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# updating international nuclear law

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papers derived from the conference on  
„the human right to a safe and healthful environment and  
the responsibilities under international law of operators of nuclear facilities“,  
held in salzburg, austria, october 20–23, 2005

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intersentia

Nuclear research and nuclear industry have managed to grow, and survive, because of highly favourable structures found in international law and institutions. This book explores the necessities and ways to adjust the law to the dimensions of risks and real costs of nuclear energy, with its legacy of waste for posterity in mind.

Nuclear energy is often touted as “cheap“, but it is “cheap“ only if one ignores the costs and challenges for present and future communities with regard to potential accidents, uranium mining, the disposal and transportation of radioactive materials and wastes and their long-term effects on health and the environment, and the decommissioning of nuclear plants.

This book exposes the inadequacies in transgenerational equity, competition rules, international and national liability and compensation regimes and other legal dispositions governing nuclear activities. Twenty-four distinguished scholars, scientists, lawyers, nuclear experts and leading NGO figures have contributed essays covering a wide range of aspects of this important topic. Through their papers, private, state and university jurists will participate in a fascinating legal debate. Those living near nuclear facilities or routes of transportation, law practitioners and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will

## About the book

benefit from the lessons of exemplary actions in court. Policy and decision-makers will know how to better protect the health of people and the environment affected by nuclear activities and will evaluate better the real costs of nuclear energy when choosing among energy alternatives. Nuclear operators will get a look of what may be “in the pipeline” in terms of the law and legal action. With the fight for and against a nuclear revival getting fiercer, this book is a profound contribution to the debate.

- Authors from a diverse range of professional and geographic backgrounds, including distinguished scholars, scientists, journalists and NGO representatives, three of whom are laureates of the Alternative Nobel Prize
- A unique compilation of legal doctrines governing nuclear activities
- Recommendations for new paths to adjust the law to match the dimensions of nuclear risks
- An interdisciplinary approach resulting in cross-overs between research and civil action, politics and law-making
- A multi-purpose tool for academics, activists, the media and decision-makers
- A solid basis for intensifying the public debate on the future of nuclear power

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