

1 GIF membership, organization and R&D collaboration

In 2020, the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) structure and organization remained the same: composed of 14 member countries, all of which are signatories of the GIF founding document.

The present chapter focuses only on major changes that occurred in 2020. A detailed explanation of the GIF membership and organization can be found in the corresponding chapter of the *GIF 2019 Annual Report* (see www.gen-4.org/gif/jcms/c_119025/gif-2019-annual-report), or on the GIF website.

GIF global governance remained unchanged in 2020 and is summarized in Figure 1-1 below.

With the aim of stabilizing and reinforcing the GIF Technical Secretariat, several staff changes occurred in the NEA/GIF Technical Secretariat, and these changes are outlined in the GIF October newsletter (see www.gen-4.org/gif/jcms/c_121997/5-gif-newsletter-rev2) written by Sama Bilbao y León, who was Head of the Technical Secretariat until mid-September 2020:

- Mr Philippe Guiberteau replaced Sama Bilbao y León when she left the NEA in September 2020. He also provides secretariat support for the supercritical-water-cooled reactor (SCWR) system and sub groups.
- Ms Kathryn Obisesan also joined the GIF secretariat in mid-September, supporting the Education and Training Working Group (ETWG), the Advanced Manufacturing Material Engineering Task Force (AM TF), and the Research and Development Infrastructure Task Force (RDTF).
- In early November, Dr Masahiro Nishimura took over the secretariat for all of the sodium-cooled

fast reactor (SFR) system groups from Mr Satoshi Okajima, who was a key member of the GIF team for the last two and a half years.

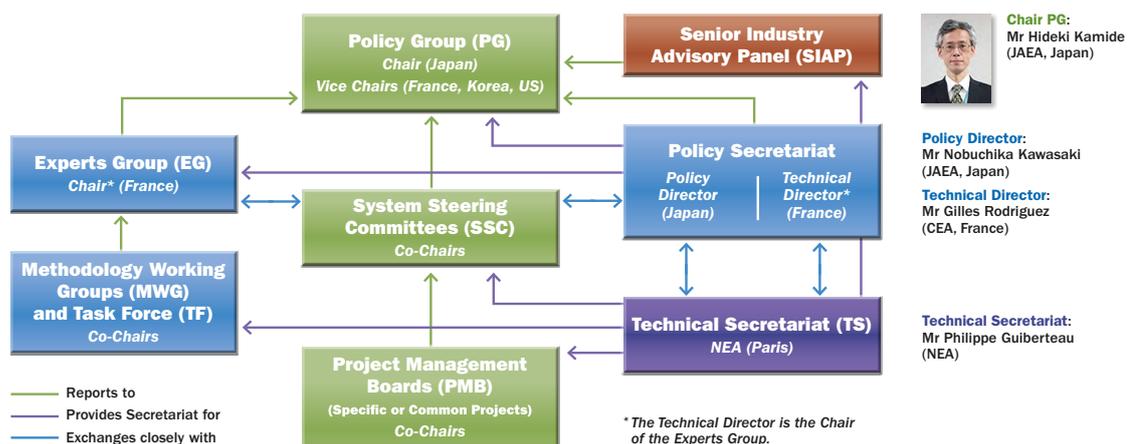
- Also in early November, Dr Stephanie Cornet left the NEA and the GIF Technical Secretariat of the Very-High-Temperature Reactor (VHTR) Fuel and Fuel Cycle (FFC) project. She was replaced by Dr Davide Costa, who is also from the NEA Division of Nuclear Science.

The structure of the GIF Technical Structure, as of November 2020, is shown in Figure 1-2.

In terms of the GIF structure, the main changes and objectives are:

- Activities of the SFR Safety Design Criteria Task Force (SDC TF) merged into the Risk and Safety Working Group (RSWG), with the SDC TF disbanded in late 2020.
- Creation of the Molten Salt Reactor System (System Research Plan, System Agreement, Project Plans and Project Arrangements for three new project management boards) from the current, provisional System Steering Committee (pSSC) is a main objective for 2021.
- Reflections on the potential continuation of the RDTF, which completed its work at the end of 2020.
- Because of its important and key role in the continuous dissemination of Gen-IV scientific knowledge, at the end of 2019 the Education and Training Task Force (ETTF) was transformed into the Education and Training Working Group (ETWG), which entered into force in 2020.
- A first meeting was organized at the end of 2020 to explore the possibility of undertaking activities

Figure 1-1: GIF Governance in 2020



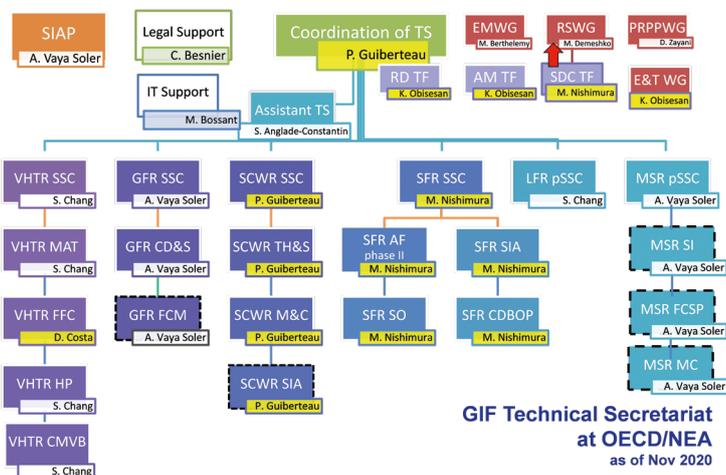


Figure 1-2: Structure of the GIF Technical Secretariat¹



Figure 1-3: The GIF Policy Group virtual meeting in October 2020

within the GIF framework in relation to non-electrical application of nuclear heat (NEANH) (see the related article in the GIF October newsletter at: www.gen-4.org/gif/jcms/c_xxxx). A roadmap and a new organizing body will be proposed in 2021.

Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, members of GIF have managed to progress in their work, staying on course in terms of the GIF program of work and defining innovative ways to adjust to this situation. The GIF structure has adapted swiftly to the new situation and has become effective in its use of virtual meetings and other electronic means to advance its work. Semi-annual Policy Group and Experts Group (PG/EG) meetings were held at the end of May and October 2020, both in virtual mode. The 2020 events prepared for GIF 20th anniversary celebrations in Amboise (France) were unfortunately cancelled. More than ever, we are all looking forward to a return to normal, being able to meet face to face and have technical exchanges in person.

To improve GIF communication, GIF leadership has been working with a consultant and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Information Technology (IT) team to refresh and relaunch the GIF brand, with a new logo (see the cover page), a new website and new collateral materials.

GIF communication objectives are:

- Refresh the “look and feel” of how GIF is presented to the world so as to reinforce the GIF position as a leading, collaborative organization at the international level, with technical expertise focused entirely on 4th generation nuclear energy systems.
- Combine and encourage engagement in GIF to promote a common understanding of the policy, economic and scientific issues related to 4th generation nuclear energy systems.
- Celebrate GIF’s pioneering spirit, growing expertise and excellence in the area of 4th generation nuclear energy systems.

- Remind members and their key stakeholders of the benefits that can be gained from being part of GIF.
- Help raise the profile of GIF in scientific and education circles.
- Capitalize on GIF’s long history to further advocate a common understanding of the above issues among partner members.

The first phase of the GIF website enhancement project was implemented in early January 2021, as scheduled. We will continue in 2021 to improve the contents and style of the GIF website.

The objectives were to refresh the existing logo and to reassess our values

Perspectives and objectives for GIF in 2021 are largely focused on continuing to improve the Technical Secretariat functions (see the detailed article in the GIF February 2021 Newsletter at: https://www.gen-4.org/gif/jcms/c_121997/-5-gif-newsletter-rev2) despite the difficulties resulting from the COVID-19 situation, while:

- stabilizing and reinforcing the overall organization of the GIF Technical Secretariat;
- improving links between the GIF Technical Secretariat/Board and the NEA;
- developing cross-cutting projects inside GIF and with the NEA;
- improving GIF links with industry and with non-profit international organizations (e.g. the World Nuclear Association, the International Atomic Energy Agency).
- continuing to develop GIF communication (i.e. technical, external and internal).



Philippe Guibertau
Head of the GIF Technical Secretariat

1. See the list of abbreviations and acronyms in Appendix 2 of the present report.