



XI Latin American Regional IRPA Congress

(Cuban Radiation Protection Society)

It is a pleasure to announce the XI Latin American Regional IRPA Congress on Radiation Protection and Safety to be held in Havana (Cuba), heritage of humanity and wonder of the modern world, 23-27 April, 2018.

This IRPA Regional Congress is organized by the Cuban Radiation Protection Society with full support from all radiation-related institutions and organizations in Cuba, as well as all of the Radiation Protection Societies of Latin American and the Caribbean countries. The Congress also has the support of IAEA, PAHO, WHO, FORO (Foro of Iberoamerican Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Authorities) and FRALC (Federation of Radioprotection of Latin America and the Caribbean).

The President of the Congress is Juan Cárdenas Herrera, currently president of the Cuban Radiation Protection Society. The President of the Scientific Committee is Ruben Ferro Fernández (Cuba). All of the organizations and institutions that support the congress have a representative in this committee.

The Congress will have a full program with many activities, such as master lectures, refresher courses, oral and poster presentation of papers, round tables and panels of discussion and a technical exhibition. There are also scheduled a Young Professional Award Ceremony, an IRPA EC meeting, and a meeting for the representatives of Latin American RP Societies. In addition, the Congress will also offer a range of social and cultural activities.

This Congress will be an excellent opportunity to promote the scientific debate among professionals in the field of radiological safety, under the theme "Safety culture, a shared commitment", to enhance networking among radiation protection professionals, and to exchange operational experiences and scientific knowledge. Spanish will be the language of the congress but presentations in English will be accepted and participants from all over the world will be friendly welcomed.

For more information, please visit: www.irpacuba.com



XI CONGRESO REGIONAL
de SEGURIDAD RADIOLÓGICA
y NUCLEAR

Cultura de seguridad, un compromiso compartido

23 al 27 de abril 2018
Palacio de Convenciones
La Habana, Cuba

Your IRPA Commission on Publications

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President's Blog

(Roger Coates, IRPA President)

We have just had our 'annual' Executive Council meeting in Reykjavik, and it is quite salutary to realise that we are now almost one third of the way through our current four year term. But our programme is well under way and lots of things are happening. In particular you will shortly see the outcome of our consultation on the System of Protection, where the views of the practitioners on the challenges in our current approach, and how best to improve it, are quite strong, clear and exciting. Watch this space!

It is clear from many recent exchanges that our international organisation partners are all very keen to work with IRPA, illustrating the fact that IRPA really is now regarded as 'the international voice of the radiation protection profession'. Of course, the respect is mutual, and we will be working with them as we deliver our 2018 Regional Congresses in Europe (The Hague, 4-8 June), Asia/Oceania (Melbourne, 20-23 May), Latin America (Havana, 23-27 April) and Africa (Tunis, 6-9 Sept – we hope!). We certainly hope to see you at one of these important meetings.

Task Group on Radioactive Source Security – Update

(Tony Peters, Chair, IRPA TG on Radioactive Source Security)

Radioactive source security is important to ensure that sources are used safely by authorised personnel but are prevented from being used maliciously by an adversary. IRPA set up a task group (TG) for Radioactive Source Security in 2015 but for various reasons the TG did not progress. In 2016, I took on leadership of the TG and put out a call for Associate Societies to nominate suitably motivated members to join the TG. I am pleased to say that we currently have 21 members, spread across all continents.

The objective of the Radioactive Source Security Task Group is to support and encourage the awareness and development of a strong responsibility and knowledge amongst radiation protection practitioners regarding the security of radioactive sources, including the promotion of an enhanced security culture and the synergies between radioactive source safety and security.

The TG is a virtual group that does not meet face to face. We are currently finalising the Terms of Reference for the TG, and should soon have a source security page on the IRPA website.

May I thank those members of the TG that have, or were volunteered for the contributions they have made to the TG to date. Long may it continue.



The 50th JHPS Annual Meeting

(International Affairs Committee of JHPS)

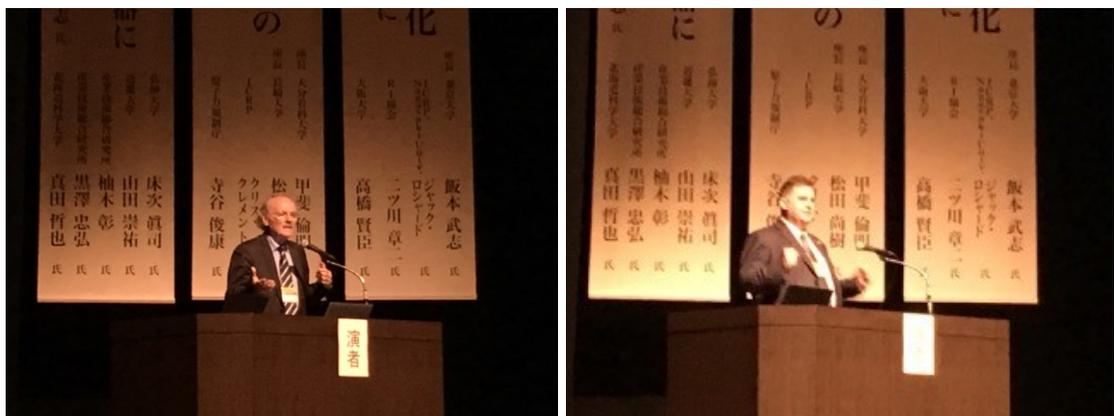
The memorable 50th annual meeting of the Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS) was held as a joint meeting with the 16th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Radiation Safety Management (JRSM) during June 28-30, 2017 at the Horuto Hall Oita.

The president of the JHPS, Prof. Michiaki Kai of Oita University of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the president of the JRSM, Prof Naoki Matsuda of Nagasaki University celebrated the first joint meeting of the two societies, and expressed their gratitude to the members of the organizing committee, program committee members and other staffs who have been devoted to the preparation for the meeting in the opening session.

The main themes of the presentations were the following: environmental radioactivity, Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident, practical health physics, radioactive waste, medical exposure, prevention and emergency response, education, radiation measurement, regulation, application, radon and thoron, occupational exposure of medical staff, radiation effect and risk estimation, dosimetry. More than 400 participants, including professors, medical professionals, researchers, operators, regulators, students, etc. were gathered and discussed on the recent progress of their researches and shared valuable information and experiences related to radiological protection.

Fortunately, JHPS and JRSM had two special international guest speakers for the joint meeting. At the symposium on the radiological culture and safety culture, Prof. Jacques Lochard at Nagasaki University, ICRP Vice-Chair, made a keynote lecture on a challenge for professionals of radiological protection. Prof. Lochard brought his experience in Belarus and Fukushima, and identified important points to build trust and confidence with the affected people. At the panel discussion on research-collaboration initiatives for radiological protection by partnership among academic societies and associations, Christopher Clement, ICRP Scientific Secretary and IRPA Publications Director, made a presentation on radiological protection issues and collaboration from the viewpoint of current activities of the international organizations, including ICRP, IRPA and UNSCEAR.

A number of plenary sessions were held focusing on the latest topics rehabilitation support in affected areas after the Fukushima accident and a Pu-239 contamination accident in JAEA-Oarai, etc. Five parallel sessions were held in terms of oral presentations. Nearly 100 poster presentations were displayed and fruitful discussions were done among the participants. All participants enjoyed this unique opportunity and expected to continue close relationship between both societies. The next annual meeting of the JHPS will be held in Sapporo city in June 2018.





The 11th Symposium of the Croatian Radiation Protection Association

(Marina Poje Sovilj & Ines Krajcar Bronić)

The 11th Symposium of the Croatian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA) with international participation was held in Osijek, Croatia, April 5 – 7, 2017. The Symposium was attended by ninety participants: seventy of them came from Croatian scientific research and government institutions, universities, health and economy sector, and twenty participants from abroad (representatives from Denmark, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia).

The following subjects were covered: general topics in the science of radiation and radiation protection, ethics and culture in radiation protection, radiation protection in medicine, biological effects of radiation, radiation dosimetry, instrumentation and measurement techniques, radioecology, exposure of the general population to radiation, radon and non-ionizing radiation. The main theme of the Symposium “Ethics and Culture in radiation protection” comprised four lectures, held by Ines Krajcar Bronić (Ethical principles in radiation protection), Jelena Popić Ramač (Culture of radiation protection in medicine), Maria Ranogajec Komor (Ethics of ionizing radiation protection in pediatric radiology of the upper respiratory tract) and Sanja Dolanski Babić (What do students at the Medical Faculty in Zagreb can learn about radiation protection in their physics education).

A total of 61 papers were presented at the Symposium, including 35 oral and 26 poster presentations. Important issues raised include: inadequate translation from English into the Croatian language of the European Commission's laws, directives and recommendations concerning various aspects of ionizing radiation protection, harmonization of conditions for radiation protection experts (RPE) and medical physics experts (MPE), problem of finding a radioactive waste disposal site in the Republic of Croatia, implementation of the EU directive on the protection against radon exposure both to the general population and to the professionally exposed groups. The proceedings are available at <http://www.hdzz.hr/simpoziji/>.



(Some of the Symposium participants at the Monument Battle of Batina in Batina during the excursion)



Argentine Radiation Protection Society (SAR) **More than 50 years strengthening radiation protection**

(Ana Maria Bomben, President of SAR)

The Argentine Radiation Protection Society (SAR) has celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016. In the past 50 years, SAR has been strongly committed to meeting the objectives set by the founders. To strengthen radiation protection, SAR is working on education and training by delivering courses covering a wide spectrum of radiation protection topics, providing an initial basic professional training in radiation protection and safety for young professionals who will become trainers in later years, organizing and promoting conferences, symposia, congresses, courses and other events on radiation protection and supporting the active participation of Argentine RP professionals and technicians in these events. As an example, SAR has given financial support to some members of the society, especially young professionals, to participate in IRPA Regional and International Congresses.

One of the most important milestones in relation to the exchange of expertise in radiation protection was the International Congress IRPA 12, organized by SAR in October 2008 in Buenos Aires. In April 2015, SAR organized the X Latinamerican IRPA Regional Congress. Now, on the 15th April every year, SAR celebrates the Radiation Protection Day with a special meeting.

SAR is promoting radiation protection in Latin America, reaching professionals in their own language by translating relevant radiation protection documents into Spanish and posting them on SAR website free of charge, and as founding member of the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Radiation Protection Societies (FRALC), increasing relations with scientific associations in Argentina and in the region.

The plan for the coming years includes: to develop a strategy for effective communication on radiation protection to the public; to sponsor the next IRPA Latinamerican Regional Congress that will be held in Havana, Cuba, in April 2018; to promote radiation protection as a professional expertise and to contribute to its progress and to continue working for a significant improvement in all radiation protection fields.

We invite you to visit SAR website: www.radioproteccionsar.org.ar



SAR Executive Council (from left to right: Norberto Bruno, Vice president; Nora Mohamad, Member; Ana María Bomben, President; and Alejandro Leciñana, Member)



Société Française de Radioprotection (SFRP)

(Bernard LeGuen, IRPA Executive Officer)

The Société Française de Radioprotection (SFRP), founded on 18 February 1965, has nearly 1,300 members who are professionals from various backgrounds. Members include engineers, researchers, developers, technicians, physicians, inspectors, professors, students, pensioners..., engaged or having an interest in various fields of activities related to the protection of ionising and non-ionising radiation.

For 50 years, the association's objectives have been to share experience and practices between professionals, to encourage exchanges of information between specialists and non-specialists, to promote the culture of radiation protection, to strengthen international collaborations, and to disseminate information to various non-professional stakeholders involved in radiation protection.

SFRP covers various fields of radiation protection:

- Effects of ionising and non-ionising radiation on human health and the environment;
- Risk assessment and management;
- Strategy and regulation in the field of radiation protection;
- Techniques and know-how, good practices and experience feedback;
- Information and training;
- Ethical and societal dimensions of radiation protection;

SFRP action aims to promote professional good practices in the interests of and with the greatest respect for the pluralism of its members, in an open manner.

SFRP offers its members ready access to various activities and publications:

- Exchange meetings and technical visits organized by its technical groups (Research & Health, Environment, Technical Protection, Individuals Qualified in Radiation Protection, Non-ionising Radiation), by its "History Club", and by its Young Professional club.
- National congress, topical days and round tables (5 or 6 per year) usually organized in partnership with other French or foreign professional societies. About 2,200 people participate in SFRP days every year.

Created in 1966, the journal 'Radioprotection' presents several scientific and technical articles (in French or in English). This journal has acquired international recognition and benefits today from an impact factor higher than 0.5.

SFRP is affiliated to the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) whose purpose is to be the international voice of the radiation protection profession.

In order to strengthen its international collaborations, SFRP set up an International Relations Committee (IRC). The committee has unique relationships with IRPA and other international radiation protection societies.

On a regular basis, SFRP organizes technical meetings with foreign associate societies (to name just a few: recently with ABR in 2010, with ARRAD and FS in 2012 and 2016). These meetings are always enriching opportunities to share experience and exchange on various topics.

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Jointly with AIRP, SEPR, and RPS radioprotection societies, SFRP has organized two workshops on the ethical dimensions on radiological protection system (2013, 2015).

SFRP has taken the lead in organizing the IRPA workshop on reasonableness in the implementation of the ALARA principle, which took place in February 2017. A second workshop is planned for autumn 2018.

Together with the English and Austrian young clubs, the SFRP Young professional Club has launched an electronic survey for the young radiation protection professionals and scientists to obtain background on competence, current job positions, securing and fostering the future.

SFRP maintains a strong cooperation with Canadian, Tunisian, and Belgium societies with a view to provide French presentations during their respective national congresses.



www.sfrp.asso.fr