

Mission

The NEA Global Forum on Nuclear Education, Science, Technology and Policy is an inclusive network of experts in the nuclear energy sector, primarily from academia. The first ever international standing body of nuclear science and technology academics, the NEA Global Forum leverages resources in nuclear academia to confront some of the most significant policy, educational, and human capacity building challenges that the global nuclear technology sector faces today.

Objectives

It is of primary importance to improve nuclear education materials and curricula, share knowledge, foster inclusiveness and diversity and create learning opportunities for the next generation of nuclear professionals.

The NEA Global Forum will achieve its objectives by:

- Engaging with global academic and research institutions responsible for developing the next generation of nuclear science and technology experts.
- Bringing long-term, creative thinking to address international policy challenges that nuclear energy faces today and as an input to NEA processes.
- Providing academic institutions around the world with a framework for interaction, co-operation, and collective action.
- Holding symposia to serve as a venue for the world's nuclear academic experts, as well as other stakeholders, to identify emerging issues and find creative solutions for the strategic challenges identified.

Value and benefits

Integrating different viewpoints and approaches, the NEA Global Forum will leverage the resources, capabilities and expertise from around the world to develop policy recommendations and to identify the best practices that will enable nuclear science and technology university programmes to be reshaped in order to attract, train and retain the talent pool the nuclear field needs.

The curricula of nuclear educational programmes can be enhanced through the connections made in the NEA

Global Forum. Students will participate in first-class academic programmes helping them to address the biggest challenges the nuclear sector faces today.

Active participation in the NEA Global Forum will allow educators around the world to partner with academic institutions and education networks in other countries in order to share expertise.

Through the delivery of nuclear education programmes, countries will build national critical skills among their students to work in the nuclear field and support policymaking in order to enhance energy policies and set research and development priorities.

How the NEA Global Forum works

The NEA Global Forum is led by a Council of Advisors comprised of representatives from a rotating group of over 20 academic institutions from NEA member countries. The role of the Council of Advisors is to:

- define the programme of work and working areas;
- identify good practices;
- facilitate shared activities and co-ordinate joint programmes of educational innovation;
- oversee the work and outputs of the working groups.

Working groups made up of representatives from NEA and non-NEA member countries organise activities to achieve Forum aims, and make policy recommendations.

Working areas

Currently the Council has defined four main topic areas to be addressed by the working groups:

- Achieving gender equity in the nuclear engineering and technology and in Academic Workforces:** Promotes gender balance and female leadership in the nuclear energy sector by addressing the women cohort from the early stage of their academic career.
- Future of nuclear engineering education:** Establishes approaches and best practices to attract more students to nuclear science and engineering courses and build a talent pipeline from university to careers in nuclear energy.

iii. Rethinking the relationship between nuclear energy and society: Focuses on improving the public perception, engagement, trust and understanding of nuclear energy.

iv. Future requirements for the competitiveness of nuclear energy: Focuses on instilling a culture of innovation in nuclear curricula.

Events

Country-specific workshops on nuclear education

The Global Forum provides an international platform for tackling issues and improving the nuclear technology education infrastructure in participating countries. It does so by organising country-specific workshops with stakeholders from the governmental, academic and industrial sector.

Nuclear science and engineering global commencements

The Global Forum organised annual commencements to celebrate the achievements of graduates in nuclear science and engineering disciplines. Each year keynote talks and panel discussions are held around a thematic topic of a global nature.

NEA Global Forum symposia

Academia and students from leading universities have opportunities to showcase their accomplishments, discuss challenges and pave the way to more attractive and innovation-friendly nuclear curricula. To cultivate a nuclear workforce that is energised and proud of their professional path, professors and students will have platforms to share their thoughts, and learn from each other.

Participation

The NEA Global Forum is keen to engage further with member and non-member countries and their universities who wish to address challenges related to nuclear education.

Through participation in the NEA Global Forum universities will join an extensive international network of academic institutions delivering undergraduate and postgraduate nuclear education programmes.

Interested universities and academic experts wishing to join the NEA Global Forum Working Groups can do so by contacting the NEA Secretariat.

The NEA Global Forum in numbers



The Council of Advisors includes 35 members (37% women) representing 20 universities from 13 countries.



The 4 working groups include over 60 members.

For further information, please contact the NEA Global Forum Secretariat:

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The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is an intergovernmental agency under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) headquartered in Paris, France. Its main objective is to promote international co-operation assisting member countries in maintaining and further developing the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally friendly and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.