

**IP – EUROTRANS Internal Training Course ITC5**  
*Pisa, dipartimento di Ingegneria meccanica, nucleare e della produzione*  
*26-29 novembre 2007*

Professor Enrico Giaccherini  
ProVice-Chancellor for International Relations, University of Pisa  
*Welcome Address*

Colleagues, distinguished guests, students, ladies and gentlemen,

In my capacity as Vice-Chancellor for International Relations, it is my privilege to give you the official welcome of the University of Pisa on behalf of the Rector, professor Marco Pasquali, who regrets the impossibility of being here, due to previous engagements that could not be postponed.

I wish to express our deep appreciation of the initiative represented by the training course on “Fuels and Structural Reactor Materials”, which has a direct bearing on one of the crucial issues of our time, that on energy sources and supplies.

It is also a cause of personal satisfaction for me to take part in events that give a significant contribution to the international dimension of our University: the Course which is now being inaugurated – the fifth in a series of ten over a period of four years – is set within the framework of IP EUROTRANS, a EUROpean Research Programme for the TRANSmutation of High Level Nuclear Waste in an Accelerator Driven System, an international project studying innovative 4<sup>th</sup>-generation nuclear reactors.

That of nuclear engineering is an area of research with a long tradition within our university, which has fortunately not been interrupted

by the series of events that, on the wings of popular emotion, caused the virtual abandonment of nuclear power as an energy source in Italy, after the referendum of 1987.

Together with the Turin and Milan Polytechnics and the Universities of Padua, Rome “La Sapienza” and Palermo, Pisa University joined CIRTEN (*Inter-University Consortium for Nuclear Technological Research*) ever since its establishment in 1994. CIRTEN, in its turn, is a member of the *European Nuclear Education Network* (ENEN), represented this morning by Professor Michel Giot, to whom I extend our special welcome.

As a consequence, the renewed and ever more animated discussion on nuclear supply sources I was hinting at sees our researchers fully equipped and ready to give their substantial contribution . I am thinking, for instance, of the “Scalbatraio” Laboratory, where Pisa University has installed a testing station for the study of dedicated vessels for the safe transportation of radioactive materials, and more generally to the activities of the Department of Mechanical, Nuclear and Production Engineering, carried on by research teams such as those led by professor Giuseppe Forasassi, the expert on nuclear plants safety who is also the course Organizer, to whom we all owe our gratitude, and by professor Francesco D’Auria, the future co-ordinator of a new, research centre at San Piero a Grado, only a few miles off the city of Pisa.

To confirm the relevance of these issues, may I remind you that all these activities will once again be brought to the attention of the scientific community next week, thanks to the seminar on “Nuclear power: education, research and industrial development” of December 3 here in

Pisa – which once more sees the Department of Mechanical, Nuclear and Production Engineering as one of the promoters and organizers. During this coming event, the discussion will concentrate on the industrial policies connected with nuclear power, in the light of the objectives of the European Community as far as its energy policy is concerned.

We are firmly convinced that the scientists and researchers of Pisa University have all the necessary competence for contributing significantly to the decisions in the field of national and international energy policy that await our country.

Let me congratulate you all once again for the splendid job you are doing.

Thank you.

Pisa, 26th November 2007