IRPA’s PERSPECTIVE ON THE ROLE OF RADIATION PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS

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Outline

- IRPA 12 Outcome
- IRPA Objectives & Activities
- IRPA13 International Congress 2012
- ICRP Recommendations & Implementation
- Conclusions
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.
IRPA 12 Outcome Report – Focus for Future

➢ Developing the radiation protection framework
  ➢ Mixing national, regional and international resources
    ➢ greater effectiveness
    ➢ accelerate implementation of international standards and recommendations
    ➢ promote better sharing of knowledge and experience

➢ Developing protection policies, criteria, methods and culture
  ➢ Stakeholder involvement in the decision making process may help
IRPA 12 Outcome Report – Focus for Future

- Radiation safety in:
  - Nuclear installations
  - Medicine
  - NORM in industry
  - Security screening of individuals
  - Transport of radioactive material
  - Cosmic ray exposure
  - Space exploration

- Emergency planning, preparedness and response
IRPA Objectives

- Encourage establishment of radiation protection societies throughout the world as a means of achieving international cooperation
- Provide for and support international meetings for the discussions of all aspects of radiation protection
- Encourage international publications dedicated to radiation protection
- Encourage research and educational opportunities in support of radiation protection
- Encourage and participate in the establishment and continuous review of universally acceptable radiation protection standards or recommendations through the international bodies concerned
IRPA Engagement with International Organizations

- IRPA encompasses a great range of skills and expertise within its individual members. Thus, IRPA should facilitate the identification of relevant experts to work on specific programmes for the international bodies.

- IRPA International and Regional Congresses present a good opportunity to include joint sessions with the international bodies and to distill the opinions of the practitioners on the key issues raised.
IRPA Engagement with International Organizations

Criteria:

- Impact on professionalism
- Impact on the credibility of the RP profession
- Impact on enhancing the identification and sharing of good practice
- Are the goals of the collaboration achievable and measurable?

Priority:

- Organisations including ICRP, IAEA and IOMP have a high priority.
- Other organisations such as WHO, ILO, ICRU, UNSCEAR, ICNIRP, NEA and the EU are also important.
IRPA Key Actions

- IRPA Code of Ethics (2007)
- Guiding Principles for RP Professionals on Stakeholder Engagement (2008)
- Guiding principles on RP Culture:
  - Working Group (16 members from 11 countries)
  - Discussion document on RP culture for IRPA13
- Certification/Qualification
  - Working Group has been formed
  - Guiding principles for establishing and conducting certification process
  - Documents specifying education and qualification standards

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Plans for IRPA13

- *Living with Radiation – Engaging with Society*
- Produce a “snapshot” of radiation protection as we will see it in May 2012.
- Contributions from the principal international organisations involved in radiation protection integrated into the relevant programme sessions.
- The world’s leading scientists and practitioners in their fields will present overviews of the current state of key topics in radiation protection.
 Plans for IRPA13

 ➤ Key issue discussion sessions
   ➤ Underpinning science
   ➤ System of protection (including implementation of ICRP103)
   ➤ Increasing medical exposures
   ➤ Nuclear issues (including new build and Fukushima)
   ➤ Stakeholder engagement (implementation of the IRPA Guiding Principles for Stakeholder Engagement)

 ➤ Invited speakers will present and review selected topics of interest in symposia

 ➤ Panel discussions will have opportunities for input from delegates

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Plans for IRPA13

- Forums
  - Role of qualified experts in medical exposure (IOMP)
  - Occupational exposure (IAEA/ILO/NEA/IRPA)
  - Ethics and values in radiation protection (ICRP/NEA)
  - Nuclear industry (WNA)
ICRP Recommendations – Implementation

➢ Adoption of the Spirit of the recommendations is important, not only regulatory compliance

➢ IRPA provides the Forum for discussion of these issues

  ➢ Implementation involves science, values and experience

  ➢ A need to enhance exchanges

  ➢ Continue observer involvement and consultations

  ➢ Use IRPA Forums at international congresses
ICRP Recommendations – Implementation

- Not much IRPA can do to influence regulations

- IRPA can enhance and foster adoption of the recommendations by practitioners, partner with ICRP to influence the implementation, and collaborate with implementing organizations

- Practitioners bring values and experience into the discussion

- IRPA is the voice of the profession
ICRP Recommendations – Implementation

- Implementation of Publication 103 & additions
  - Difficulty with dose constraints and reference levels
    - Problem with distinguishing between planned exposures and other exposures
    - Continuation with limits
  - Radon
    - Especially with the differing protection philosophies between existing and planned exposures – reference level vs. limit and dose constraint
Lens of the eye

Need to specify whether tissue effects should be considered as stochastic or deterministic

Need to specify a coherent method for determining the detriment

Seems to define the detriment as most serious

Practitioners were not effectively consulted about the potential impacts

Could be difficult to demonstrate compliance
Conclusions

- IRPA recognizes ICRP as the primary international body in developing radiation protection principles
- IRPA appreciates the ICRP self-examination and review
- IRPA is in position to contribute in the development of the principles and to facilitate the implementation of ICRP recommendations
Conclusions

- ICRP should continue to engage the Radiation Protection practitioners through IRPA
- ICRP should continue to engage the Observer organizations in Committee activities and discussions
- ICRP should continue to make use of IRPA congresses to dialog with practitioners on proposed recommendations and their implementation
The 4 Pillars of Radiation Protection

- **Science**
- **Principles**
- **Practice**
- **Standards**

**SCIENCE**
- IARC
- UNSCEAR

**PRINCIPLES**
- ICRU
- ICRP

**PRACTICE**
- IRPA

**STANDARDS**
- NEA/OECD
- IAEA, EC

**SCIENCE**
- NCRP

**PRACTICE**
- PAHO
- WHO
- ILO
- FAO

**STANDARDS**
- UNEP
- ISO
- IEC
- WENRA