



ICRP Main Commission
Abu Dhabi, 20th October 2013

International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

Role of IRPA and collaboration with ICRP

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What is IRPA?



IRPA is...

THE international association of radiological protection practitioners, joining through national or regional Associate Societies



49 Associate Societies

62 Countries

Nearly 18,000 individual members



Value & Strength

Nearly 18,000 individual members from

- *regulatory bodies,*
- *industry,*
- *medicine,*
- *research,*
- *education*
-

Enormous resource of practical knowledge and experience in radiation protection and related specialist fields





IRPA's Vision

IRPA is recognized by its members, stakeholders and the public as the ***international voice of the radiation protection profession*** in the enhancement of radiation protection culture and practice worldwide.

The Principal Challenge: Making this Vision a reality



Radiation Protection in a changing society

some views

Challenges in the **application of the system of protection**

- *society demands an **holistic approach** in justification and its resulting decisions – radiological risks should not be considered in isolation*
- *Forward-looking evaluation of **risks of new technologies**, techniques, practices is necessary*

Challenges regarding **legal provisions of the system of protection**

How responsibly are we handling scientifically proven risks (**protection**) and risks which are not finally and completely scientifically proven (**precaution**)?

Design of the communication for the mediation of risks – **public perception**
public understanding of radiation risk



IRPA Strategic Priorities 2012-2016

- **Effective and focussed engagement** with other **international organizations** e.g. ICRP, IAEA, ILO, UNSCEAR, NEA, EC, WHO, IOMP.....based on the experience of 18000 practitioners
- Embed the **sharing of good practice** and professionalism in Associate Societies and individual members through the development of Guiding Principles, the support and coordination of education and training and the convening of effective Congresses
- **Foster communication**, the sharing of knowledge and the building of competence concerning global safety matters between and within Associate Societies
- **Support young practitioners and scientists** in their work in radiation protection, in their education and training, and in their efforts to become members of the radiation protection community
- **Establishment of effective Associate Societies** and associated practices, with particular emphasis on less-developed countries



Radiation Protection Strategy and Practice Committee



Objective

To lead and focus IRPA's interactions with the principal International Organisations and the Associate Societies in order to ensure that the experience of radiation protection practitioners is effectively applied in the development of the System of Protection, and to ensure that the practitioners are informed of current issues and outcomes.

- *Scanning the current and forward work programmes of IO's*
- *Identifying other current key issues which warrant further discussion and development at the international level*
- *Taking into account of the 'Outcomes' of IRPA Congresses in helping to determine the views of the profession*

Specific issues dealt with through specific Task Groups

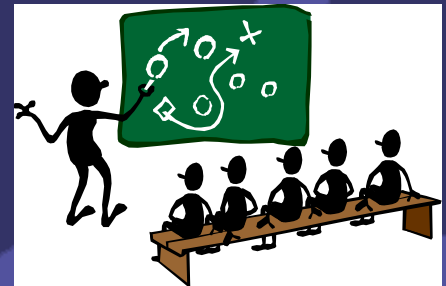
ICRP getting feedback/learning from the profession identified on the horizon

Task Groups / Activities

- Public understanding of radiation risks
- Implementation of the revised dose limits for the lens of the eyes
- Security of radioactive sources
- Education and Training / Young professional network
- RP Certification and Qualification

Goal of document for IRPA 14 Congress, 2016

- *Guiding Principles on Radiation Protection Culture
Report ready for publication*





The BSS process which introduced a new eye lens dose limit was perhaps rushed? Many practitioners were concerned!

- *Were the implications for application properly considered?*
- *Was the consultation with practitioners ignored by the IAEA because of time constraints?*
- *Didn't the practitioners take it seriously enough when first information on a possible drastic reduction of limits was given by ICRP (e.g. in the RASSC meeting of IAEA) more than one year before?*

IRPA recognized that the transfer from science to practice wasn't done in a satisfying way. The impact on practice is still an interesting topic to be evaluated.

IRPA offers an early cooperation in assessing the impact of new scientific results and resulting recommendations.



Task Group on Public Understanding of Radiation Risk

Objective

To encourage and support the Associate Societies in the development of effective means of enhancing public understanding of radiation risk through the **sharing of good practice, ideas and resource material.**

Library of good practice activities:

- Position Papers
- Web site information
- Ask-the-Expert questions and answers
- 'Talking Heads'
- Press releases and media liaison
- Schools Events and wider education programmes.....

*Code of Ethics
Established 2004*

*Stakeholder Engagement
Guiding Principles 2008*

Education and Training



System of Protection

Key Issue:

Practicability of RP system

scientific stringency

in accordance with accepted ethical

political and social values

*but also culturally aligned
and more easily understandable*

Essential: engagement and involvement of practitioners

Cooperation between IRPA and ICRP

in investigating the ethical and social values underlying the System of Protection



System of Protection Ethical Dimensions

Workshops with Associated Societies

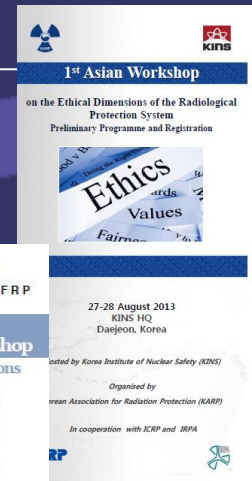
KARP Daejeon/Korea 27-28 August 2013

AIRP, SFRP Milan/Italy 16-18 December 2013

HPS, CRPA Baltimore/USA July 2014



- *Consideration of scientific uncertainty,*
- *Differences in terms of requirements for the protection of workers and the public,*
- *Rationality of dose limits,*
- *Exposure of future generations,*
- *Place to be give to stakeholders in RP*



Consultation with Practitioners

Sessions in Regional and International IRPA Congresses



Task Group on Education and Training

Objective

To develop ideas and establish priorities for the implementation of E&T activities (action plan)

- **Cooperation with international and regional organizations** dealing with E&T in Radiation Protection: IAEA, ETRAP conference, ENETRAP/EUTERP, AAHP
- **E&T actions within IRPA:**
 - Refresher courses*
 - Discussion forums during IRPA Congresses*
 - Webpage: with announcements and resources database*
- **Support to E&T actions organized by Associate Societies:**
 - Share, Coordinate, Networking, Young generations*

Refresher courses for professionals
Outreach to young professionals



Upcoming IRPA Congresses

IRPA Regional Conferences

Asia: Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia, 12 – 16 May 2014



Europe: Geneva / Switzerland, 23 - 27 June 2014



Africa: Rabat / Morocco, 13 – 17 September 2014



Latin America: Buenos Aires /Argentina 13 – 18 April 2015

IRPA International Conference IRPA14

Cape Town / South Africa 9 -13 May 2016



IRPA is strongly interested in an active participation of ICRP



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**Looking forward to a successful collaboration
in implementing the system for protection**