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The same as last year, the President of the Spanish Nuclear Society initiates this special international issue with a summary of SNE's activities throughout 1990.

The starting point is the Society's operations. «At present —he affirms— more than one hundred people are actively working in the different fields.

»To review the year, we will refer to each of the three committees that are operational at this time. Beginning with the Technical Committee, the Application Guides are still being diligently published. It is here where the work of most of our professionals is concentrated. They are divided into work groups and collaborate with the Committee in preparing these documents. The Committee is not only working on the Guides, but is also

studying another series of manuals and publications that will allow the Society to widen its field of activity and extend its influence to technical documentation used by professionals.

»The Committee is also working hard on the Spanish Nuclear Supplier Guide, which will be an important document for all the firms in our sector. Likewise, there is a Decontamination Technique Manual to which the same continuous updating criteria will be applied, so that as new techniques and products are marketed, they will be included in the manual. What we can say about this Committee is that not only has it organized its work, but it is also keeping it up, which is perhaps the most difficult part in this type of job.

»As for the Program Committee, which takes care of meetings and conferences with the exception of the Annual Meeting, we should say that it has been a year of discoveries. It was decided to continue with the Spanish Nuclear Power Plant Operating Experience meeting this year, which was attended by all the plant directors. The two meetings held in 1989 and 1990 were a success, which has made this forum a fixed reference point at the beginning of each year. A Public Opinion meeting was also held which we intend to repeat once a year. The aim of this meeting was to offer different people's opinions on the subject, from nuclear plant personnel and regional authorities to media professionals and ecology groups. The purpose was to analyze the way in which the sector transmits its



messages to the public, how the communication media deal with them, and how these messages reach the general public. This is one of the sector's most important challenges and we believe that it is indispensable to continue analyzing it through this kind of meeting.

»A seminar on Decommissioning was also organized in Barcelona, in keeping with the Society's current policy of decentralizing activities and sharing them out with those areas that have the interest and capacity to carry them out. Obviously, Barcelona has both things, and thus it was a timely decision. Furthermore, the subject is an important current issue, due to the Vandellós I situation which contributed to the meeting being a resounding success.

»As regards the Publications Committee and the Magazine, new lines of work were proposed and the contents of last year's international issue were redefined. In recent months, it has evolved towards a more pluralistic format that reflects the collective that it represents, bearing in mind that it involves a Society that is included within an even more extensive one. The variety of subjects dealt with during the year and an increase in the Permanent Sections, with more news and interviews with prominent persons from the sector, have resulted in a growing interest in the Magazine, which is our fundamental means of communication.

»At this point, I would like to again underline the significant dedication of a large number of people that collaborate for totally unselfish reasons and who provide an incentive for us to carry on.

»As regards the Society's development, the number of individual members has increased slightly but as a whole stays stable, since our percentage of the number of professionals has practically reached the limit. However, there has been a sharp increase in the number of collective members. There are a total of 65 companies that collaborate with the Society, providing support to ensure and safeguard future activities.»

When talking about the Spanish Nuclear Society's main activities, the Annual Meeting immediately comes to mind. This year, it was held in Oviedo at the end of October. This meeting has become a traditional, obligatory rendezvous for all the sector's professionals. In this year's meeting, number XVI, there was also an extensive corporate participation. In this regard, Manuel Acero comments that «this has been the one with the greatest number of stands, 30 in all, and nevertheless this number was quickly and easily reached. On the other hand, Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico's sponsorship and participation should be emphasized; their President attended the main ceremonies, as well as their executive Vice-President and General Managers. This

company's support has been a magnificent example of collaboration and integration between the Society and the large electrical utilities. It is an important display of the role that the Society has been playing within the sector. It is also noteworthy that this Annual Meeting has been the most international one, as it was attended by the largest number yet of experts from other countries, most significantly the President of the European Nuclear Society, which goes to show what could be one of SNE's lines of activity in the future».

As far as the Society's immediate present is concerned, one of the most noteworthy aspects throughout this year has been the installation of new offices, which are now in operation. They are important because they offer a regular meeting place for all the members. «Along these lines —adds the SNE President— a so-called "clubhouse" is being designed; this will be an organization that will give rise to another committee, so that we can develop multiple activities on a yearly or biyearly basis, organizing short meetings or expositions by outstanding speakers plus courses seminars, debates, etc. That we expect will be of interest for all members.»

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

From the beginning, one of the aspects that has most concerned the Spanish Nuclear Society and its Board of Directors are foreign relations. In this respect, Manuel Acero comments that «we are going global. We have signed participation agreements with China and Israel, and we are establishing similar exchanges with the USSR and the American Nuclear Society. This results in a new series of activities; for example, we are participating in sponsoring meetings in China and the United States, wherewith we will enhance our foreign relations. At any rate, our closest bonds are with the European Nuclear Society, in which we have an important presence.

»Here we should mention our participation in ENC'90 held in Lyon. It merits special attention because the early stages of this meeting, from the Spanish point of view, were truly discouraging. We were not very mentalized and it is obvious that these are not the best of times for the nuclear sector, which at the very least implied a certain apathy. The Society's negotiations with official organizations, in particular the IEX, allowed Spain to participate in the Exhibition Pavilion and the results were finally excellent. We had a very good representation, with a perfect location inside a pavilion that, in the opinion of a large number of people that I have spoken with, was the best they had ever seen. I would like to mention a

fact of which I am aware as a member of the ENS Board of Management and that is, according to the balance of this meeting, some 13,000 people inquired about the companies present there. We were also concerned about learning the opinion of the companies that had a stand there, and they are very satisfied. Furthermore, our Consul in Lyon paid a visit to our Spanish stand and said he was pleased by the Spanish presence and commented that he was frankly impressed by the level of our pavilion».

FUTURE

«And if we now speak of the future, we would like to continue promoting corporate membership in the Society, because acceptance of collective members also implies membership of their professional personnel. We believe that we should continue to involve both public and private organizations so that we can then increase the number of individual members. The Magazine follows the same line, trying to widen its range of activities to interest more members. We believe that the Society should have a greater presence among them, because to date activities such as laying its own foundations have perhaps taken up more time, but now we are able to offer the members a wider variety of activities such as scholarships, support for other activities, etc.

»As for our involvement in the rest of the world, at this time, the European Nuclear Society is in the process of expanding and increasing the kind and number of activities and the meeting in Lyon was a milestone in the nuclear events of the last few years. Furthermore, there is the subject of Nucnet. This is a special project of the European Nuclear Society that will attempt to create specific communications between the different European countries and between them and other parts of the world. This gives us an idea of the presence and significance that the European Nuclear Society is beginning to have. There are more activities along these lines, such as the International Nuclear Societies Council, which maintains relations between the nuclear societies around the world. It is a logical result of what is being done in the nuclear sector in other aspects, that it is to work as one, so any experience should be used to advantage and analyzed by others to be included in their own activities. For our part, we know that it is one of our fundamental job aspects and it pleases us to see that our natural forum, which is the European Nuclear Society, has decided to follow this policy. We are ready to support with the best of our capabilities the current policies of the ENS.»