

International Atomic Energy Agency

Costa Rica is the first country in the world to power for so long without the use of fossil fuels, and the record breaking achievement was quickly picked up by news agencies all over the world since the country has gone 75 days using only renewable resources for electricity. Costa Rica gets most of its electricity from hydroelectric plants and a recent period of unusually heavy rain allowed the country to reach the milestone. As admirable as Costa Rica's feats in energy production may be, its model is not realistic for the world's largest energy consumers.

Nuclear terrorism continues to be one of the greatest threats to U.S. national security and global security and stability. Terrorists always try to pursue opportunities to inflict mass casualties. The nature of the threat from Islamic terrorist groups is likely to change particularly considering the death of Osama bin Laden. The effectiveness of measures to protect against terrorism relies upon the related organizations giving due priority to the establishment and maintenance of a nuclear security culture. The international legal framework on nuclear security has developed in a complex manner and now consists of a broad collection of legally binding and non-binding international instruments that at times may be considered as difficult to comprehend. By addressing the key legal instruments on nuclear security in a comprehensive manner, this publication, the fourth in the IAEA International Law Series, fills a long perceived need of the international nuclear community.

After Costa Rica's renewable power's usage for 75 days, they found it really easy for them to live that way and also are determined to become carbon-neutral by 2021. The country is currently meeting around 94% of its energy needs from renewables, 68% is sourced from hydroelectric power plants and 15% by geothermal energy. This dedication to clean energy combined with the country's broader environmental policies meant that Costa Rica has been consistently ranked in the top five eco-friendly countries worldwide, according to The Telegraph. Costa Rica also experiences high rainfall and features a mountainous landscape, both of which are ideal for the generation of renewable energy. The country is also able to invest substantial amounts into environmental issues due to the fact that it ditched its military back in 1948.

Iran's nuclear program was launched in the 1950s with the help of the United States as part of the Atoms for peace program. An issue likely to receive much attention, is what happens in the "out years" which means the later years of the deal, when some restrictions begin to expire. There are two separate issues, the first is how rapidly it can increase its capacity and second is whether Iran can be stopped from building nuclear weapons. Saudi Arabia was unhappy with the agreement. To Saudi it meant two things, Iran will have the ability to improve its economic standing, and the capability to create a nuclear weapon because both results would strengthen Iran and its allies in the region. "The Saudis believe that trimming Iran's regional influence would increase the chances of a better nuclear deal in the future." Saudi's reaction to the deal will likely include the dual structure of the regional order which is Saudi versus Iran. Indeed, Saudi is undertaking a process of changing the geopolitical map of the middle east - but the time that this process will take remains to be seen.

The issue of disposing of the radioactive waste is still a hot topic. There is an underground disposal depot in Nevada intended for this. One problem with that is that the waste still has to be transported there by truck and rail from all over the U.S. Many feel that there are too many chances for accidents in the transport. While the world may not be able to tailor its energy programmes to Costa Rica's geography-specific model, the lesson here is not about science and infrastructure, but about volition and ideals.