

A message from Nobuo Tanaka, new Executive Director of IEA

It is a great honour to have been selected to succeed Claude Mandil as Executive Director of the International Energy Agency. Under Mr. Mandil's fine leadership the Agency has grown in stature and successfully addressed daunting challenges. In 2005, the IEA was called upon to advise G8 leaders on strategies for a "clean, clever and competitive energy future". All aspects of that energy future point to the need for more efficient, cleaner energy technologies.

Truly sustainable economic growth is now a global objective. To achieve this objective we must take actions that simultaneously foster energy security whilst protecting the world's climate and environment. Since enhanced energy technology is at the heart of strategies to meet all these goals, the world's economies - both large and small - must exploit every benefit that advancing energy technology can offer. That implies stronger support for more dynamic R&D programmes, where investment has stagnated in IEA countries since the 1980s.

G8 Heads of State, along with leaders from many other nations, are calling for stepped-up international collaboration on energy technology. The IEA network of international R&D programmes - by far the most comprehensive in the world - is admirably placed to respond. One of my top priorities is to help reinforce the impact of this IEA collaborative network as a leading force for sharing expertise and know-how to foster accelerated, more widespread energy technology innovation and deployment world wide.

Because a sustainable energy mix is a diversified one, the IEA network spans R&D on all major energy technologies and it provides crucial technology data and analysis for key IEA publications. We shall continue promoting cleaner, more efficient use of fossil fuels and CO₂ capture and storage. To curb growth in energy demand, we shall remain front-line campaigners for energy-efficient end-use technology in every sector of society. We shall strive for greater market share for cost-effective renewable energy technologies. We shall continue to explore the longer-term option of nuclear fusion power technology and to liaise with specialist bodies on nuclear fission technology. Geographically, our outreach will



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be equally broad, as we work with partner nations all around the world, especially the faster-growing economies now among the world's largest energy consumers.

Everybody has a role to play in shaping our energy future. Through their interest in the energy technology activities of the IEA, subscribers to the IEA *OPEN Energy Technology Bulletin* identify themselves with the worldwide community of stakeholders in our energy future. As a member of that community, my ambition as Executive Director of the IEA is to see that the IEA remains at the forefront of worldwide efforts to strengthen energy technology's contribution to securing clean, affordable energy that fuels economic growth without threatening the wellbeing of citizens or the global climate.