Presentation of the International Association for Environmentally Safe Disposal of Radioactive Materials

EDRAM

Jean-Paul Minon, chairman

EDRAM
International Association for Environmentally Safe Disposal of Radioactive Materials

ONDRAF/NIRAS
Belgian agency for radioactive waste and enriched fissile materials

Registration and membership

- Non-profitmaking association established in 1998 according to Swiss Civil Law
- The members of the association are well-established organisations with responsibility for management of radioactive wastes in their respective countries.

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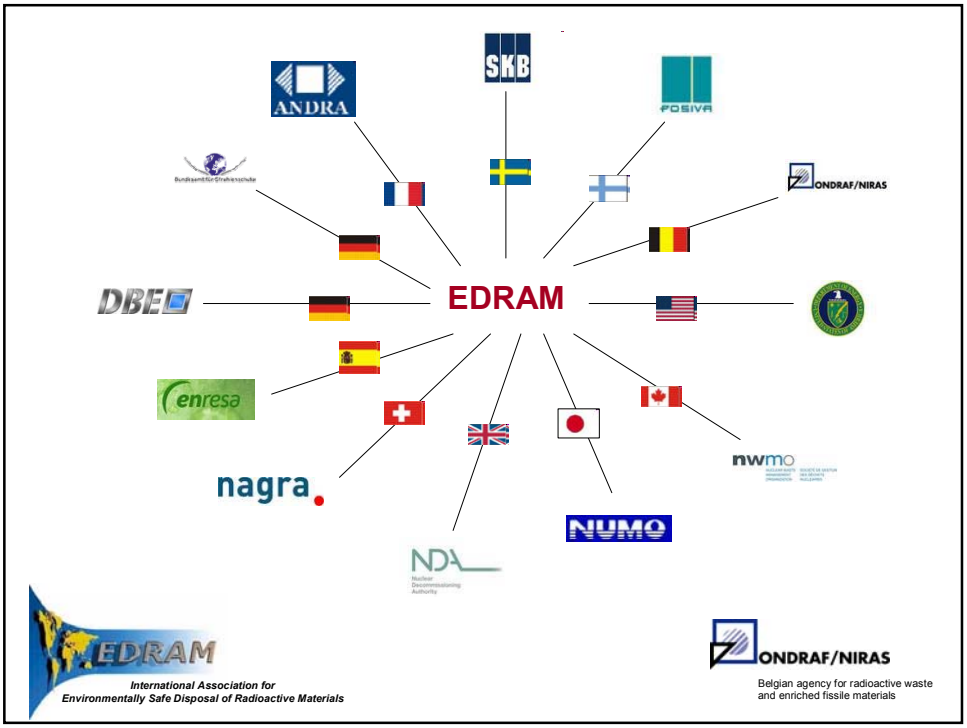

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Objectives

1. To create a forum where strategic questions can be discussed among implementors with a view to supporting their individual approaches on policy issues, particularly as these relate to demonstration of safety and environmental protection to both the general public and to regulatory organisations.
2. To support national efforts towards site selection and implementation of long-term disposal strategies and to promote a common understanding of waste management issues and the internationally recognised principles which apply thereto.
3. To stimulate and promote coordinated research and development activities, particularly in underground research laboratories.
4. To define positions and coordinate actions, where appropriate, in dealing with international organisations (e.g. OECD, IAEA, EU), whilst recognising the value of open discussions with governments and regulators in such organisations.
5. To discuss technical and management matters, particularly with a view to benchmarking and establishing optimum practices, without disrupting existing mechanisms for cooperation on specific projects.

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EDRAM principles on radioactive waste management

1. The burdens and responsibility for taking care of radioactive waste should not be passed on to future generations.
2. Radioactive waste management is a social and technical issue.
3. There is a need for flexibility and open and ethical involvement of stakeholders in decision making.

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EDRAM views on spent fuel and HLW management (1/4)

1. Development of long-term management solutions should proceed irrespective of the future of nuclear power generation.
2. Volumes of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste produced are small and manageable.
3. Spent fuel and HLW is being safely stored on an interim basis and can be continued to be safely stored using current practices for many decades.

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EDRAM views on spent fuel and HLW management (2/4)

4. Spent Fuel and HLW are highly regulated and subject to multiple oversight authority of governments.

5. Many countries have R&D programs on long-term spent fuel management to develop improved methods and techniques. Over 10B$ US has already been spent engaging over 20,000 scientists worldwide.

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EDRAM views on spent fuel and HLW management (3/4)

6. Several countries have concluded that geological disposal is technically safe and feasible. Some countries are implementing geological disposal and have identified potential disposal repository sites.

7. Alternative management strategies are being studied in a number of countries, often within a framework of environmental impact assessment.

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EDRAM views on spent fuel and HLW management (4/4)

8. A step-wise approach in decision-making is being used to address long-term management of spent nuclear fuel and HLW.
9. Financial provisions are being made for radioactive waste management. Long-term costs are recovered from current electricity consumers and not passed on to taxpayers or future generations.

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EDRAM views on multinational repositories (1/3)

1. Each country must take responsibility for its own nuclear waste.
2. Each country has the right to prohibit the import of foreign waste into its territory.
3. A successful implementation within the next 10-20 years of some advanced national programmes is a top priority.

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EDRAM views on multinational repositories (2/3)

4. Countries can agree to share storage or disposal solutions, provided that they comply with international obligations and internationally accepted safety standards.

5. The ethical considerations to be taken into account in the case of a shared or multinational repository must be the same as those applying to national repositories.

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EDRAM views on multinational repositories (3/3)

6. International organisations can play an important role to promote RD&D cooperation between member countries and to support progress in national programmes.

On going discussions with ARIUS and ERDO

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Joint activities

1. The management of radioactive waste : a description of ten countries
2. Waste ownership and long-term liabilities
3. The role of underground laboratories in nuclear waste disposal programmes
4. Community Benefit (to be published)
5. Disposal cost structure (ongoing)

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Relations with international organisations

IAEA

- Dr. ElBaradei invited at Stockholm Conference (ICGR), 2003
- Meeting in 2005 in Vienna with the general management

NEA

- Structured link through ANDRA
- Meeting in 2006 in Paris with the general management

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Relations with international organisations

EU

- Structured link through ONDRAF/NIRAS
- Meeting in 2007 in Brussels with commissioner for Energy
- European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) : EDRAM was invited to meeting in 2009 in Prague

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Co-organisation of international conferences

International conferences on geological repositories (ICGR), in particular

- Stockholm 2003, SKB – IAEA, NEA, EC, EDRAM
- Bern 2007, NAGRA – IAEA, NEA, EC, EDRAM
- Yokohama 2011, METI, NUMO – IAEA, NEA, EDRAM

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Meetings

- Spring (2 days) and winter (1 day) meeting

- Main points
  - status hosting countries
  - significant development in member countries
  - topics
  - interfaces with EU, IAEA, NEA,…

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Meetings

- Examples of topics
  - multinational repositories
  - waste ownership and long-term liabilities
  - alternate approaches to address the economic and development aspirations of host and surrounding communities
  - the fundamentals of safety strategy
  - integration of new reactor construction plans into the development of plans for HLW repositories
  - disposal costs

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WEBSITE

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