

**17th INPRO Dialogue Forum on
Opportunities and Challenges in Small Modular Reactors**

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VIDEO ADDRESS

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IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 17th INPRO Dialogue Forum, from the IAEA's headquarters in Vienna and on behalf of the Department of Nuclear Energy....

I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this meeting. In particular,,, to Vice Minister MUN of the Ministry of Science and ICT, President JUNG of the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, and Mr. Song of the Ulsan City Government. This is the second Dialogue Forum hosted by a Member State, and we hope that other countries will follow this excellent example.

Let me also thank our speakers and participants. We look forward to your inputs and active contributions.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

The importance and recognition of nuclear power as a sustainable and low carbon energy source continues to grow.

The Agency's mission is to help its Member States that have decided to use nuclear energy to use it in a safe, secure, and sustainable manner.

The International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO),,, was established to help ensure that nuclear energy remains available to contribute to meeting global energy needs until the end of the 21st century.

To achieve this, INPRO supports Member States in their long term planning for deployment of sustainable nuclear energy.

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The INPRO Dialogue Forum fosters a strategic dialogue between technology developers and technology users on innovations in nuclear energy.

The Forum facilitates a common understanding of the needs and potential role of different stakeholders in countries considering nuclear power for their national energy mix,,,

and it addresses the opportunities and challenges of the countries that are developing and applying advanced technologies.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

We are witnessing increasing interest in small and medium-sized reactors – SMRs, and this Dialogue Forum focuses on addressing both opportunities and challenges related to this type of reactors.

Proposed as a less expensive alternative to conventional nuclear reactors, SMRs could fulfil the need for flexible power generation for a wide range of users and applications.

They can offer important advantages for nuclear newcomer countries, particularly to those with small electric grids, with less-developed infrastructure, and with limited investment capabilities.

Currently there are more than 50 SMR designs at various stages of development for different applications, with commercial operations expected to begin in the coming years. Many newcomers have expressed interest in SMRs but are still in favour of “proven” technology... so, they want SMR technology to be first deployed in the country of origin to minimize licencing and performance risks. However,,, advanced SMRs are not yet commercially available,,, although several countries are moving in this direction.

Though significant advancements have been made in various SMR technologies in recent years, some technical issues still attract attention in the industry.

This is where the Agency can play an important role in supporting developed nuclear countries and potential newcomers in addressing technology requirements of both users and holders.

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I wish you all a successful programme and good discussions and look forward to hearing the outcomes.

Thank you.