

Freeing the nuclear genie

Between 20 to 30 countries could develop atomic weapons if the proliferation of nuclear technology is not stopped. The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog warns that North Korea's and Iran's nuclear ambitions could spark a new arms race among Asian and Middle Eastern states

Mohamed ElBaradei:

Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency

States with nuclear weapons (year acquired)

Suspected of wanting nuclear weapons or programmes

States capable of producing weapons-grade uranium or plutonium



Formally declared nuclear weapons states
(26,854 warheads)

1	U.S.	(1945)	10,104
2	Russia	(1949)	16,000
3	Britain	(1953)	200
4	France	(1964)	350
5	China	(1964)	200



Other known nuclear weapons states
(150-190 warheads)

6	Israel	(mid-1960s)	60-80
7	India	(1974)	50-60
8	Pakistan	(1998)	40-50
9	North Korea:	President	

Kim Jong-il orders nuclear bomb test in October 2006. Estimated plutonium production for 10-15 weapons per year



10 Iran: Believed to be 3-10 years from nuclear weapon

11 Iraq: Saddam Hussein's atomic weapons programme ends with 1991 Gulf War

12 Saudi Arabia: Opens nuclear research centre at **Al-Suleiyin** military complex in 1975

13, 14 Egypt, Turkey: Likely to start weapons programmes if Middle-East neighbours go nuclear

15 South Korea: Believed to have abandoned nuclear weapons programme after signing Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1975

16 Japan: Says it has no plans to develop atomic weapons but Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** (left) wants to revise anti-war constitution that bans such weapons



21 Canada: Non-nuclear-weapon state, but permits nuclear-armed American bombers and submarines to use Canadian facilities

17 Taiwan: Ends covert nuclear weapons research programme in 1988 as result of pressure from U.S. President **Ronald Reagan**

18 Venezuela: Proposing to start research into "peaceful" use of nuclear energy

RUSSIA
CHINA

1,000km
620 miles

Range of North Korea's **Taepodong-1** missile



South Africa: Scraps nuclear arsenal in 1991

22 Australia: Joint nuclear weapons programme with Britain ends in 1960s. Now member of **South Pacific Nuclear Weapon Free Zone**

19 Brazil: Nuclear weapons programme – so-called **Solimões Project** – scrapped in 1985 with end of military rule

20 Argentina: Conducts weapons research from 1978-83 during military rule. Brazil and Argentina sign NPT in 1990s

23 Europe: Sweden and Switzerland have secret weapons programmes during 1950s-60s. **Germany's** bomb project ends in 1946. Other countries capable of producing weapons-grade fuel include **Belgium, Czech Rep., Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine**