

## **International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy Paris, 8-9 March 2010**

Today a growing number of states are looking to civil nuclear power to meet their energy needs, in a context of spiralling fossil fuel prices and the drive to combat climate change.

France's position is that the peaceful use of nuclear power should not be confined to a handful of states that already hold the technology. At the same time, though, it is essential - both for the countries under consideration and for the international community as a whole - that any country undertaking a civil nuclear programme be not only willing but also capable of meeting essential requirements regarding safety, security, non-proliferation and protection of the environment for future generations. Similarly, the countries in question are confronted with the challenges of securing financing, acceding to the technology and the latest research, and training people to satisfactorily conduct their projects. This is why France has expressed its willingness to assist any country wishing to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes which fully abides by its non proliferation obligations.

The International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy was held in Paris on 8 and 9 March 2010, attended by all the stakeholders of the responsible development of civil nuclear energy:

- Representatives from 63 countries, mainly at ministerial level, showing the importance of a high level commitment for the setting up the necessary legal and political framework,
- 13 bodies in charge of nuclear safety issues
- 30 research centres involved in the implementation of international commitments in the field of nuclear energy,
- Many representatives from nuclear industry, civil society, as well as public and private financial institutions.

It aimed to enable debate on every aspect of developing a nuclear programme and on ways of using bilateral and multilateral cooperation to help countries wishing to embark on such a course in accordance with their international obligations. It provided a discussion forum for all of the stakeholders: government policy-makers, executives from the international organisations involved in drawing up and monitoring compliance with the regulatory framework, the managers of industrial companies in the sector and of financial establishments, the heads of research and training bodies, and qualified public figures involved in deliberations.

This conference gave an opportunity to achieve progress, in particular by involving policy-makers, in this particular issue and providing an insight into the needs of new nuclear countries.

The Paris Conference was organised in coordination with the IAEA and with the support of OECD.

Fostered by the French President, a discussion forum has been launched and should be continued to try to bridge the gap between supplier and recipient states.

### Giving priority to training

“We will step up our efforts by creating an International Nuclear Energy Institute that will include an International Nuclear Energy School. It will bring together the best teachers and researchers to provide very high quality education (...). The Institute will be an integral part of the international network of specialized Centres of Excellence now taking shape. We will set up the first Centre in Jordan” (Nicolas Sarkozy, Paris Conference, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010).

### **For more information on :**

[Watch](#) the speech of French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, at the opening ceremony. (French only)

<http://www.elysee.fr/webtv/index.php?intHomeMinisterId=0&intChannelId=3&intVideoId=1580>

Visit the website of the [International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy](#)

<http://conferenceparis-nucleairecivil.org/pro/fiche/quest.jsp;jsessionid=36ED753A83351DCB85E977EFF8403E99.k11>

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[http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities\\_1/disarmament-arms-control-and-arms-trade-control\\_1109/france-and-non-proliferation-of-weapons-of-mass-destruction\\_7146/fight-against-nuclear-proliferation\\_7147/international-conference-on-access-to-civil-nuclear-energy-08-09.03.10\\_13812.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/disarmament-arms-control-and-arms-trade-control_1109/france-and-non-proliferation-of-weapons-of-mass-destruction_7146/fight-against-nuclear-proliferation_7147/international-conference-on-access-to-civil-nuclear-energy-08-09.03.10_13812.html)

[See the photos of the conference](#)

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