

ONE WORLD

Science, it is often said, should help us make sense of the world, giving us the tools, often even linguistic tools, to understand reality.

The 'butterfly effect' is an example of an expression originating from the scientific community that has become part of the average vocabulary. In its original meaning as part of Chaos Theory it was used to express the concept that small variations in the initial conditions of a system can bring about significant consequences.

Yet, with time and ever increasing popularity among non scientists, its meaning has been extended to include a somewhat simpler concept: that all things are connected.

"No man is an island," famously wrote the XVI century English poet John Donne in one of his Meditations. Men, communities, institutions and states are all connected together in ways that often we can only barely fathom.

In an international agency such as the IAEA, the threads that connect people, communities and states are often laid bare to see. With its 150 Member States and multiple partners, the IAEA fosters cooperation in the nuclear field, promoting safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

Yet, at a time of economic and financial upheavals, the temptation to entrench ourselves behind personal, social or national barriers can be alluring.

That temptation, however, should be resisted.

In a globalized world, global issues require global solutions that can only be delivered through international cooperation, as many authors of the articles featured in this issue of the IAEA Bulletin say.

In the health sector, diseases originating from animals are increasingly threatening the livelihood and health of millions of people worldwide. Dr. Nabarro explains that international cooperation is crucial in the fight against these pathogens.

Similarly, Yuri Sokolov and Randy Beatty tell the story of how the IAEA's International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) was developed as a partnership for dialogue and innovation of nuclear power.

Tariq Rauf and Zoryana Vovchok explain that several mechanisms are under consideration to guarantee assurances of supply of nuclear fuel to States, while Vilmos Cserveny describes the IAEA's role in the nuclear non proliferation regime as the world prepares to review the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT).

African countries recently gave a notable example of cooperation by officially renouncing nuclear weapons. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba, all territories in the Southern Hemisphere are now free of nuclear weapons.

A review conference of the NPT is due next year. The hope is that wisdom will prevail and that all will cooperate to make the world a safer place.

We are all together in this. We are one world.

— Giovanni Verlini, Editor



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