

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for joining us in this opening ceremony. The Permanent Mission of Hungary to the UN in Vienna together with Hungarian Power Companies Ltd. decided to organize this exhibition about the Paks Nuclear Power Plant.

The panels at the exhibitions give a detailed presentation on the main facilities, the expansion project, as well as some natural features and environmental aspects of the NPP. The title of the event is: “The Hungarian NPP Paks from a different perspective – environment and expansion”. We believe transparency and public diplomacy is important to maintain confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear energy.

Most of the pictures were taken in the direct vicinity of the NPP by Mr. Bálint Vincze. As the pictures show The NPP operates in an eco-friendly manner, it does not discharge carbon-dioxide, therefore it does not contribute to climate change. With the operation of the four units in Paks, each year, we save almost as much oxygen as all the forests produce in Hungary in a year. The facility in Paks also does not have any measurable impact on the local flora and fauna or the health of people living in the vicinity.

Paks is located about 115 kms south of Budapest on the right bank of the Danube.

The four reactor units at the Paks NPP have supplied about 40% of Hungarian electricity generation for more than 25 years. The units of the power plant are the most important basic pillars of Hungary’s supply security.

Therefore we have embarked in a service life time extension programme. Feasibility studies have confirmed that the nuclear power plant can be maintained in service for an additional 20 years - beyond the 30 year service life projected at the time of construction. This extended period will start in 2013 for unit 1. During the extended service life the NPP continues to meet the most stringent safety requirements.

In 2009, the Hungarian Parliament granted its preliminary in-principle agreement to start the preparatory activities for the establishment of new unit(s) on the site of the Paks NPP. There are several reasons in favour of the Paks site: its already a nuclear site in use and also one of the most suitable sites in Hungary, the citizens living in the area more strongly support nuclear power due to their above the average knowledge and experience.

The additional radiation load from the operation of the new unit(s) will be insignificant. Overall I can proudly state that the establishment and operation of the new unit(s) will have no unfavourable impact on nature.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we became members of the Board of Governors of the IAEA last September, we have prepared an ambitious program for the two years of our Board membership. We intend to actively use this opportunity to increase the visibility of our work as well as the transparency of our endeavors to further enhance the role of nuclear energy in our country. This exhibition is part of this effort. I hope it will contribute to get better acquainted with a project that could serve as an example for a nuclear power plant operated at the highest safety and security standards and with an environment-friendly approach.

Enjoy the exhibition and thank you for your attention.