

SNAPSHOTS

Global Plan Against “Stem Rust”

Scientists are accelerating research into new varieties of wheat to identify those resistant to an aggressive fungus that is destroying harvests in African and Middle Eastern countries. About 90% of commercial high-yielding wheat is vulnerable to Ug99, known as “stem rust”.

Wheat provides 20% of the world’s calories, and Ug99 is capable of cutting wheat yields by 20 to 80 percent, with isolated incidents of 100 percent destruction.

(Photo: Photodisc)

Southern Hemisphere Territories Free of Nuclear Weapons

A Treaty making Africa into a zone free of nuclear weapons entered into force on 15 July 2009, in turn expanding the nuclear-weapon free territories to cover the entire Southern hemisphere.

The Treaty of Pelindaba entered into force when Burundi deposited its instrument of ratification, becoming the 28th nation to do so.

Similar Treaties are in force in South America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), and Antarctica (Antarctic Treaty).

WHO-IAEA Join Forces to Fight Cancer

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the IAEA have launched a Joint Programme on Cancer Control, aimed at strengthening and accelerating efforts to fight cancer in the developing world.

The groundbreaking agreement reflects growing international concern over the global cancer burden and its projected increase. Latest statistics indicate that cancer will be among the leading causes of deaths, with more than 70% of all cancer deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

Ionizing radiation is being used to protect people from food borne illnesses caused by harmful micro-organisms. Currently, food irradiation is approved for use in over 55 countries worldwide.

from our image bank

For more information and photos visit www.iaea.org



60

A total of 60 countries are now considering nuclear power as part of their future energy mix, while 20 of them might have a nuclear power programme in place by 2030, according to the IAEA's nuclear energy department.



Japan's Yukiya Amano to be next IAEA Director General

The 35-member IAEA Board of Governors selected Ambassador Yukiya Amano of Japan as next IAEA Director General. His term as Director General would begin 1 December 2009. Ambassador Amano is to become the fifth Director General of the IAEA in its 52-year history. (see article "Change at the Top" in this issue of the IAEA Bulletin)

(Photo: D. Calma/IAEA)

Nuclear Knowledge at the Click of a Button

The IAEA is making its International Nuclear Information System (INIS) available for free to Internet users around the world.

The INIS online database contains over 3 million bibliographic records and almost 200,000 full text documents classified as nonconventional literature, consisting of reports and other non copyrighted information.

Established in 1970, INIS processes most of the world's scientific and technical literature on a wide range of subjects from nuclear engineering, safeguards and non-proliferation to applications in agriculture and health.

Visit <http://inisdb2.iaea.org>

"Genbaku No Hi" (Atomic Bomb Memorial Day)

A call to bring about an end to all nuclear weapons was renewed during a ceremony held on 7 August at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) to remember the destruction of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. (Photo: D. Calma/IAEA)



Safe Recycled Metal Trade

The presence of inadvertent radioactive materials in metal scrap is a recurring worldwide problem for the metal recycling industry. The materials can pose potentially severe health, environmental, and financial consequences for the industry and the public alike. "In the last three years the IAEA has become aware of around 500 events involving uncontrolled ionizing radiation sources, about 150 of which were related to sources found in scrap metal or contaminated goods or materials," says Eliana Amaral, Director of the IAEA's Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety. "This is clearly a global problem that requires the application of a harmonized approach throughout the different regions of the world involving all stakeholders."