



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE #51



The IRPA Executive Council wrapped up their 3-day business session in Beijing by meeting with the gracious hosts of AOCRP-7, the China Society of Radiation Protection

In this issue:

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS - IT'S CONGRESS SEASON! - 2

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMPETENCE IN RADIATION PROTECTION
WITH THE GERMAN-SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION - 4**

**FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER FUKUSHIMA: PRESERVING AND SHARING
RADIATION RISK COMMUNICATION LESSONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS - 10**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: IRPA TASK GROUP ON PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING
(2026-2028) - 13**

UPDATES ON THE WOMEN IN RADIATION (WIR) CHARTER - 14

NEWS FROM THE YOUNG GENERATION NETWORK - 15

A MONTREAL FUND UPDATE - 16

UPCOMING EVENTS - 17

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

REGIONAL CONGRESS SEASON IS IN FULL SWING!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Or maybe years, plural, as the IRPA regional congresses span 2026 and 2027 in this term. In our last issue, we published some highlights from the European Regional Congress in Liverpool, UK. This time around, we were in Beijing, China for the 7th Asia-Oceanic Congress for Radiation Protection. The hosts for the Congress, the China Society for Radiation Protection, went all out, as you can see from the giant Congress sign outside the hotel - just one of many that were displayed throughout the venue, and a small taste of the Congress setup itself.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

REGIONAL CONGRESS SEASON IS IN FULL SWING!

The Congress covered topics across the full range of radiation protection, from radiation measurement and dosimetry, biological effects, environmental monitoring, medical applications, emergency response, and everything in between. There were also special sessions focused groups that are very close to IRPA's heart, particularly the Young Generation Network. The Women in Radiation Group was also involved in several sessions throughout the Congress, and members signed a renewed commitment to empowering women and advancing radiation protection through leadership, AI empowerment, collaboration, capacity building, and sustained career development.

Several talks involved, either directly or indirectly, a topic at the top of everyone's minds these days - the ongoing review of the System of Radiological Protection by the ICRP, and the eventual publication of updated Recommendations. These will be continued next year in the same place, as Beijing will also host the 2027 ICRP Symposium.



So while AOCRP-7 has come and gone, there are still many more opportunities to network with your colleagues coming up. The Latin American Regional Congress in Medellin, Colombia takes place in just a few weeks, and the African Regional Congress will be held in February, 2027. We hope to see you there - and if not, then we will certainly see you all in Valencia for IRPA 17 in 2028!



CELEBRATE 60 YEARS WITH THE GERMAN-SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION



Celebrating 60 Years of Competence in Radiation Protection with the German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS) e.V.

Authors:

Martina Froning: President of the German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS) e.V., Member of the International Congress Program Committee (ICPC) 2028 Valencia

Renate Czarwinski: Member of Board of the German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS) e.V., Member of the International Congress Organizing Committee (ICOC) 2028 Valencia

Bärbl Maushart: Editorial Board of the StrahlenschutzPRAXIS of the German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS) e.V.

Dear Colleagues,

I would just like to briefly introduce myself. My name is Martina Froning, and I am the current president of the [German Swiss Association for Radiation Protection \(FS\)](#), one of the founding members of the IRPA.

This year, the FS is celebrating its 60th anniversary, and we would like to share our story with you — from the beginning to the present.

60 years of the German Swiss Association for Radiation Protection also means 60 years of international cooperation in IRPA.

Let's continue to advocate for effective radiation protection worldwide for the benefit of people and the environment.

Yours, Martina Froning



CELEBRATE 60 YEARS WITH THE GERMAN-SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION



German-Swiss Radiation Protection Association

Fachverband für Strahlenschutz e.V. (FS)



Our professional competencies in practice

Froning M., Bothe M., Czarwinski R., Feinhals J., Walther C.

German-Swiss Radiation Protection Association, Jork/ Germany

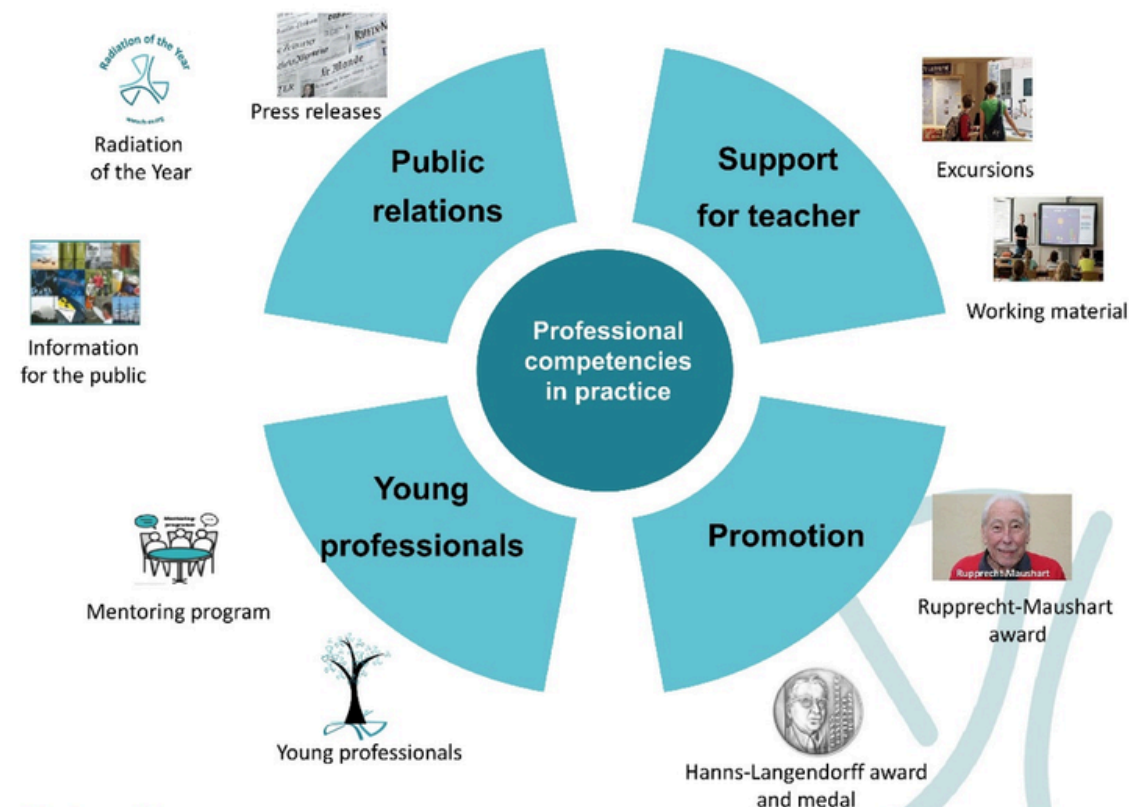
Effective radiation protection requires broadly anchored

- expertise,
- encompassing knowledge,
- skills, and abilities

across research, industry, and administration.

The German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS) places particular emphasis on educating young people about radioactivity and radiation protection.

The FS actively contributes to the acquisition of specialist knowledge during studies and in the workplace, to radiation protection for emergency services, to knowledge transfer in working groups, and much more.



Outreach

- Annual conferences, also in cooperation with other associations of IRPA
- Exchange of information in our 14 topical task groups
- Magazine "StrahlenschutzPRAXIS"
- Website with up-to-date information
- Brochures "StrahlenschutzKOMPAKT"
- Annual radiometric FS-seminar

Further informations:
www.fs-ev.org



Contact:
fs-gf@fs-ev.org

Public relations:



CELEBRATE 60 YEARS WITH THE GERMAN-SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION

A Look at the History of the FS

The German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS) e.V. was founded in June 1966. The history of the FS is closely intertwined with the development of international radiation protection and with the establishment of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA).

From European cooperation to international collaboration

The development of radiation protection societies in which Germany was involved began at the international level. In 1963, the **European Radiation Protection Society** was founded. At the time, **Peter Courvoisier** from Switzerland served as President, with **Rupprecht Maushart** of Germany as General Secretary.

The need for broader international cooperation soon became apparent. In response, the Health Physics Society (HPS) in the United States initiated efforts to establish an international association for radiation protection.

In 1963–64, HPS President William T. Ham Jr. established an Ad Hoc Committee on the Internationalization of Health Physics. The committee appointed a working group to develop the fundamental principles, objectives and vision of a new international radiation protection organization. Among the members of the preliminary Executive Committee were Rupprecht Maushart, representing the Federal Republic of Germany, and Peter Courvoisier, representing Switzerland.



**IRPA Pro Tempore Executive Council Paris,
2.12.1964 from left: Halter (B), Marko (CN),
Maushart (D), Courvoisier (CH), Duhamel (F)**

The historic meeting took place in **Paris from 30 November to 3 December 1964**. It laid the foundations for what would become the **International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)** - an international organization bringing together national radiation protection societies from around the world.

The first international IRPA congress and general assembly took place in Rome in September 1966. The congress dinner took place at the Castel Sant'Angelo in the center of Rome



CELEBRATE 60 YEARS WITH THE GERMAN-SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION



Official congress photo from the opening session of IRPA 1 in Rome. In the 3rd row you can see: Bärbl Maushart, Rupprecht Maushart, and Hans Kiefer, the 1st president of the FS

The Founding of the FS

Just three months before the establishment of the IRPA, the German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS) e.V. was founded.

A politically significant event — the reunification of the two German states in 1989 — led to the merger of the FS with the Association for Radiation Research and Radiation Protection (VSS), which had been established in East Germany. The celebration took place in Aachen in 1991.

From the outset, the FS placed a strong emphasis on professional exchange and collaboration. Working groups dedicated to specific areas of radiation protection were established at an early stage. Today, 14 working groups continue this tradition, supporting the FS's overarching objective: **to promote safety in the use and handling of ionizing radiation.**

CELEBRATE 60 YEARS WITH THE GERMAN-SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION

The FS today

With around 1,400 members today, the FS is dedicated to protecting people and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation—whether from natural sources or applications in technology, medicine, and research. The FS supports radiation protection professionals across industry, academia, healthcare, and public authorities in Germany and Switzerland, while delivering expert, independent information to the public independently of economic interests.

Beyond the work of our expert groups, a cornerstone of our public outreach is our quarterly member magazine, StrahlenschutzPRAXIS. Each issue focuses on a dedicated theme alongside general radiation protection insights. The publication was edited by Rupprecht Maushart from 1995 to 2011, with Bärbl Maushart taking over as editor in 2012.



The members of the editorial committee at an editorial meeting at TÜV MEDIA in Cologne in February 2025. From left: Paul Fischer, Susanne Severitt, Rainer Gellermann, Peter Hill, Online Jan-Willem Vahlbruch, Bärbl Maushart, Online Ekkehard Martini, Renate Czarwinski, Hansruedi Völkle, Martina Froning, Sven Nagels



CELEBRATE 60 YEARS WITH THE GERMAN-SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION

Since its founding, the German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (FS e.V.) has evolved into the leading German-speaking voice for radiological protection professionals. Backed by six decades of expertise, our 14 specialized working groups and dedicated Young Professionals continue to set key milestones in outreach, research, and professional guidance:

- exchange of information in our 14 working groups e.g. by meetings
- the quarterly member magazine 'StrahlenschutzPRAXIS'
- website with up-to-date information
- annual conferences, also in cooperation with other associations of IRPA
- 'StrahlenschutzKOMPAKT', a series of informative brochures designed to make radiation protection topics accessible to the public
- webinars on radiation protection
- annual Radiometric FS-Seminar
- the 'Radiation of the Year' : The FS has established the initiative 'Radiation of the Year' to enhance public awareness of radiation topics. Each year, one type of radiation is selected. Possible selection criteria are either anniversary of its discovery, milestone birthday of a scientist involved in the radiation's discovery or important applications, or current societal events or issues.
- Young Professionals (YP): The Young Professionals are a group of young, committed FS members who champion the interests of young members within the professional association. They are involved in international groups such as the IRPA Young Generation Network and the European X-YGN Collaboration Hub.

Building on the legacy established six decades ago by our founding pioneers, we are committed to sharing our experience and knowledge with the next generation of professionals.

We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with IRPA and the Associate Societies.

Last but not least:

Since the founding of the FS, regional IRPA conferences have been a cornerstone of our international engagement. We are delighted that the FS will host the next regional IRPA conference in Dresden, Germany, in 2030, focused on the theme 'Radiation Protection in a Changing Technical Landscape'.

Warm greeting from Germany and we look forward to welcoming radiation protection experts from around the world to Dresden.



FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER FUKUSHIMA: PRESERVING AND SHARING RADIATION RISK COMMUNICATION LESSONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Takahiko Kono

Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS)

Chair, International Radiation Protection Association Young Generation Network (IRPA YGN) Leadership Committee, 2023~2026

Former Vice Chair, Steering Committee for Q&A about Radiation in Daily Life, JHPS



Why Fukushima's Communication Experience Still Matters

Fifteen years after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, the radiation protection community continues to reflect on the lessons learned from one of the most significant radiological events of the 21st century. While considerable attention has been devoted to emergency response, environmental remediation, and health assessment, another important legacy deserves continued attention: radiation risk communication. The Fukushima experience showed that communication is not a secondary activity supporting radiation protection, but an essential part of radiation protection itself.

In August 2026, the Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS) launched the English-language version of its long-standing public communication initiative, Questions and Answers on Radiation in Daily Life.

A Valuable Record of Public Concerns During a Nuclear Emergency

Following the accident in March 2011, members of the public sought information on a wide range of issues, including radiation health effects, food safety, environmental contamination, protective actions, and the implications of radiation exposure for children and families. In response, volunteers from JHPS established an online question-and-answer platform to address these concerns.

The initiative later evolved into a formal activity of JHPS. Supported by 24 members of the Young Researchers' Association, the project answered 1,870 questions submitted by the public. Eighty representative questions and answers were selected and published in a book. To make this experience accessible to a wider international audience, the content was subsequently translated into English and compiled into a dedicated website, which was launched worldwide in August 2026. By making these experiences available in English, JHPS aims to support international knowledge sharing and contribute to preparedness for future radiological and nuclear emergencies. The website offers an opportunity for radiation protection professionals, communicators, and interested members of the public to explore practical lessons from Fukushima and reflect on how communication can support effective radiation protection.



FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER FUKUSHIMA: PRESERVING AND SHARING RADIATION RISK COMMUNICATION LESSONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The English version of the website can be accessed through the link below in both Japanese and English: <https://www.jhps.or.jp/cgi-bin/faq/page.cgi>. These questions remain relevant today because similar concerns would likely arise in any future radiological or nuclear emergency.

The image displays two versions of the Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS) website. The top version is in Japanese, featuring a header with the JHPS logo and the text '一般社団法人 日本保健物理学会'. A navigation bar includes links for 'HOME', '学会案内', '大会・行事', '学会誌', 'NEWSLETTER', and '報告書等'. The main content area is titled '保健物理(Health Physics)とは' and contains a detailed text block about the society's mission and history, set against a background image of a large green lawn and trees. Below this, there are sections for '理事会' and 'イベント案内'. The bottom version of the website is in English, showing the 'Japan Health Physics Society' logo and a navigation bar with links for 'HOME', 'General Information', 'Events', 'Publications', 'NEWSLETTER', and 'Reports'. A 'FAQ' button is highlighted in the left sidebar. The main content area features a note about language switching and a highlighted section titled '“Question and Answer about Radiation in Daily Life” after the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant'. The footer of the English version reads 'Japan Health Physics Society'.

Japanese and English versions of the JHPS website “Questions and Answers on Radiation in Daily Life after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident”.



FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER FUKUSHIMA: PRESERVING AND SHARING RADIATION RISK COMMUNICATION LESSONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

From Information Provision to Dialogue

One of the key lessons from Fukushima was that effective communication cannot be achieved solely through the dissemination of scientifically accurate information. The experience demonstrated the importance of listening, acknowledging uncertainties, and engaging respectfully with affected communities. Other important lessons include:

- Communication should begin with listening rather than explaining.
- Public concerns should not be assumed to mirror expert priorities.
- Scientific information must be accurate, clear, and accessible.
- Uncertainties should be communicated openly and transparently.
- Experience in risk communication should be preserved alongside technical knowledge.
- Trust can only develop over time through sustained, respectful engagement.

The new English-language website helps bridge a long-standing language gap and supports international knowledge sharing in radiation protection, risk communication, and emergency preparedness.

Looking Ahead

As the international radiation protection community prepares for future radiological and nuclear emergencies, the lessons of Fukushima remain highly relevant. Sharing these experiences across countries and generations can help ensure that valuable knowledge is preserved and applied in the future. The lasting lesson is that effective radiation protection depends not only on technical competence, but also on the ability to listen, communicate with humility, build trust over time, and prepare the next generation to continue this work.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: IRPA TASK GROUP ON PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING (2026–2028)

Help shape the future of public engagement on radiation and risk!

IRPA is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join its Task Group on Public Understanding for the 2026–2028 term, chaired by Professor Peter Bryant.

Building on IRPA's existing guidance, the Task Group will support Associate Societies and radiation protection professionals in improving public understanding of radiation and risk.

Our proposed priorities include:

- Developing practical guidance and resources for communicating radiation and risk.
- Sharing international experience, case studies and good practice in public engagement.
- Supporting Associate Societies and professionals in their public engagement activities.
- Exploring innovative approaches to engaging young people and wider audiences.

The specific priorities and deliverables will be agreed collaboratively with the new Task Group members.

Who should apply?

We welcome volunteers from across the international radiation protection community, bringing diverse experience, perspectives and ideas.

Young professionals are particularly encouraged to apply. Enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute are just as important as experience.

This is an active working group. Members must be prepared to commit time to virtual meetings, contribute to discussions and take responsibility for agreed activities.

How to get involved

All volunteers must be nominated or approved by their IRPA Associate Society. Interested individuals should contact their society to seek endorsement.

Nominations close: 27th November 2026

Submit nominations to: p.bryant@liverpool.ac.uk

Join us in strengthening public understanding of radiation and risk through international collaboration.

Professor Peter Bryant Chair, IRPA Task Group on Public Understanding

UPDATES ON THE WOMEN IN RADIATION (WiR) CHARTER

The IRPA [Women in Radiation \(WiR\) Charter](#) is a recent initiative from the WiR Task Group. By signing on to the Charter, Associate Societies commit to adopting the principles for gender equity and representation in radiation protection within their organizational policies, practices, action plans, and culture.

The Charter also allows each Associate Society to customize their commitments and pledge to complete specific actions for their own Society. For example, the Spanish Society for Radiation Protection (SEPR) recently signed the Charter, and included the following actions in their pledge:

- The Society's Board will propose to the SEPR General Assembly the establishment of the Women in SEPR" initiative, with the aim of providing this group with maximum visibility and representational capacity.
- The Society's Board will also propose to the SEPR General Assembly the establishment of an award recognizing women's contributions to radiological protection in our country, with the aim of improving their visibility and public recognition.
- SEPR will promote, within its training plans and programs, a gender perspective that enhances training opportunities specifically targeted at and designed for women.
- In addition, SEPR will support mentoring, networking, and inclusive participation initiatives, and will encourage the identification and monitoring of potential gender gaps to guide concrete actions and promote a sustainable, bias-free professional environment.

So far, the following Associate Societies have signed on to the Charter:

- SRP (UK)
- SEPR (Spain)
- ARPS (Australia)

Will your Society be next? Take this to your executive, and be a part of this fantastic initiative!



IRPA YOUNG GENERATION NETWORK (YGN) IN BEIJING

IRPA YGN Leadership Committee Asian Region Radiation Protection Associate Societies

On September 11, 2026, the Young Generation Network (YGN) Forum of the 7th Asian and Oceanic Congress on Radiation Protection (AOCRP-7) was successfully held in Beijing in a hybrid format, enabling participation from young professionals across the Asia-Oceania region and beyond. This format significantly increased accessibility and inclusiveness by allowing attendees to join regardless of travel constraints, fostering broader international exchange and networking. Centered on the theme "Ignite Young Wisdom, Advance Radiation Protection", the forum invited young representatives from IRPA and various associate societies of different countries—including China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and India—to share recent activities. Participants from the societies engaged in in-depth discussions and exchanges focusing on two key topics: initiatives to attract the younger generation in the field of Radiation Protection, and the application of AI in Radiation Protection across different countries.



The forum served as a platform to share valuable experiences regarding youth engagement in radiation protection across countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Australia, while showcasing the latest research findings from the young scholars to make solutions for strengthening the Radiation Protection. Topics ranged from the application of AI in nuclear radiation detection and nuclear medicine to lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident, the assessment of cross-border radiation from radionuclides, and public outreach on radiation science. These discussions highlighted the innovative practices and explorations undertaken by the young professionals in the Asia-Pacific region within the field of Radiation Protection. Jointly organized and hosted by youth representatives from multiple nations, the event drew active participation from professionals across various research institutes and industrial organizations. Attendees engaged in in-depth exchanges on topics such as the use of AI to drive the digitalization of Radiation Protection technologies, thereby effectively fostering cross-border knowledge sharing and research collaboration.

Supported by the IRPA, the forum establishes a high-level international exchange platform for the young professionals in the Asia-Pacific Radiation Protection domain; it helps to build a pipeline of future talent for the energy generation, medical sector, agriculture, isotope generation/applications, industries and research laboratories to play a positive role in fostering the collaborative and innovative developments of global Radiation Protection.



A MONTREAL FUND UPDATE

The Kevin Nelson challenge:

Six months ago, we wrote that Kevin Nelson, IRPA 16 President and current Executive Council member, had issued a personal challenge to us all - he will match individual contributions made to the Montreal Fund in 2026, up to a total aggregate of \$4000 USD.

So far, RP professionals around the world have contributed 3080 USD to the Montreal Fund to date. But there's still more to go! Your donations can still be matched. Let's fully accept Kevin's generous offer help our junior colleagues from developing nations get a good start in the international RP community.



Will you meet the Nelson Challenge? [Donate online now](#) to contribute and support young IRPA professionals!

IRPA 17 will Support the Montreal Fund

The organizers of IRPA 17 have generously agreed to support the MF by donating 10 EUR (about 11.6 USD) for each full-fee registered participant. If we meet our target of 1000 registrants for IRPA 17, this will provide over USD 11 600 to the Montreal Fund; and the more registrants there are, the more young participants we can help!

Support from the Montreal Fund to IRPA 17 participants

The IRPA EC decided at its meeting in Beijing early September that the MF would provide USD 50 000 to support participation of students and young professionals from developing countries or countries without an IRPA Associate Society in IRPA 17. Information on criteria, priorities and how to apply are on the [IRPA website](#), and will be provided on the IRPA 17 website and registration form.

IRPA 17
ENSURING RADIATION
PROTECTION FOR THE FUTURE



29 MAY - 2 JUNE 2028
VALENCIA • SPAIN



UPCOMING EVENTS



XIII Congreso Regional de
Seguridad Radiológica y Nuclear

XI Congreso Regional IRPA

18 al 22 de Octubre de 2026
Centro de Eventos Fórum UPB
Medellín-Colombia

Welcome to Medellín 2026

From **October 18 to 22, 2026**, Medellín will host the XIII Regional Congress on Radiological and Nuclear Safety, the XI Latin American IRPA Congress and the Ibero-American Meeting on Radiological Protection.

An event designed to unite **experience with future**, **technique with empathy**, **innovation with commitment**.

Among mountains, coffee, science and collaboration, this congress brings together all those who believe that protecting is also educating, researching, sharing and transforming.

From radiation protection to safety culture, each topic will be a bridge for dialogue, training and cooperation.

Because today more than ever,

Radiation protection needs community.

And that community will meet in **Medellín in 2026.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

AFRIRPA

7th African Regional Congress of the
International Radiation Protection Association

 **FEB 2nd–5th 2027**

 **Argyle Grand Hotel
Nairobi Kenya**

CALL FOR *Abstracts*

We invite researchers, professionals, practitioners, students and all stakeholders to submit abstracts for presentation at AFRIRPA 2027.

ABSTRACT
DEADLINE

31
OCTOBER
2026

THEME AREAS

-  **A** Radiation Protection in Healthcare
-  **B** Radiation Protection in Industrial and other practices
-  **C** RADON and Naturally Occuring Material (NORM)
-  **D** Communication, Stakeholder Involvement and Capacity Building
-  **E** Radiation Protection in Non-Ionizing Radiation Applications

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT HERE

 <https://afirpa.eaarp.co.ke/registration>



*Be part of shaping
a safer future
through radiation
protection!*

EAARP
Eastern African Association
for Radiation Protection

 **IRPA**
International Radiation
Protection Association



SEND US YOUR NEWS & EVENTS!

Do you have news to share? Send it to:

cop@irpa.net

We'll share it via the IRPA News and the IRPA Bulletin. Stories for the Bulletin are normally 200-300 words plus images.

We're always looking for updates from our Associate Societies for our Society Spotlight. Let us know what your society has been up to. Meetings, conferences, general events or any good news is always welcome!

Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Dave Niven

Bulletin Editors: Andrew Karam, Dave Niven

Associate Societies Liaison: Michèle Légaré

Website Manager: Dave Niven

Social Media Managers: Sara Dumit & Dave Niven

