

Analysis of Obama's Nuclear Policy

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Abstracts

Nuclear power is generated using Uranium, which is a metal mined in various parts of the world. Presently, nuclear power produces around 15% of the world's energy needs, and produces huge amounts of energy from small amounts of fuel, without the pollution that you'd get from burning fossil fuels.

Today, only eight countries are known to have a nuclear weapons capability. By contrast, 56 operate civil research reactors, and 30 have some 435 commercial nuclear power reactors with a total installed capacity of over 370 000 MWe. This is more than three times the total generating capacity of France or Germany from all sources. Some 30 further power reactors are under construction, equivalent to 6% of existing capacity, while over 60 are firmly planned, equivalent to 18% of present capacity.

Nuclear power generation is an established part of the world's electricity mix providing over 16% of world electricity (cf. coal 40%, oil 10%, natural gas 15% and hydro & other 19%). It is especially suitable for large-scale, base-load electricity demand.

The recent Nuclear Policy introduced by U.S. President Barack Obama has been making headlines lately and Aruvian's R'search presents an analysis of the same. The impact this policy is going to have not only on the US, but also on countries like Russia and China, has been discussed in this whitepaper as well.

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