KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF TURKEY AS A NEWCOMER

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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
• 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