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IRPA

IRPA'S CONTRIBUTION TO E&T ACTIVITIES FOR RADIATION PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS

Presented by Prof. Eduardo Gallego (UPM, Spain)
on behalf of the Executive Council of the

International Radiation Protection Association



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8 - 12 November 2009 - Lisbon Portugal





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IRPA'S CONTRIBUTION TO E&T ACTIVITIES FOR RADIATION PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS

E. GALLEGO¹, A. HEFNER²
IRPA Executive Council

¹*Nuclear Engineering Department, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
José Gutiérrez Abascal, 2, E-28006 Madrid – Spain*

²*Head of Radiation Expert Group, Health Physics Division, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH
A-2444 Seibersdorf - Austria*

ABSTRACT

The International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) promotes excellence in the practice of radiation protection through national and regional Associate Societies for radiation protection professionals. IRPA has recently prepared and E&T Plan structured around three main lines: the cooperation with international and regional organizations dealing with E&T in Radiation Protection; the internal stimulation of E&T by organizing discussion forums during IRPA Congresses; and the stimulation and support to the organization of E&T activities either by IRPA or by its Associate Societies. The main innovations are in the possibility of undertaking common activities by two or more Associate Societies; the promotion of E&T networks sharing language or regional proximity; and the emergence of activities to attract young generations to the profession.



IRPA STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2020

MISSION

- IRPA is the international voice of the radiation protection profession and promotes excellence in the practice of radiation protection through national and regional Associate Societies for radiation protection professionals by providing benchmarks of good practice and **enhancing professional competence** and networking.



IRPA STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2020

2020 VISION

- **IRPA promotes excellence** in national and regional associate societies and **in radiation protection professionals** by providing support, guidance, benchmarks of good practice, exchange of information, and by facilitating networking to ensure that the highest standards of professional conduct, skills and knowledge are applied for the benefit of society.
- IRPA is recognized by its members and stakeholders as the international voice of the radiation protection profession in the enhancement of radiation protection culture and practice worldwide.



IRPA STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2020

GOALS - 2008-2012

- Promote excellence in the conduct of IRPA
- Promote excellence in national and regional associate societies.
- Promote **excellence in radiation protection professionals**
- IRPA is recognized by its members and stakeholders as the international voice of the radiation protection profession



Promote **excellence in radiation protection professionals (1)**

- **Development of guidance documents for use by radiation protection professionals and Associate Societies.**
 - The first topic addressed has been stakeholder engagement
 - currently new guiding documents are being developed on radiation protection culture and on professional qualification
 - Feedback from Associate Societies is important



Promote **excellence in radiation protection professionals (2)**

- **Education and Training (E&T)**
 - E&T is another key to reach professional excellence, and its essential role has been recognized since the beginning of IRPA.
 - However, there is still a wide variation between different countries with regard to E&T methods as well as certification and recognition systems for radiation protection professionals and the desirable harmonization is still to come.



Radiation Protection Expert (RPE)

- **The IRPA Executive Council (EC) has widely discussed on these issues and a position paper was presented at a previous ETRAP Conference six years ago.**
- **Since then, an important milestone has been the recognition by the International Labour Organization of Radiation Protection Expert (RPE) within the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08; 2263).**
- **RPE is included in the group of occupations covered by the definition of Environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals.**



Radiation Protection Expert (RPE)

IRPA EC definition

- **A RPE is a person having education and/or experience equivalent to a graduate or masters degree from an accredited college or university in radiation protection, radiation safety, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics or a closely related physical or biological science; and**
- **who has acquired competence in radiation protection, by virtue of special studies, training and practical experience. Such special studies and training must have been sufficient in the above sciences to provide the understanding, ability and competency to**
 - **anticipate and recognize the interactions of radiation with matter and to understand the effects of radiation on people, animals and the environment;**
 - **evaluate, on the basis of training and experience and with the aid of quantitative measurement techniques, the magnitude of radiological factors in terms of their ability to impair human health and well-being and damage to the environment;**
 - **develop and implement, on the basis of training and experience, methods to prevent, eliminate, control, or reduce radiation exposure to workers, patients, the public and the environment.**
- **In most countries the competence of radiation protection experts needs to be recognized by the competent authority in order for these professionals to be eligible to undertake certain defined radiation protection responsibilities. The process of recognition may involve formal certification, accreditation, registration, etc.**



IRPA'S ROLE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- ❑ **IRPA is an association of RP societies**
 - ❑ **RP Professionals belong to IRPA through their societies**
- ❑ **IRPA should**
 - ❑ **promote and support,**
 - ❑ **provide networking,**
 - ❑ **provide guidance**

} **to E&T activities of its
affiliate societies
individually or, preferably,
in cooperation**
- ❑ **IRPA Societies are not universities and their E&T activities are not intended for an academic diploma but for professional enhancement.**
- ❑ **These activities generally focus on general Radiation Protection trends and/or on very specialized topics which cannot be covered by other organizations.**



Education & Training Plan

- **Three main lines:**
 - **Cooperation with international and regional organizations dealing with E&T in Radiation Protection**
 - **Internal stimulation of E&T by organizing discussion forums during IRPA Congresses**
 - **Stimulation and support of E&T activities organized by the Associate Societies**



Cooperation with international and regional organizations dealing with E & T in radiation protection

- **IAEA “Steering Committee on Education and Training in Radiation Protection and Waste Safety”:**
 - Observer
 - IRPA contribution to the implementation of the IAEA strategic plan by exchanging information on actual projects with the Associate Societies
- **ETRAP (International Conference on Education and Training in Radiological Protection) Conference series**
- **EU: EUTERP, ENETRAP-II**
 - In the past: observer, contributor to definition of RPE and RPO
 - Potential role to recognize RPE’s from countries that do not have their own recognition system
 - From now: Advisory role of IRPA representative → IRPA view
- **Collaboration with the American Academy of Health Physics: establish accreditation mechanism for refresher courses and seminars**
- **Backup-interactions with International Training Centres (WNU)**



Discussion forums at IRPA congresses

- Embedded or separated from the Associate Societies Forums
- Exchange of experiences
- Stimulate harmonization of the definition of Radiation Protection Expert
- Stimulation of common and new activities
- Going on action.



E & T ACTIONS 2008-20 (1)

Refresher courses at IRPA congresses:

- Inclusion of Refresher Courses and Seminars within each IRPA Conference (already in the guidance for congresses)
- Follow-up from the EC (based on evaluation questionnaires to participants)
- Exploring live Internet transmission of the IRPA 13 Refresher Courses
- Improving website accessibility to texts and presentations (including those from IRPA Regional Congresses)



IRPA 12



12th International Congress of the
International Radiation Protection Association

Strengthening Radiation Protection Worldwide

19-24 October 2008
Buenos Aires, Argentina



Organized by the

Argentine Radiation Protection Society (SAR)

In cooperation with the



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)



World Health Organization (WHO)



IRPA 12



12th International Congress of the
International Radiation Protection Association

Strengthening Radiation Protection Worldwide

19-24 October 2008

Buenos Aires, Argentina

- **20 Refresher courses**
- **3 Training Seminars**

With AAHP accreditation

- **Material available at:**

www.irpa12.org.ar

www.irpa.net



Third European IRPA Congress

NSFS

Radiation protection – science, safety and security

14 – 18 June 2010
Helsinki, Finland
www.irpa2010europe.com



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT
and Call for Abstracts



Third European IRPA Congress

NSFS

Radiation protection – science, safety and security

14–18 June 2010
Helsinki, Finland
www.irpa2010europe.com

Tentative list of refresher courses

- External dosimetry and individual monitoring
- Internal dosimetry and individual activity assessment
- Radioecology and environmental exposure pathway
- Natural radiation environment and NORM
- Radiation protection metrology: instrumentation, uncertainty, traceability
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Stakeholder involvement and engagement
- Decommissioning and waste management
- Management of exposure from radon
- Optimisation of protection in medical exposures (CT and pediatric dosimetry)
- Radiation biology and health effects
- Radiation epidemiology
- Non-ionising radiation
- Cosmic radiation and air crew dose assessment
- ICRP 103 and beyond
- Radiation protection in high dose medical procedures



E & T ACTIONS 2008-20 (2)

IRPA AS seminars, short courses, summer (or winter) schools on specialized topics.

- **Promote coordination:**
 - Questionnaire is going to be distributed to have a complete picture.
 - IRPA sponsoring would be granted to those activities which clear and openly look for professional enhancement within the IRPA family.



E & T ACTIONS 2008-20 (2)

IRPA AS seminars, short courses, summer (or winter) schools on specialized topics.

- **Specific actions that should be undertaken by the organizing societies to get the “IRPA stamp” can be the following (from easier to harder implementation):**
 - **Advertisement and promotion through IRPA and the Associate Societies.**
 - **Availability of grants for young professionals to facilitate their participation (usually to young members of the organizing societies or from developing countries).**
 - **Agreement to share and exchange teaching materials (by, for instance opening of internet spaces at the IRPA website).**
 - **Webcast of lectures and courses previously recorded.**
 - **Interactive participation via live Internet transmission in courses or seminars (“webinars”).**



E & T ACTIONS 2008-20 (3)

IRPA Stimulation and follow-up of E & T activities:

- **Stimulate the creation of “E & T networks” within IRPA:**
 - for instance by those societies sharing language (e.g. Latin-American societies together with Spain and Portugal)
 - or belonging to the same region (e.g. European Radiation Protection Young Scientists Exchange Network, with pilot project for schools and universities with participation from ÖVS, FS, SFRP, NVS, NSRP and SRP)
 - with dedicated space in the website



E & T ACTIONS 2008-20 (3)

IRPA Stimulation and follow-up of E & T activities:

- Encourage Associate Societies activities at national or regional scale to **attract young generations to the profession**:
 - Organize activities for pre-university and undergraduate students
 - Awards programmes to individual or collective work in schools or universities could be an effective way.
- **Attract young professionals to IRPA Congresses** by initiatives like the National and European Awards for young scientists (the IRPA European Societies will give a first award at the IRPA European Regional Congress in Helsinki in 2010)



CONCLUSIONS

- **The IRPA E&T Plan 2008-2020 will continue the cooperation with international and regional organizations dealing with E&T in Radiation Protection where IRPA is representing the profession views.**
- **The continuous interaction between the Associate Societies to cooperate in E&T will continue at different levels, in particular at the discussion forums organized during IRPA Congresses.**
- **The Plan also aims to stimulate and support the Associate Societies » to organize coordinated activities;**
 - » **to share E&T resources;**
 - » **to create E&T networks sharing language or regional proximity; and**
 - » **to organize activities to attract young generations to the profession.**



Organization

The executive functions of the Association are performed by the officers, upon approval of the Executive Council, and as delegated by the IRPA General Assembly. The function of the Secretariat is to maintain the records of the Association and to serve as general headquarters for the Association. The supervision of the Secretariat is the responsibility of the Executive Officer.

IRPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(2008-2012)

President: Ken Kase, USA

Vice-President: Renate Czarwinski, Germany

Vice-President for Congress Affairs:
Roger Coates, UK

Executive Officer: Jacques Lochard, France

Treasurer: Richard Toohey, USA

Publications Director: Richard Griffith, USA

Council members:

Eduardo Gallego, Spain

Alfred Hefner, Austria

Jong Kyung Kim, South Korea

Gary Kramer, Canada

Bernard Le Guen, France

Sisko Salomaa, Finland

HOW TO JOIN IRPA

IRPA affiliation comes through membership in one of the IRPA Associate Societies. Over 45 national and regional radiation protection societies are now members of the IRPA family. Information on establishing an IRPA Associate Society and a directory of existing Associate Societies can be found on the IRPA Web Site:

www.irpa.net



IRPA CONGRESSES

INTERNATIONAL

IRPA 13, Glasgow, Scotland

May 13 to 18, 2012

www.irpa13glasgow.com

REGIONAL

Tokyo, Japan
23-28 May 2010

Nairobi, Kenya
6-10 September 2010

Helsinki, Finland
14-18 June 2010

Medelin, Columbia
11-15 October 2010

Updated information is available on the IRPA Web Site:

www.irpa.net



IRPA Executive Officer, Jacques Lochard
Centre d'étude sur l'Evaluation de la Protection
dans le domaine Nucléaire (CEPN)

28, rue de la Redoute

F-92260 FONTENAY-AUX-ROSES, FRANCE

Tel: +33.155521920

Fax: +33.155521921

E-Mail: irpa.exof@irpa.net



INTERNATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

"International Support to Meet National Radiation Protection Needs"

The international voice of the radiation protection profession, providing a medium for communication and advancement of radiological protection world-wide.



Many thanks for your attention!

More information at:

www.irpa.net