports on national programmes. This time we will have reports on national programmes, as there was a special session on fuel cycle strategies and transition scenarios organised at the last meeting in Mito, Japan, in October 2008.

Just after the last P&T meeting, the NEA celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in connection with this anniversary, the NEA published a 450 pages book, entitled “Nuclear Energy Outlook”, a first of a kind exercise for the NEA, but Outlook is a brand name for the OECD which issues regularly Economic Outlook, Environmental Outlook, and many other outlook without forgetting the annual World Energy Outlook from the International Energy Agency, our sister Agency in the OECD family. This “Nuclear Energy Outlook” (NEO as we call it) contains the most current available data and statistics and provides projections up to 2050 to consider growth scenarios and potential implications on the future use of nuclear energy. It also offers unique analysis and recommendations on the challenges lying ahead. The NEA plans to issue an updated version of the NEO at the end of 2012 with special emphasis on:

- a) the prerequisites for nuclear growth, including guidance for “new entrant” countries,
- b) the challenges to be faced by governments, industry, regulators and other stakeholders, and
- c) the research and development and associated technology changes that are required.

Next year, it's time for the OECD to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebrations will start on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 commemorating the signing of the OECD Convention. One of the events during the OECD anniversary celebration will be the presentation to a Ministerial meeting next spring of the final synthesis report from the "Green Growth" initiative that started in June 2009 when all OECD countries agreed to promote environmentally friendly green growth policies in favour of sustainable economic growth based on low carbon energy use, including the enhancement of energy security and a fight against climate change and environmental degradation. The NEA will contribute to this Green Growth initiative by continuing to work on issues such as security of energy supply, economic and financial aspects of nuclear energy, and questions related to nuclear waste.

In this context, partitioning and transmutation may have an important role to play by offering benefits of reduced amount of radioactive waste and thus reduced burden on the geological disposal sites, implementation of the latter being considered as one of the key challenges for future sustainable nuclear systems. Let me refer to the "Nuclear Energy Technology Roadmap" recently issued jointly by the IEA and the NEA. This roadmap is part of a series of roadmaps for some of the most important energy technologies, developed at the request of the G8 to help turning political statements and analytical work into concrete action. This nuclear energy roadmap targets a nuclear capacity of 1200 GW by 2050 providing around 24% of global electricity (up from 370 GW providing 14% of electricity at present) a major contribution to the "decarbonisation" of electricity supply. The roadmap stresses that the continued development of reactor and fuel cycle technologies, including the need of "*reducing the volumes of high-level radioactive waste for eventual repository disposal*", will be important for maintaining the competitiveness of nuclear energy.

Before closing my welcome address, I am happy to announce that the NEA has received a proposal from the Nuclear Research Institute in Czech Republic to host the next information exchange meeting on P&T

in the autumn of 2012 in Prague. The details will be announced at the end of this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am convinced that we will have a very interesting and fruitful meeting, and I wish you all a very enjoyable stay in San Francisco.

Thank you for your attention.