

VIETNAM

1. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Today there is no nuclear power in Vietnam, but the country is planning for nuclear power electricity generation, to reduce its dependence on hydro- and fossil-fuel resources. The state owned EVN (Electricity Vietnam) has done a feasibility study on nuclear energy and concludes that the country has the capability for nuclear power. Still, concerns remain about experience, safety, technology and management of such a plant; the government has called for international support and cooperation.

The first nuclear power plant is expected to open either in central Ninh province or Phu Yen province around 2015 and 2020. http://www.npcil.org/nupower_voll3_4/npovavol4.htm;
http://www.nuclear.com/nation-by-nation/Vietnam_news.html;
<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/inimr-ri.nsf/fr-gr-73012f.html>

Research Reactors

Operational: 1

Planned: 0

<http://www.iaea.or.at/programmes/a2/>

Fuel Cycle

Vietnam would import fuel for the first phase of operation of the planned power plants. Systematic exploration for uranium has been going on since 1978, with a number of findings. While unquantified amounts of unconventional resources have been found in coal, rare earths, phosphates and graphite deposits, no production of uranium has of yet been done.

<http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/uranium/uranium.asp>

2. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

Research Centers

Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC) consists of five main institutions:

NRI: Nuclear Research Institute in the Dalat City (Dalat)

CNT: Centre for Nuclear Techniques in the Ho Chi Minh City (HCM)

Irradiation Centre in the Ho Chi Minh City

INST: Institute of Nuclear Science and Techniques in Hanoi (Hanoi)

ITRE: Institute for Technology of Radioactive and Rare Elements in Hanoi (Hanoi)

<http://www.vaec.gov.vn/>

Nuclear Cooperation

India: An agreement was signed in 1999 between the Indian Atomic Energy Commission and the Vietnam Atomic Energy, on nuclear cooperation, scientists exchange and assistance in setting up a training centre at Vietnam.

IAEA: Vietnam is part of the IAEA Regional Cooperation Agreement (RCA) and South Asian Frameworks for Environmental Data-Sharing, a structure to increase nuclear transparency in South Asia. <http://www.acronym.org.uk/dd/dd55/55rajen.htm>

Russia: In 2002, an intergovernmental agreement was made between Russia and Vietnam on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/nuke_industry/co-operation/channel15203n25s25_.html

A memorandum of understanding was signed in February, in which Russia and Vietnam agreed that Moscow will help build Vietnam's first nuclear power plant.

<http://www.antenna.nl/wise/index.html?http://www.antenna.nl/wise/610/brief.php>

3. INTERNATIONAL NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS

Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

Biological Weapons Convention, 20 June 1980
Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, signed 10 April 1981(not ratified)
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, signed 24 September 1996 (not ratified)
Chemical Weapons Convention, 30 September 1998
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 14 June 1982
Outer Space Treaty, signed 20 June 1980 (not ratified)
Sea Bed Treaty, signed 20 June 1980 (not ratified)
Treaty of Bangkok, 26 November 1996

Vietnam has not yet signed the Additional Protocol.

Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament

4. POSITIONS TAKEN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Disarmament: “Secondly, it is universally recognized that the NPT also constitutes the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. The coming into existence of the NPT has been dictated by the final objective of achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The nature of the relationship between the NPT and nuclear disarmament requires that the promotion of nuclear non-proliferation be undertaken hand in hand with corresponding progress towards nuclear disarmament. In the context of very slow progress toward nuclear disarmament in recent years, it has become more pertinent and justified that the Nuclear Weapon States should strictly undertake their obligations to stop the improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems, and as an interim measures, to de-alert and de-active them and gradually reduce them. Nuclear Weapon States must fully implement the unequivocal undertakings they have given at the 2000 Review Conference to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to total nuclear disarmament.”

Negative Security Assurances: “Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-Nuclear Weapon States should be pursue as a matter of priority.”

Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones: “Thirdly, nuclear weapon-free zones not only make significant contribution toward achieving regional and international security, but also strengthen the NPT regime and the process of total nuclear disarmament... Viet Nam is working closely with other ASEAN member states to ensure Southeast Asia remains a region free from nuclear weapons.”

Practical steps: “The NPT implementation will not be complete if the efforts of the international community aim at only one or another aspect of their commitments in implementing their obligations under the Treaty, the decisions and the resolutions of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, especially the 13 practical steps laid down in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. The strengthening of the NPT regime should be one of highest priority issues discussed at...the upcoming 2005 Review Conference.

- All statements by Mr. Nguyen Duy Chien to the Third Preparatory Committee of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, 27 April 2004 <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom04/vietnam27.pdf>