

## Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO)

The Organization, established to advance the implementation of the key provisions of the 'Agreed Framework' between the US and North Korea supplying the latter with proliferation-resistant nuclear reactors and with alternative sources of energy, is expected to play a crucial role with regard to nuclear safety in the Korean peninsula.

### Origin and development

Under the 'Agreed Framework' signed in Geneva on 21 October 1994 between the US and North Korea, the latter agreed to freeze and ultimately dismantle its existing nuclear programme, a cause of growing international concern. In exchange North Korea was to be supplied with two light-water reactor (LWR) units and with other sources of energy for heating and electricity production until construction of the first of the two reactors was completed. The Organization was established on 9 March 1995 when South Korea, Japan and the US stated their intention of implementing the basic provisions of the 'Agreed Framework' and signed KEDO's charter. The charter allowed other countries and international agencies sharing the aims of the Organization and willing to provide funds, goods or services to become members. In 1995, New Zealand, Australia and Canada joined the Organization, followed in 1996 by Indonesia, Chile and Argentina. The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) signed an accession agreement to KEDO on 30 July 1997 and became a full member on 19 September. Poland joined later in 1997, followed by the Czech Republic in 1999 and Uzbekistan on 28 December 2000. On 7 December 2001, Euratom extended its membership for another five-year period and increased its annual contribution. In addition to members, the Organization has received material and financial support from 19 other non-member countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the UK.

### Membership

Thirteen countries and Euratom.

### Objectives

Besides advancing the implementation of the 'Agreed Framework', the objective of the Organization is to contribute to the strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime and to the improvement of the prospects for lasting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and beyond. The Organization's work is to be conducted in a manner that meets or exceeds international standards of nuclear and conventional safety, environmental protection and ethical business practices.

### Structure

The Organization's Executive Board is composed of major member countries, that is Japan, South Korea and the US, and of a representative of Euratom. The decision-making process is based on consensus. An Executive Director and two Deputy Executive Directors oversee the staff and support personnel at the office based in New York and at the LWR construction site in Kumho, North Korea.

### Activities

Work at the nuclear power plant construction site started in February 2000 with more than 1000 workers from North Korea, South Korea and Uzbekistan taking part in the project. On the other hand, the Organization's supply of heavy fuel oil (HFO) to North Korea continued. The involvement of Euratom in the Organization has been viewed with satisfaction by the founding members; besides its financial and technical contribution, the European Union (EU) intends to play a more significant strategic role in East Asia. In early 2004 matters concerning the implementation of the suspension of the LWR project were under consideration. The Organization continues to take measures to preserve the construction site at Kumho and conducts the relevant maintenance activities.

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