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The 66th IRPA EC Meeting Report



The 66th IRPA Executive Council (EC) was held during May 10-11, 2014 in the beautiful Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Nine members of the EC presented at the meeting. They discussed the preparations for the forthcoming celebration of IRPA's 50th Anniversary at the IRPA 14 International Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2016, and reviewed current status of membership country by country. Vice President, Roger Coates, reported that the new Sievert Awards Committee has received three nominations for the Sievert Award. A reminder has been sent by the Executive Officer, Bernard le Guen to all Associate Societies to get confirmation that this list is final. The Publication Director, Chris Clement, updated the latest development of IRPA website.

The EC reviewed the feedbacks from the past meetings and workshops. President Renate Czarwinski reported the IRPA presentation at the WHO-REMPAN meeting held May 7-9, 2014 in Wuerzburg, Germany. The presentation was very much appreciated by the REMPAN community. The Executive Officer, Bernard Le Guen, gave a presentation at the Asian IRPA Congress to suggest cooperation between IOMP and IRPA for joint development of a new guiding principle as part of the IRPA series of publications on RP and Safety Culture. This proposal was well received. IRPA Treasurer, Dick Toohey, gave an update on the forthcoming regional congresses and IRPA congresses, as well as the development of the IRPA Congress in 2024 in the United States. Work on the setup of working/task groups and the progress of each working/task group were presented.

The cooperation between IRPA and ICRP cannot be over emphasized. The President suggested to adopt a statement on continuous support over 5 years, which was unanimously approved by the Executive Council. Chris Clements indicated that ICRP has launched a 5-year fundraising campaign aiming at getting financial support over a 5-year period with a sustainable or longer term vision. IRPA's support is currently one of the highest amounts contributed to ICRP. A decision was made to prepare an MOU between IRPA and ICRP to facilitate IRPA's long-term support. Work is bound to grow between both organizations and if IRPA wants to be the voice of RP professionals, it is important to set up this type of cooperation, with the contribution of all RP members in the world.

The President has received a letter from the Argentinian AS inviting the IRPA Executive Council to participate in the 2015 Congress in Argentina (April 12-17, 2015) and to have the 67th EC Meeting at that same period. The invitation was unanimously accepted.

Bernard Le Guen
IRPA Executive Officer

International Radiation Protection Association

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 www.irpa.net

Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) - The UK Society Affiliated to IRPA

Originally a chapter of the American Health Physics Society, the SRP (www.srp-uk.org) held its inaugural meeting on 8th May 1963 at Imperial College, London. Membership grew rapidly from the original 64 and now stands at over 2200 making it the second largest society affiliated to IRPA.

We have been proud to host two very successful IRPA Congresses: IRPA2 in Brighton in 1972 and IRPA13 in Glasgow in 2012. The theme of the Glasgow Congress was 'Engaging with Society' – and we managed to do just that when we engaged with 1200 local school children for a special one day student exhibition and lecture. In fact it made such an impact that it's now a regular feature at our main annual conference each year and means we are bringing RP to a new audience around the country in line with one of our main charitable objectives.

All our members receive a copy of the *Journal of Radiological Protection* (<http://iopscience.iop.org/0952-4746/>) as part of their subscription; launched in 1981 it is now established as a high level international publication read widely by subscribers around the world. We also have a vibrant website to support members' needs, together with a Weekly Update email system.

One of our highlights in recent years was being granted a Royal Charter in 2007. It represents the highest level of recognition in the UK for any professional body, and is therefore a great honour for SRP and the radiological protection profession. We now award the title of Chartered Radiation Protection Professional (CRadP) to eligible members.

The main governing body of the Society is our Council which is currently made up of 14 Trustees. There are also over 20 committees focusing on various activities and sectors. We organise around 6-10 events each year with the spring annual 3 day meeting (incorporating AGM and Annual Dinner) being a major diary date.

Our International Committee is made up of members of SRP and our UK Partner Societies (Association of University Radiation Protection Officers, British Institute of Radiology, British Nuclear Medicine Society, Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, Royal College of Radiologists and Society & College of Radiographers) and provides a mechanism for members of these societies to join IRPA, and hence acts as a forum for co-operation to develop UK inputs and responses to IRPA and associated international activities.

We are now in our second half century and a full history of our first 50 years is available here (www.irpa.net/page.asp?id=54565). We welcome any enquiries about our activities from our colleagues around the world and look forward to meeting you at IRPA events.

Professor Peter Marsden CRadP
President
president@srp-uk.org



23 Past Presidents at SRP 50th Annual Conference (Harrogate, May 2013).



The first SRP Schools Event (Glasgow, May 2012)



IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a Radiation Protection Culture

In June, 2014 IRPA published the final version of its Guiding Principles for Establishing a Radiation Protection Culture. Congratulations!

The purpose of “IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a Radiation Protection Culture” is to capture the opinion and standpoint of radiation protection (RP) professionals on the essential components of a radiation protection culture. Developed in an inclusive and consultative approach involving all the stakeholders, this document aims at both fostering a belief in the success of cultural approaches, and providing guidance to help equip radiation protection professionals to promote a successful RP culture in their organisation and workplace. It should help RP practitioners in establishing their own practical guidelines and recommendations, commensurate with their own specific issues and should be owned at the highest management level in organizations.

Embedding RP at a cultural level within an organization is by far the most effective way of delivering the performance to which we all aspire.

The concept of culture relates to the ideas, beliefs and customs that are shared and accepted by people in a society. There are no differences between sectors (medical, nuclear, industry), whereby radiation protection culture can be understood as a combination of habits and knowledge of RP in all its aspects for workers, patients, population and the environment, and in all exposure situations, combining scientific and social dimensions.

There are several possible development stages of radiation protection culture. One such model can be said to include three main developmental stages; basic compliance, self-directed safety compliance and a behavioral safety system. The objective of any culture development program is to move the organizational and individual behaviors towards the highest stage.

Strong leadership, education and training, establishment of a positive behavior at the working place and proper communication among all practitioners have a definite impact on radiation protection culture. Similarly, learning from events, incidents and near misses is an important part of culture development.

A combination of optimal tools is required to assess the level and quality of radiation protection culture, not only to measure the identified criteria of success, but also to stimulate judgments and observations about positive or negative trends.

RP professionals within an organization must take the central role in supporting management to drive and embed radiation protection culture throughout the organization. In addressing their wider responsibilities, the radiation protection practitioners must be aware that some interaction with wider stakeholders can assist in the development and application of workplace culture.

The IRPA Associate Societies (AS) have a key role in supporting the RP professional who is in the front line in the promotion of RP culture.

Developing a “field culture” in addition to the science, engineering or medical culture is a way to anticipate problems and to obtain the commitment of all employees. Radiation protection culture is a learned way of life.

For details, please visit: <http://www.irpa.net/page.asp?id=179>

IRPA Egypt



IRPA Egypt joined the IRPA family in 1992. Currently, Prof. Mohamed GOMAA is the president and Prof. Rifaat ELSHINAWY is the secretary. IRPA Egypt members include radiation protection experts from Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority (EAEA) and other centers. International activities of IRPA Egypt include participating in the First African Radiation Protection Congress (AFRIRPA) in South Africa (2003), organizing the second AFRIRPA in Egypt in (2007), participating in the third AFRIRPA in Kenya in (2010), and future participation in AFRIRPA04 and IRPA 14 Congress. National activities of IRPA Egypt include organizing the Radiation Physics and Protection Conferences regularly, every two years, since 1992, with the 12th Conference to be held in Qena / Luxor in November 2014.

Other activities include supervising radiation protection training courses that held in Egypt, translating several ICRP Publications and IRPA Bulletin No (1) into Arabic. IRPA Egypt offers radiation protection services to institutes, companies, and hospitals etc. For more information, please visit IRPA Egypt website is <http://www.irpa-egypt.com>.

Photo: IRPA Egypt radiation protection workshop, Cairo 2010 (article and photo provided by Prof. M. Gomaa)

