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VOICES FROM NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

CONTRIBUTING TO A CLEAN AND RESILIENT RECOVERY

Our world is confronting two crises at the moment: COVID-19 and climate change. To successfully deal with each of them, nuclear power can greatly contribute to build a resilient, sustainable socio-economic system.

MARIA G. KORSNICK
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE, U.S.



The changing climate is a global problem that can only be met with a global solution. It will require the preservation and expansion of all carbon-free sources of energy, working together. Partnered with wind and solar, nuclear's value as a reliable workhorse will propel nations – and the world – to meet our emissions reduction goals. Nuclear brings some unique characteristics: it's always on—all day, every day. It's the only carbon-free, firm, dispatchable energy source we have today. And it keeps the lights on in times of crisis and recovery. It keeps our hospitals running and ensures our first responders can do their jobs.

The nuclear of tomorrow will offer even greater flexibility, more tailored solutions. Nuclear can solve the problems of today, and of the future.

YVES DESBAZEILLE
DIRECTOR GENERAL
FORATOM
(THE VOICE OF THE EUROPEAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY)



The EU has set itself the very ambitious goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 – essentially 30 years from now. Not only will this require the full decarbonisation of the power sector, but also the development and implementation of solutions which will help to decarbonise industry, transport, heating etc.

In this respect, nuclear has a clear role to play. It provides low-carbon electricity all day, every day – essential when you consider how electricity demand is expected to grow due to increased electrification. It can produce hydrogen for use in hard to decarbonise sectors such as industry and transport. It can also provide district heating, helping to decarbonise the housing sector.

However, the right investment framework needs to be available and the EU taxonomy for Sustainable Finance has to include nuclear, so that it can help the EU reach its climate goals as early as possible. In a nutshell – in order to decarbonise its economy, the existing EU nuclear capacity has to be preserved and new projects supported. For achieving its goals, the EU should count on the contribution from nuclear.

SHIRO ARAI
PRESIDENT
JAPAN ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM



Nuclear power is the only practical energy source that can provide large amounts of electricity on a long-term, stable basis, including easy storage of fuel. As such, it has a major role to play in building a resilient energy system. Because it emits no carbon dioxide in the generation process, it is also an effective tool in efforts to suppress global warming.

No less important: Japan's rate of energy self-sufficiency is very low. Japan is heavily dependent on imports of fossil fuels. So, Nuclear power, combined with renewable energy, is vital to Japan's energy security. The domestic nuclear industry must strive to restart existing reactors while continuing to reinforce nuclear safety. Into the future, it will also have to extend their operating lifetimes, steadily construct new plants and replace older ones.

TOM GREATREX
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
NUCLEAR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, UK



What COVID has reminded us is that when there are very big challenges then everybody needs to pull together to meet those challenges.

And there is no bigger challenge than climate change and reducing the amount of carbon we emit when we generate electricity.

Nuclear has a really significant role to play, not just in ensuring we have lots of clean power for the future, but also in getting the economy moving again - providing jobs, growth and economic activity across the whole of the country, including those places that might otherwise be left behind.

Nuclear can reinvigorate the economy, get people working again and at the same time protect future generations and the environment which we need to prosper, and at the same time, be an integral part to produce the infrastructure we need for clean, green, and sustainable energy supply for our futures.

JOHN GORMAN
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CANADIAN NUCLEAR ASSOCIATION



Our global community has struggled with its transition to clean energy, but the COVID-19 crisis has presented us with an opportunity to rethink how we move towards a better future.

Any green recovery plan should promote greater electrification of key sectors such as transportation and industry and more nuclear energy, including small modular reactors.

Canada is well-positioned to make this transition with an electricity grid that is 82 per cent non-emitting, powered by nuclear, hydro and renewables.

We need to get this right.

The investments we make now will dictate our collective ability to meet our emissions' goals. They will also determine the level of economic recovery and our future prosperity.