

### **Session 13 Managing very long-term storage and the disposal of spent fuel**

The progress being made towards the licensing of deep geological repositories in Finland and Sweden was described with emphasis on the success achieved in obtaining acceptance of the projects by the local communities in which they will be sited. It is expected that the repositories will be open for operation in the period 2020 – 2025.

Recognising that small countries will have difficulty in developing a geological repository and that each country needs access to a means for disposing of spent fuel or high-level waste, discussions have been held to investigate the concept of a multinational repository. In particular, a European initiative called the European Repository Development Organisation has been started. The project has links with the European Commission. The role of the IAEA in encouraging global multilateral initiatives was emphasised.

In recognition of the forthcoming period of studies in the USA to investigate the safety of the long-term storage of spent fuel, a data base is being established by the Electrical Power Research Institute on behalf of the USNRC. The data base will contain information relevant to all of the areas identified as needing study related to: welds and seals and their behaviour in salt atmospheres, fuel cladding/baskets, conditions that would warrant repackaging, ageing management, climate changes effects, influence of storage on transportability, record keeping and security. External organizations interested in participating in the EPRI study are being encouraged.