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NUCLEAR ENERGY – GLOBAL AND EU TRENDS

Climate change is large and imminent threat to humankind and together with pollution → weather of mass destruction

Copenhagen UNFCCC 2009 limit 2°C increase

BAU would bring to 1000 ppm CO₂

Options, Cost and Dangers

CCS

Nuclear fusion - ITER - not likely before 2070

Renewable: solar, wind, geothermal – Desertec, area??

Nuclear fission (mature low C tech) - now 6% world total energy production could be increased by 2065 by 3 (1.3%) - 10 (5%) times postponing reprocessing and without breeders.(First breeder in 1951; 1970 US, Japan, China, UK, Germany- Coastal area India???)

The paper is given in terms of PowerPoint presentation.

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We Develop Technology - Technology Influences Us - It Improves Our Lives and It Is a Threat

- ☀ Fire
- ☀ Agriculture (green revol. - GM food), irrigation
- ☀ Tools: knives → weapons
- ☀ Transportation (vehicles)
- ☀ Money → virtual money
- ☀ Electricity, power plants
- ☀ Automobiles
- ☀ Nuclear Energy → nucl bomb, accidents, waste
- ☀ DNA /molecular bio → synthetic biology

Development measured by Human Development Index (HDI) is related to energy consumption:

If energy consumption ≤ 3 tons of oil equivalent/c.y
→ HDI increases rapidly with energy consumption.
Above that level → no correlation between HDI and energy consumption.

If all countries reach 3 toe/capita.year → by 2030 the energy consumption would be doubled if our population remains constant.

If increased to 8.1 billion → 2.6 times larger.

Now enormous energy demand can be met only by fossil fuels, solar energy, fission and fusion.

Fossil fuel → ☐ global warming, above and beyond Milankovic's variation!! **anthropogenic !!**

Positive feed-back loops, e.g.

- ☐ T ↑ → sea level ↑ → **ocean capacity of CO₂ absorption** ↓
- ☐ **glaciers melting** → ↓ ocean salinity → ↓ **sunlight reflection**

LESSON: Search for alternative inputs much earlier than we reach a maximum.

C. Llewellyn Smith calls time between 1985 and 2005 lost years.
Importance of ITER.

Challenges to Sustainable Development

“Under what conditions may nuclear energy qualify as a viable option to fulfill the need for energy services of present and future generations in a sustainable manner ?”

Basic objectives :

- ♣ **assessing to what extent nuclear energy is compatible with the goals of sustainable development and**
- ♣ **how it can best contribute to them; and**
- ♣ **identifying areas where, and means whereby, nuclear energy must overcome challenges in order to contribute more effectively to sustainable development.**

External costs and benefits

Costs that are born by the society as a whole rather than by consumers represent negative externalities, i.e.

“Detrimental to global economic, social and environmental optimisation”

- ♠ **Health and environmental impacts of release of waste - CO₂, radioactive waste**
- ♠ **Routine operation**
- ♠ **Decommissioning & dismantling (*included*)**
- ♠ **Insurance (severe accidents)**
- ♠ **Policy factors not reflected in market prices**
- ♠ **Security of supply**
- ♠ **Social acceptance**

Nuclear industry is product of the US government R&D. Price-Anderson Indemnity Act (1957) limits industry's liability. As of 1998 system capped insurance coverage for any accident to \$9.4G, while NRC estimated worst-case cost \$ 300G.

Not only in nuclear industry - e.g. agriculture.

? Jobs ? Free Markets? Private property ?

Risk: individual (driving while drunk) - collective

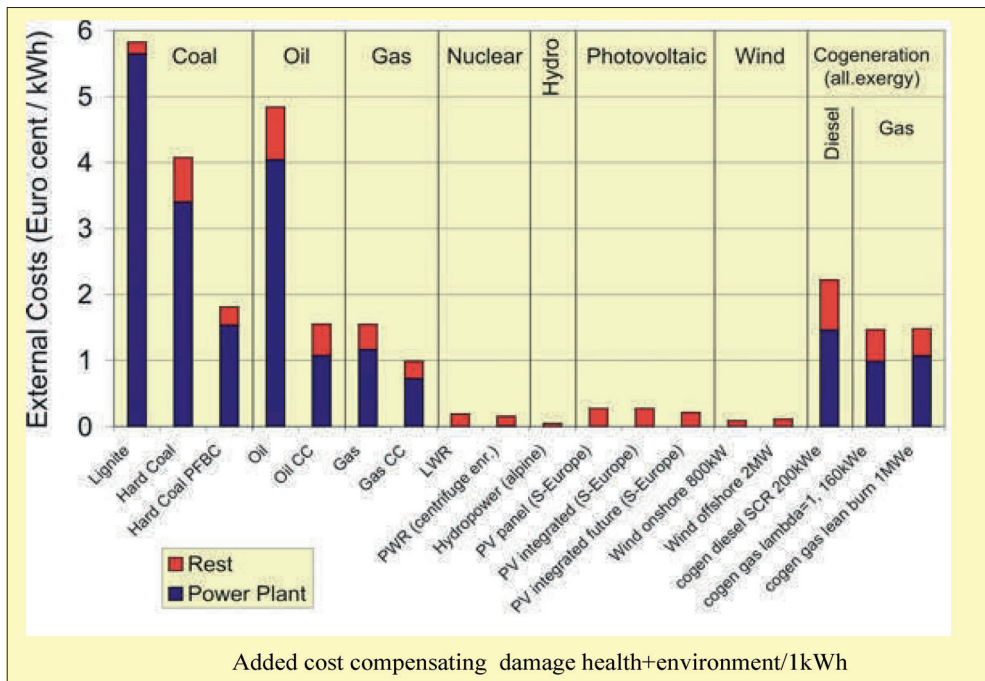
Insurance companies can cover risks only if the risk class can collect adequate resources against probable losses – beyond that people pay.

Probability of core meltdown: 1 in 20,000 reactor-year

(Rasmussen 1975), progress since 1975:

Sizewell B, UK, 1995 1,1 in 1 000 000 reactor-years

EPR, Olkiluoto, Finland,2011 0,53 in 1 000 000 reactor-years



Radioactive Waste management

Waste management practices are intended to ensure the confinement and disposal of waste materials in a way that minimizes harmful impacts on humans and the environment at any time

3 categories : low, intermediate and high level (depending on its intrinsic rate of decay)

♠ Disposal of LLW and most ILW, mature practice

♠ HLW : ~ 1% of total volume, ~ 99% of total radioactivity

Deep geological disposal considered as *viable, reliable and safe solution* by the scientific and technical community

Little societal consensus

Actual risk vs. perceived risk

Ethical considerations

Greater involvement of stakeholders and better communication needed

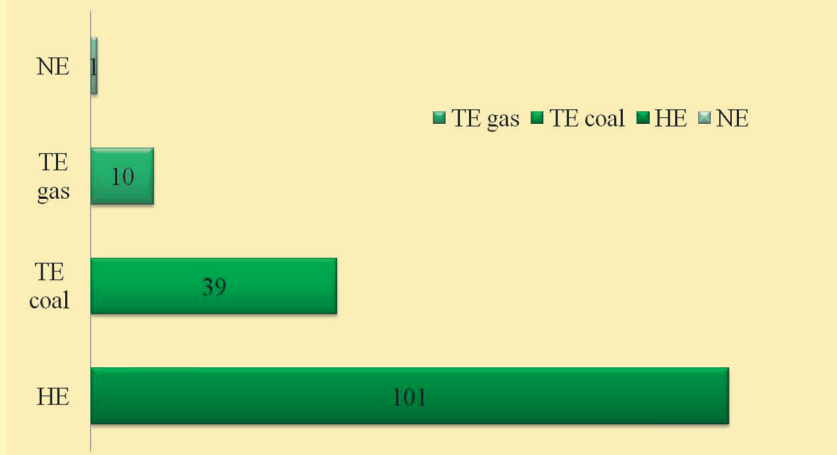
◆ Social aspects of Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy is characterized by a net contribution to human and social capital and a challenge in terms of public acceptability and widely varying perceptions of the risks and benefits

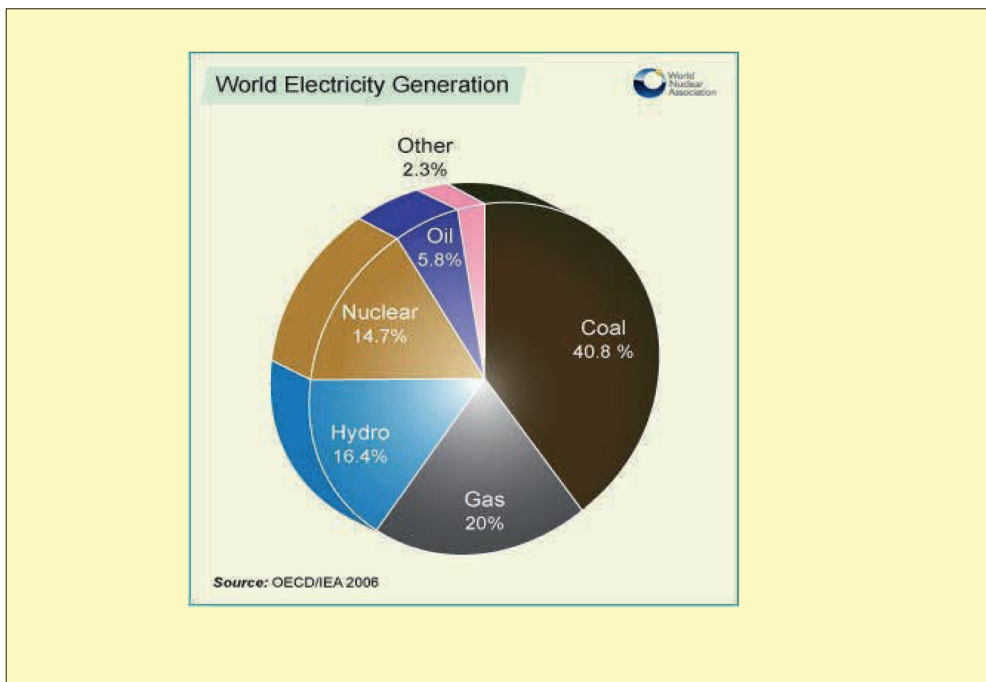
- **human capital in the form of knowledge - education and employment opportunities,**
- **human welfare,**
- **equity and participation,**
- **social capital in the form of effective institutions and voluntary associations,**
- **the rule of law and social cohesion.**

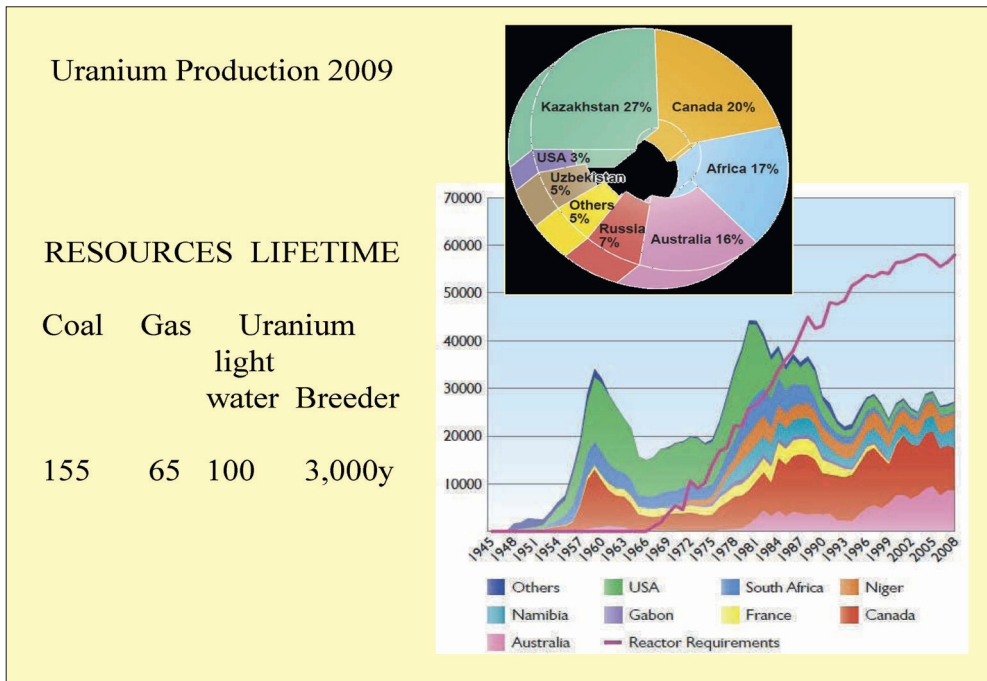
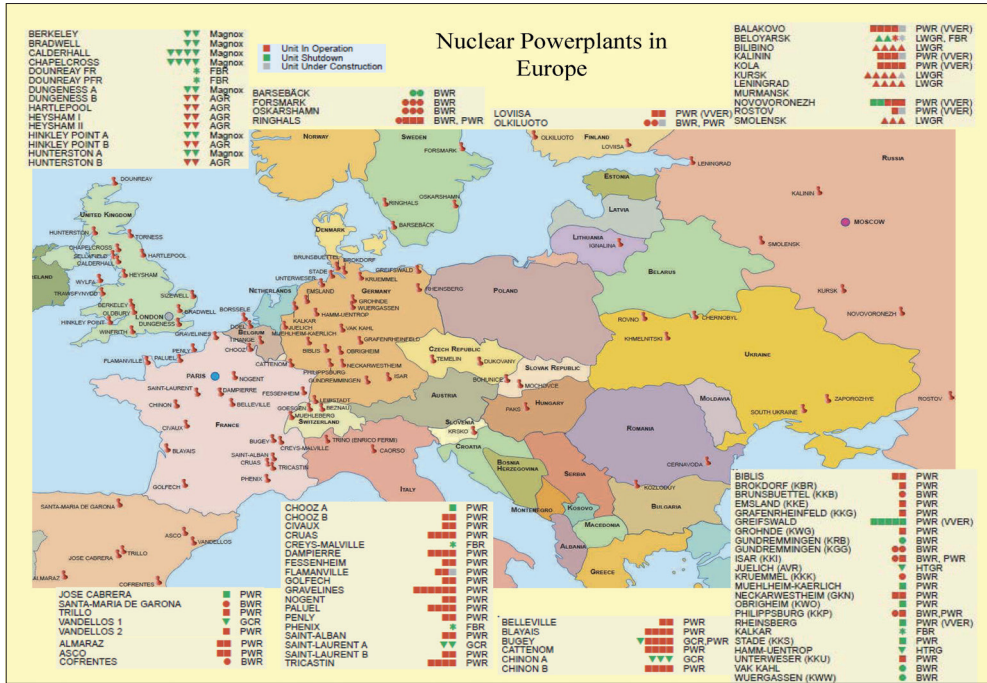
From a sustainable development perspective, nuclear energy has a major role to play in the 21st century - Dealing adequately with the societal concerns and role of governments is a key issue!

No of deaths in accidents /1000TWh including 4290 accidents (PSI, 2001)



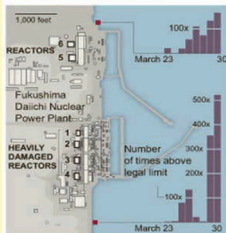
	Nuclear electricity generation, 2009 (billion kWh)	Share of total electricity production, 2009 (%)	Number of reactors in operation**	Nuclear generating capacity** (MWe)
Argentina	7.6	7.0	2	935
Armenia	2.3	45.0	1	376
Belgium	45.0	51.7	7	5943
Brazil	12.2	3.0	2	1901
Bulgaria	14.2	35.9	2	1906
Canada	85.3	14.8	18	12,679
China	65.7	1.9	11	8587
Czech Rep	25.7	33.8	6	3686
Finland	22.6	32.9	4	2696
France	391.7	75.2	58	63,236
Germany	127.7	26.1	17	20,339
Hungary	14.3	43.0	4	1880
India	14.8	2.2	19	4183
Japan	263.1	28.9	55	47,348
Lithuania	10.0	76.2	0	0
Mexico	10.1	4.8	2	1310
Netherlands	4.0	3.7	1	485
Pakistan	2.6	2.7	2	400
Romania	10.8	20.6	2	1310
Russia	152.8	17.8	32	22,811
Slovakia	13.1	53.5	4	1760
Slovenia	5.5	37.9	1	696
South Africa	11.6	4.8	2	1842
South Korea	141.1	34.8	20	17,716
Spain	50.6	17.5	8	7448
Sweden	50.0	34.7	10	9399
Switzerland	26.3	39.5	5	3252
Ukraine	77.9	48.6	15	13,168
UK	62.9	17.9	19	11,035
USA	796.9	20.2	104	101,119
Total**	2558	14	439	374,690



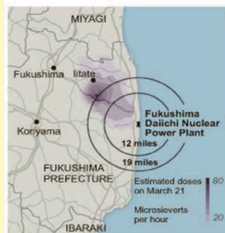


	At the Plant	Near the Plant	In Japan	Around the World	
AIR	Readings about a quarter mile from the most heavily damaged reactors have been stable for several days. Near 1 millisievert per hour, these levels could be associated with slightly higher cancer risk after four days.	A daily dose of 0.8 millisieverts was recorded 10 miles northwest of the plant on Thursday. I.A.E.A. guidelines recommend temporary relocation if levels reach 30 millisieverts per month.	Other than in Fukushima and Ibaraki, levels are not far from normal. In Tokyo, levels were 25 percent above the normal range on Friday, well below the level of background radiation of some areas of the United States.	Trace amounts of radiation from Japan have been detected across the United States and Europe. But natural background radiation is more than 100,000 times the highest levels detected.	AIR
SOIL	Traces of plutonium were detected in samples taken on March 21 and 22. The levels were not unsafe, but may have provided more evidence that a partial meltdown had occurred in at least one reactor.	Very high concentrations of cesium 137 were found near the village of Iitate, 25 miles northwest of the plant. The levels were about twice as high as the threshold for declaring areas uninhabitable around Chernobyl.	Cesium 137 was detected in more than 10 prefectures on Thursday, but the highest reading, in Utsunomiya, was 4,000 times lower than what was found in Iitate.		SOIL
WATER	Highly radioactive water from a damaged maintenance pit is leaking into the sea.	At stations 19 miles offshore, the highest readings were taken on March 23, and contaminants are expected to dissipate quickly. At some places in Fukushima, drinking tap water is not recommended for infants.	On March 22 and 23, iodine 131 above the recommended limit for infants was detected at a tap water treatment plant in Tokyo. But by the beginning of last week, no iodine 131 was detected.	Radiation in rainwater in British Columbia was less than one millionth the amount shown to cause thyroid diseases. A person would have to drink three million glasses at one time to reach a problematic dose in the thyroid.	WATER
FOOD	Fishing has been banned in the evacuation zone.	Radioactive cesium was detected in broccoli in Fukushima Prefecture well above the country's limit. The estimated increase in cancer risk of eating two unwashed pounds is about two chances in a million.	Radioactive cesium was detected in beef from Tenei at a level just above Japan's legal limit. The estimated increase in cancer risk of eating two pounds is about one chance in 10 million.	Radiation levels detected in milk from Washington State were 5,000 times lower than limits set by the Food and Drug Administration. A person would have to drink 1,552 gallons of this milk to reach the limit.	FOOD

Levels of cesium 137 measured in seawater near the plant.



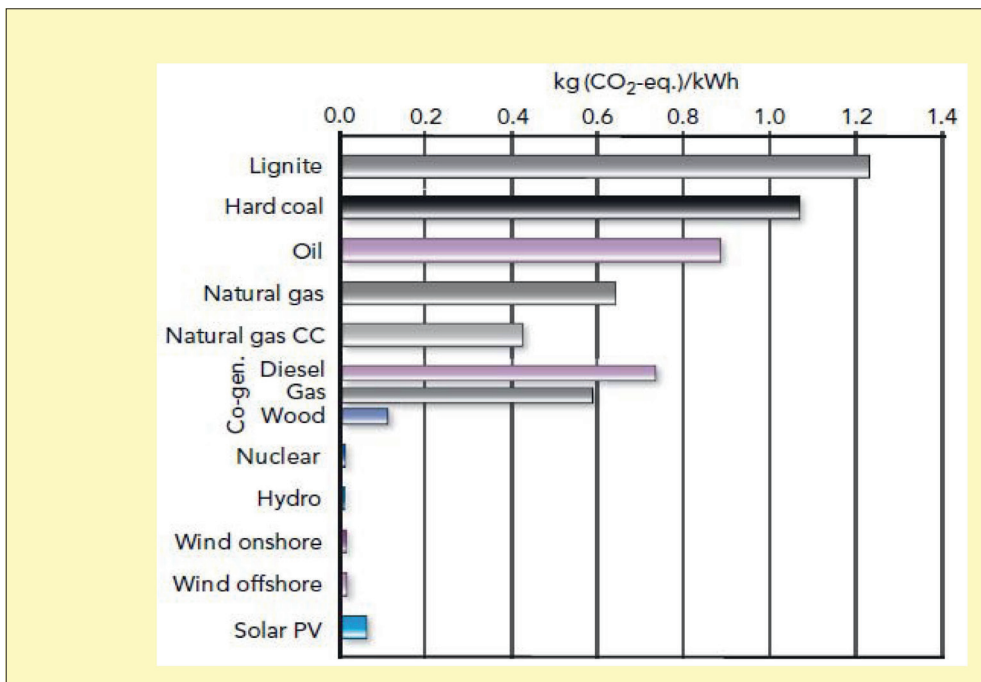
The most contaminated areas are northwest of the plant.



Prefectures with radiation in food above the legal limit.

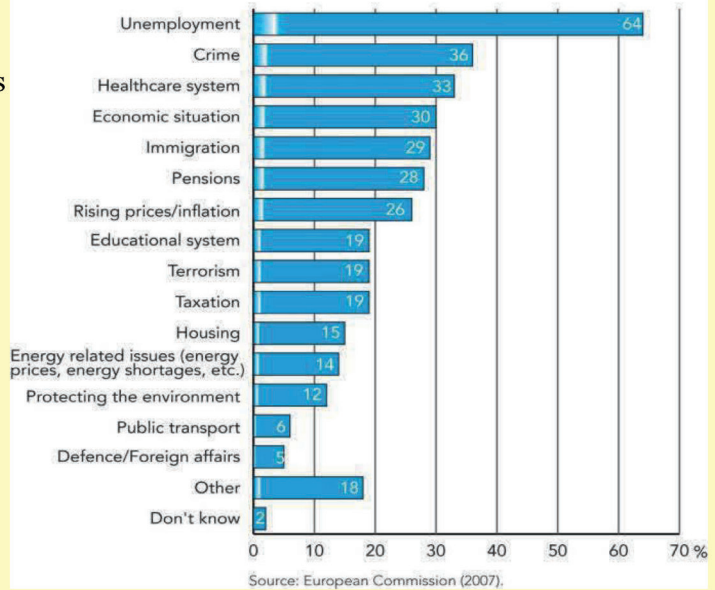


Some places where trace levels of radiation from Japan have been detected.



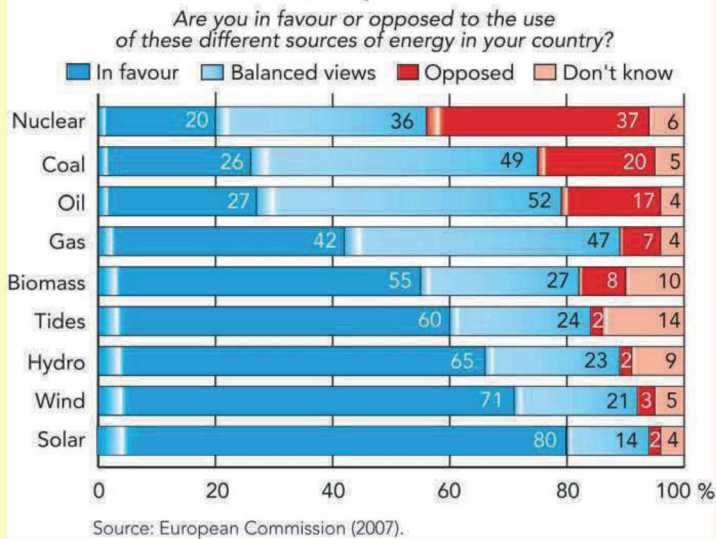
What Concerns Public?

Figure 12.1: The most important issues facing society today in Europe



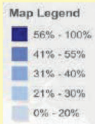
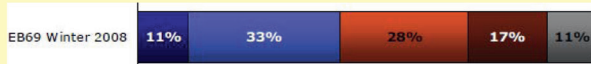
Perception

Figure 12.2: Public perceptions of different energy sources in the European Union



Radioactivity and Public in EU

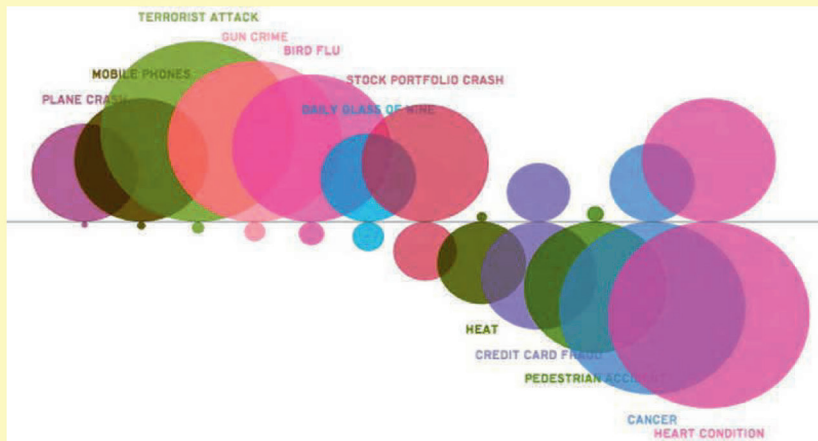
QB2 Are you totally in favor, fairly in favor, fairly opposed or totally opposed to energy production by nuclear power stations?-%EU



Czech Republic	64%
Lithuania	64%
Hungary	63%
Bulgaria	63%
Sweden	62%
Finland	61%
Slovakia	60%
The Netherlands	50%
France	52%
Slovenia	51%
Belgium	50%
United Kingdom	50%
Germany	48%
European Union (27)	44%
Italy	43%
Estonia	41%
Poland	39%
Denmark	38%
Latvia	30%
Romania	35%
Luxembourg	34%
Spain	24%
Ireland	24%
Portugal	23%
Greece	18%
Malta	15%
Austria	14%
Cyprus	7%

Answers:
Total "in favour"

PUBLIC OUTRAGE
ACTUAL HAZARD



Accidents

Place	Year	Dead	Cause
Benxihu, China explosion	1942	1549	Coal
Baquiao, China	1975	26000+145000	typhon
Machu II, India	1979	2500	HE
Cubatao, Brazil	1984	508	oil fire
Chernobyl, USSR	1986	56 + thousands	NE
Warri, Nigeria	1998	> 500	oil

Public perception

NIMBY – not in my back yard

BANANA - build absolutely nothing anywhere near anybody

Sources of radiation

Medicine	14%	Cosmic	14%
Nucl indus	1%	Radon	42%
Building/soil	18%	Food/Water	11%

Radiation doses

Deantal x-rays	5 μ Sv	
Chest x-ray	100 μ Sv	
EPA yearly limit public	1,000 μ Sv	
Everage CT scan	10 mSv	1 rem
Temporary radiation sick	1,000 mSv	100 rem
Fatal dose	10,000 mSv	1000 rem

First reactor in electric grid Calder Hall in 1956 in UK**NE Accidents before Fukushima**

Three Mile Island 1979: reactor fully damaged

(PWR) radiation contained

no health+environmental effects

(though 30% ^{131}I leaked from the core, only 0.6% ended in containment and 0.001% in environment)

large economic impact

Nuclear industry improved its technol + safety

Chernobyl, 1986: reactor destructed

Graphite moderated RBMK

Deaths: 31 immed+25 soon
estimated 4,000

Irrelevant lesson for nuclear industry

Both caused by human error.

Fukushima: March 11, 2011

April 18 : radiation level at Unit 1 & 3 10-49 mSv/h (robots)

TEPCO 2002 falsifying safety records – forced to shut down 17 of its reactors. Smaller 6.6 earthquake in 2007 forced TEPCO to shut down all 7 reactors at the world largest nuclear power station on the west coast. 2004 incident killed five workers and 1996 radioactive fallout drifted over Tokyo.

Japan's energy options:

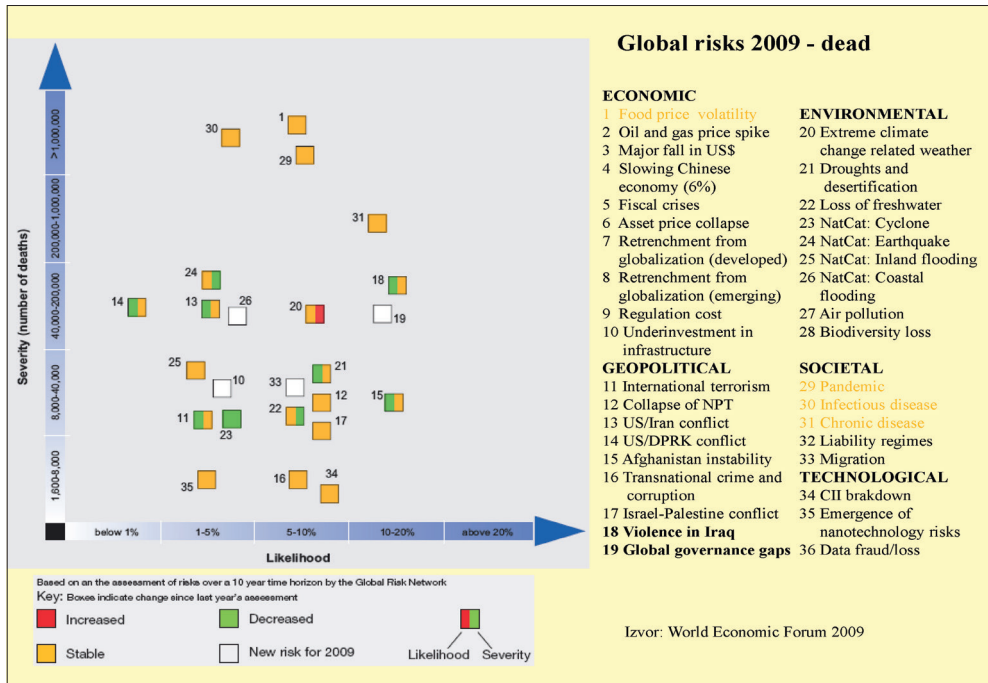
Geoth: could 80,000 MW - even more, now 536 MW

Japan produces 66% of world geoth turbines

Wind: land-based could provide 50% of Japan need

Photovoltaic: now 3,500 MW, in 2030 53,000 MW

R&D for NE = \$2.3G, for wind \$10M



Support for NE

“The important and overriding consideration is time; we have nuclear power now, and new nuclear building should be started immediately.”

James Lovelock, *The Revenge of Gaia: Earth's Climate Crisis and the Fate of Humanity*, July 2006

“To deal with our energy problems we need everything available to us, including nuclear power.”

Dr. Jared Diamond, Biologist, UCLA professor, July 2005

“Nuclear energy is the best option to curb carbon emissions”

Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Aug 2008

“I have never seen a credible scenario for reducing emissions that did not include nuclear energy”

Yvode Boer-Executive Secretary, UNFCCC, June 2007

