

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF TURKEY AS A NEWCOMER

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IAEA, MAY 15, 2014, VIENNA

Turkey's Bid for Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Education

•History

- Istanbul University and Istanbul Technical University for a research reactor in Çekmece.
- 1956: Atomic Energy Commission
- 1957: Turkey becomes member of the IAEA
- 1967: Ankara Nuclear Research and Training Center
- 1982: Turkish Atomic Energy Agency

•Education

- Istanbul and Ankara Universities
- 1961: Nuclear Energy Institute in ITU
- 1982: Nuclear Energy Engineering Dept. at Hacettepe
- Aegean, Bosphorus Universities and METU

Turkey's Attempts for NPP

- 1965: Atomic Energy Commission proposes NPPs: First report from Electricity Works Studies Department proposes a 400 MW pressurized heavy water reactor
- 1972: Nuclear Power Plants Department in TEK: 600 MW nuclear power plant in Akkuyu
- 1983-1986: Two NPPs in Akkuyu and one in Sinop with US, Canadian and German firms. Economic issues
- 1986: Chernobyl, 1988: NPP department at TEK is closed.
- 1988: Turkey-Argentina talks for CAREM reactor
- 1996: 4th NPP attempt for Akkuyu NPP, cancelled in 2000.
- 2007: Tender for Akkuyu NPP, cancelled in 2008.
- 2010: Turkey and Russia sign agreement for Akkuyu NPP.
- 2013: Turkey and Japan agree for Sinop NPP.

Education and Training; Public and Expert debates

- Education and training backbone of human resources
- Need nuclear engineers, technicians, lawyers, diplomats, public relations experts, psychologists, sociologists
- Considerable public opposition; two public information centers in Mersin.
- Experts divided on the necessity and “dangers” of NPPs.
- “Information politics” by environmentalist and anti-nuclear civil society organizations
- Nuclear energy “dangerous, dirty, costly”

Why expert explanations cannot convince public or ease fears? How should government manage knowledge?

- Two problems:

- Structural: Turkish politics. Challenging government's decisions are not welcome

- Sociological: Post-industrialization society leaning towards small-scale projects, low-carbon, renewable sources. Developing countries value large-scale projects, but cope with post-industrialization problems.

- Turkey: Agenda of civil society influenced by the developed world; agenda of politicians still in the “development and economic growth” mentality