

## Nuclear Energy: Key Facts and Issues

March 23-26, 2026

MIT Campus, Cambridge, MA, U.S.

*DRAFT / SUBJECT TO CHANGE - location specifics to be noted in due time*

### Sunday, March 22

6:00pm	Casual Welcome Reception	Meet fellow participants and speakers
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### Day 1 – Monday, March 23

8:30	Introductions	Participants introduce themselves	All participants
9:00	Welcome	Welcome to the course, goals and expectations	Jacopo Buongiorno (MIT) Armond Cohen (CATF)
9:15	Nuclear and climate change (1.5 hour)	Systems analysis of clean energy sources, including nuclear and renewables; consideration of land use, energy density, and siting challenges	Kasparas Spokas (CATF) and Malwina Qvist (CATF)
10:45	<b>BREAK</b>		
11:00	Nuclear power plant basics (1.5 hour)	Basic principles; current technologies: PWRs and BWRs; fast vs thermal reactors; power cycles	Jacopo Buongiorno (MIT)
12:30	<b>LUNCH</b>		
1:45	Current global state of nuclear energy (1.25 hour)	The West and the Rest: current state of the global debate and evolving policies in U.S., EU, Middle East, Asia	Elina Teplinsky (Pillsbury Law)
3:00	<b>BREAK</b>		
3:15	The cost challenge (1 hour)	The cost challenges of nuclear energy, examining recent cost trends, the factors contributing to high costs, and strategies for cost reduction	Jacopo Buongiorno (MIT)
4:15	Financing strategies for nuclear projects (1 hour)	Financial frameworks and development models of new nuclear deployment; how key stakeholders—governments, investors, and utilities—navigate risk, capital allocation, and policy incentives	Steve Comello (Nuclear Scaling Initiative)
5:15	<b>FREE TIME</b>	Dinner on your own	

## Day 2 – Tuesday, March 24

9:00	Radiation health science (1 hour)	Radiation fundamentals, sources, health effects, detection and regulations	Patrick White (CATF)
10:00	Nuclear safety (1 hour)	Nuclear safety basics; understanding events at Three Mile Island / Chernobyl / Fukushima	Jacopo Buongiorno (MIT)
11:00	<b>BREAK</b>		
11:15	Group Photo in the classroom		
11:25	Public opinion: U.S. and global trends (1 hour)	Understanding public views on nuclear energy technology; factors in support/opposition; risk perceptions; community-led decision making	Kuhika Gupta (Univ. of Oklahoma)
12:30	<b>LUNCH</b>		
1:45	Nuclear fuel cycle (1.5 hour)	Mining, conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication, reprocessing, recycling and waste management	Haruko Wainwright (MIT)
3:15	<b>BREAK</b>		
3:30	Nuclear policy (1 hour)	Overview of federal and state policies on new nuclear	Victor Ibarra (CATF)
4:30	Nuclear regulations (1 hour)	How are nuclear plants licensed and regulated; the roles of the IAEA and national regulatory bodies, incl. NRC	Ian Grant (Ian Grant Consulting)
5:15	<b>FREE TIME</b>	Dinner on your own	

## Day 3 – Wednesday, March 25

7:30	Bus to Seabrook, NH	Pickup location TBD	
9:00	Tour of Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant		
1:30	Return bus trip to Cambridge, MA		
2:30	<b>FREE TIME</b>		
6:30	Dinner Program	Speaker: Marcio Paes Barreto (Evercore Energy) – U.S. states' perspective on nuclear energy	



Day 4 – Thursday, March 26

9:00	Nonproliferation issues (1 hour)	What is nonproliferation; history of weapons; NPT; current vision; IAEA's role; ongoing challenges	TBD
10:00	<b>BREAK</b>		
10:15	Advanced reactors and advanced fuels (1 hour)	What are advanced reactors; how do they differ; why does that matter	Staffan Qvist (QuantifiedCarbon Ltd)
11:15	Fusion energy (1 hour)	What is fusion energy; what are its advantages; creating a model for commercialization	TBD (MIT)
12:15	<b>LUNCH</b>		
1:30	Applications of nuclear energy beyond electricity (1 hour)	Value of nuclear energy in decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors beyond electricity generation	Malwina Qvist (CATF)
2:30	<b>BREAK</b>		
2:45	Nuclear energy – the Finnish example (1 hour)	Nuclear energy in Finland, including energy security, waste management, public acceptance & political atmosphere	Atte Harjanne (Parliament of Finland)
3:45	Group discussion (0.75 hour)	Questions, comments, what additional information would be useful?	Armond Cohen (CATF)
4:30	<b>ADJOURN</b>		