INPRO Dialogue Forum on
“Multilateral Cooperative Approaches to the Back End of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle”

Session 4:

Time frames and public acceptance

Charles-Antoine Louët, Chair

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Session Overview

- This session is the result of the combination of a session on public acceptance and a session called “lack of urgency?”

- Public acceptance is a difficult subject. Difficult to define and difficult to analyse. It is also a key issue for the implementation of solutions for the back end.

- The time frames in radioactive waste management are what makes management of the back end so complicated, technically, financially and also for public acceptance.

- The session presentations will give an overview of different national situations and plans. The discussion will be conducted with the objective of determining how international cooperation and public acceptance interact.
Different time frames, different issues raised by the public (1/2)

- Planning (from -30yrs)
  - Storage or disposal?
  - Reversibility?
  - Feasibility?
  - What kind of waste?
  - Whose waste?
  - Reprocessing?

- Implementing (from -15yrs)
  - Safety?
  - Environmental impact?
  - Financing?
  - Siting?
  - Economic development?
  - Jobs?
Different time frames, different issues raised by the public (2/2)

- Operating phase (up to ~100yrs)
  Closure? Occupational exposure? Emergency situations?

- Post-closure (from 100yrs... into eternity!)
  Long-term monitoring? Memory? Moral/ethical responsibility?
Most issues have not been tackled up to now

- There is no operating repository for SF or high-level RW in the world
- Very few projects
- No consensus
Questions raised by international cooperation

- Many examples: industrial and scientific cooperation, reprocessing, fuel take-back, joint projects...
- Paradoxically, the most advanced countries are small

- Can joint projects affect early national commitment?
- Will the safe operation of the first repositories affect acceptability worldwide?
- What acceptability for SF/RW imports or exports?
- How do you manage acceptability issues over different time frames?
- What are the success factors for international repositories?