

Robyn Fennell, Tyree’s daughter and chair of the Tyree Foundation board, commented,



Fennell

“This gift builds on the foundations laid down to develop a high-tech nuclear industry in Australia, which will be essential if we choose to adopt nuclear energy as one of the options available to our country as it deals with climate change. To make this a reality, nuclear engineering programs like UNSW’s are critical in ensuring Australia has the homegrown skills to support that choice.”

Fennell added, “My father believed strongly in the benefits of nuclear energy as a safe, clean power source for Australia, and our gift continues to support that vision.”

UNSW’s nuclear engineering program was one of just 20 universities globally invited to be a founding member of the Nuclear Energy Agency Global Forum on Nuclear Education, Science, Technology, and Policy, which was established within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in January 2021. The forum allows for policy dialogues with stakeholders that are not necessarily Nuclear Energy Agency member country governmental bodies. It aims to identify good practices, facilitate shared activities, and coordinate joint programs of investigation to advance nuclear science and technology education and policy in NEA member countries.

The forum also will conduct periodic symposia to serve as venues for experts from academic institutions and representatives of NEA member countries, as well as other stakeholders worldwide, to exchange good practices and identify emerging issues and solutions to challenges the nuclear energy sector faces today.

“The need for nuclear technologists is growing globally as both nuclear-generating countries and those that don’t have commercial nuclear power recognize the need for new generations of engineers with the expertise to apply nuclear science and technology to meet medical, industrial, energy, and environmental challenges,” said William D. Magwood, director general of the OECD NEA.

“After visiting UNSW in 2019, I was impressed with the education programs provided by the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering,” Magwood added. “The passion of UNSW students for engaging with cutting-edge energy technologies was very compelling. We need their energy and expertise to address the complex issues facing the global community.”

Although nuclear power is banned there, Australia has industries in nuclear medicine, nuclear science research, and uranium mining and resources. ☒



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