

Dr. Sama Bilbao y Leon

Associate Professor, Director Nuclear Engineering Programs, Virginia Commonwealth University

January 26, 2011 - [Innsbrook Technical Center](#) - Richmond, VA at 5:30 PM

"The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)"



The IAEA Up Close and Personal

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), winner of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, is a UN organization responsible for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Its key roles contribute to international peace and security, and to the World's Millennium Goals for social, economic and environmental development.

Sama will provide an overview of the world nuclear situation from the perspective of the IAEA, while summarizing some of the key activities currently being pursued by the Agency. Sama will also present her perspective about the role of the IAEA based on her personal experience as IAEA staff during the last 3 years.

Sama Bilbao y Leon joined the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in January 2011. As one of the key individuals involved in the creation of the Dominion-sponsored Master in Nuclear Engineering offered by VCU from the fall of 2007, she is thrilled to return to VCU as Director of Nuclear Engineering Programs and Associate Professor and contribute to the growth of VCU's nuclear engineering.

Until December 2010, Sama was the Technical Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Water Cooled Reactors Technology Development Unit and she was in charge of all IAEA activities in support of the development and near term deployment of advanced water cooled reactors and their associated fuels. Until March 2008, Sama was a Nuclear Safety Analysis Engineer at Dominion Generation, where she was in charge of the development of a new methodology for the thermal-hydraulic analysis of nuclear cores. Previously, Sama was a researcher at the University of Wisconsin Madison where she conducted research on experimental and computational thermal-hydraulics and nuclear safety. She also participated in the design of nuclear micro-batteries to power nano-devices. In addition, she has substantial expertise in Energy and Environmental Policy and has participated as an observer in the 5th, 6th and 11th UN sponsored Conferences of the Parties on Climate Change.

Sama is one of the founders of the North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NA YGN), and served as Public Information Chair since its creation in 1999 until May 2005. Sama is also

an active member of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) since 1995, both nationally and locally (Wisconsin, Virginia and Austria local sections). Her dedication to spreading the good news about nuclear earned her the ANS 2002 Public Communications Award. In 2007 she received the NA-YGN Founder Award, the highest award given to an NA-YGN member, which rewards leadership, vision and dedication. In 2007, and again in 2010, Sama was elected to the national Board of Directors of the American Nuclear Society.

Sama holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a master's degree in Energy Technologies from the Polytechnic University of Madrid; a master's degree and a PhD in Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics from the University of Wisconsin Madison; and an MBA from Averett University.