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Netherlands

American Nicaraguan School

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Symposium

**Netherlands: International Atomic Energy Agency**

The International Atomic Energy Agency known as the IAEA is a worldwide organization that has been mostly responsible to ensure peaceful agreements between countries in use of nuclear energy. It makes sure countries don’t violate treaties drafted by them and enforces security on research facilities. Development and utilization of this alternate way of energy has had its ups and downs since the beginning of its development since the 1940s by the United States. Issues we are presently dealing with relating to the expansion of atomic energy are the misuse of it to create deadly weapons, the administration of Iran’s nuclear program, and considering the appliance of this energy source for the future.

**Nuclear Terrorism:**

The main problem we are dealing with are Nuclear weapon threats and countries with nuclear research facilities which won’t confirm possession or planning the production of nuclear weapons. Rising terrorist groups like ISIS could possibly get their hands on any nuclear weapons and North Korea has made tests of their weapons and have threatened to use them before[[1]](#footnote-0). The IAEA and United Nations have constantly tried to bring in agreement all countries with suspected possession of Nuclear weapons by drafting treaties like the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Many countries have had nuclear research programs since the 60s and 70 after the development of Nuclear weapons by Russia and the United States during the 1940s and 50s. The IAEA drafted the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the late 60s which has not been accepted by a few countries in Asia. Nuclear terrorism does not consist only of using nuclear weapons, but also nuclear facilities being attacked by terrorist groups which could cause a lot of damage in the surrounding areas[[2]](#footnote-1). Since the NPT has been signed, the IAEA has performed security checks and inspections on most of these facilities.Nuclear terrorism has a huge impact on a global scale. These weapons have been needed to be taken with a lot of precaution and if one of these is misheld, it could trigger to more terrible decisions. This affects the Netherlands since it is part of the European Union and NATO[[3]](#footnote-2). The Netherlands doesn’t have Nuclear weapons, but it has approved the NPT. The Netherlands is not that involved on Nuclear Terrorism as it could be, but it does form part of major organizations and alliances consisting of very powerful countries.

**Iran Nuclear Program:**

Iran is one of the countries in which the IAEA has had problems dealing with the implementation of a Nuclear program. They have approved peaceful treaties like the NPT but they had research facilities hidden and secretly imported a lot of materials for Nuclear research[[4]](#footnote-3). Iran formed stocked up on Uranium enrichment and secretly imported from China. In the early 2000s, Iran was caught not following their agreement. This year, they agreed on the Iran Deal. The IAEA along with powerhouse countries like the United States agreed with Iran on security measures and peaceful intentions to once again allow them to have research facilities as they were once suspended[[5]](#footnote-4). The Nuclear research program in Iran affects the Netherlands as this problem which seems to have a solution by now, could have resulted in dangerous possession of Nuclear weapons in Iran and the misuse of their research facilities. The European Union alongside with the United States and United Nations had put sanctions on Iran’s nuclear programme on 2003; this suspension was uplifted in 2016[[6]](#footnote-5).

**Source of Energy:**

The majority of the energy sources we use today won’t be available for the future as they are limited and will eventually run out. Nuclear energy is not considered renewable as most of it comes from Uranium which is mined and exported mainly from Kazakhstan, Canada, and Australia. It is seen as a new source of energy apart from fossil fuels and will definitely last longer. Research has shown fossil fuels such as natural gas oil, coal, and oil will run out in about 50 years, meanwhile it is projected that uranium on Earth will run out in more than 200 years[[7]](#footnote-6). Nuclear energy has proven to be a great source of energy for the years to come. Its main issues are nuclear waste which isn’t that much compared to the amount of energy it produces and another main issue is its reputation which has been tarnished by accidents like Chernobyl and Fukushima. The safety of reactors built now have been tested and proven to be safe; a lot of security measures were taken after the disaster in Japan[[8]](#footnote-7). The Netherlands has 1 nuclear reactor and had one under planning, but it was cancelled in the due to the risks of having another accident like Chernobyl. Nuclear energy could be a huge step for the country’s economy; it produces about 4% of energy in the Netherlands and ome of the country’s main economic activities include energy from oil refining and natural gases[[9]](#footnote-8).

**Conclusion:**

The mishandling of lethal atomic weapons, the enforcement of the Iran nuclear program, and the further expansion of nuclear energy to be used as a primary energy source are issues the IAEA has been dealing with today. This organization has made sure nuclear energy has been used to its maximum potential in a positive way and has promoted security across all countries. This is a big part of our future and decisions on these topics being addressed which look to improve human life.

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