

Ambassador John Ritch is Director General of the World Nuclear Association (WNA), a position he assumed in 2001. For the previous seven years he was American ambassador to the United Nations Organizations in Vienna, including the IAEA.

While in Vienna, Ambassador Ritch focused primarily on strengthening worldwide safeguards against nuclear weapons proliferation and on the nuclear crises with Iraq and North Korea.

John Ritch began his career as an Army officer, serving on the DMZ in Korea and in the Pentagon. In 1972 he joined the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Senator J. William Fulbright. Ritch served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 22 years as senior advisor on East-West relations, NATO affairs and nuclear arms control.

In private life, Ambassador Ritch has been an entrepreneur, heading an award-winning real estate development company and co-founding a multinational enterprise that markets American nutritional supplements throughout Europe.

Ambassador Ritch is a 1965 graduate of West Point, where he was an academic All-American basketball player. He holds an M.A. in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.