

which had traditionally been used for agriculture. Justification for the cost of irrigation water would depend on a country's need for developing its soil and water resources for food, for international trade, and for the effect on other industries assessed against all factors. Agricultural practices changed when water prices became high. The indication from many studies was that \$0.10 per thousand gallons (\$0.026 per cubic metre) was an upper limit of acceptable costs for developing irrigation water at present economic levels.

His conclusion was that for most places in the foreseeable future it would be better to make fuller utilization of presently available water at costs much less than to convert salt water.

From the statements by Brice and Hagood it became clear that the main subject of the symposium was of much greater immediate importance than desalination, i.e. the use of isotope and radiation techniques in soil physics and irrigation studies. A number of reports dealt with equipment for the purpose, followed by much discussion of soil moisture studies. Some of them dealt with ways of drawing up a water budget to assess the quantities of water which reach and leave, in one way or another, areas where plants are affected. The possibilities of studying water content and movement either on the spot or in laboratories received appreciable attention. Capacity of soil to retain water was another subject, bringing with it the question of whether leaving parts of land lying fallow, in order to increase the amount of water conserved, was in fact more economical than continuous use. Prevention of losses through evaporation and the relation between soil, water and plants were also discussed.

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## **INDONESIA ACCEPTS SAFEGUARDS**

Indonesia became, on 19 June this year, the 27th country to accept Agency safeguards control of nuclear activities. An agreement, also signed by USA and the Agency, transferred the application of controls designed to prevent diversion to military purposes of material and equipment involved in collaborative work between the two countries.

Taking part in the signing ceremony shown in this photograph are (left to right) Miss Laili Roesad, Indonesian Ambassador to Austria and Resident Representative to the Agency; Dr. Sigvard Eklund, Director General; and Ambassador Henry D. Smyth, United States Representative to the Agency.



Miss Roesad described the occasion as a manifestation of her Government's full trust and confidence in the role the Agency had to play in safeguarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. She acknowledged the progress her country had made in these activities as a result of the co-operation of the Agency and the United States.

Ambassador Smyth referred to the Geneva discussions of a non-proliferation treaty, within the framework of which the Agency's safeguarding role had been mentioned. Any growth in Agency activity of this type contributed to its stature as an organization which would be prepared to expand if called upon to fulfill a larger function.

Dr. Eklund noted that when the present agreement came into force Agency safeguards would apply in all member States in South-East Asia having significant atomic programmes. Of the 27 countries now accepting them, eight were in Asia. Indonesia was also the 17th State to have negotiated a safeguards transfer agreement in co-operation with the United States, and its research reactor would be the 61st to come under IAEA safeguards. The move was encouraging at a time when attempts were being made to establish agreement to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, with the Agency mentioned as a potential executive organ.