ICRP Main Commission Meeting
April 17-21, 2011 – Seoul, Korea

The Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) met in Seoul, Korea, April 17 – 21, 2011.

The ICRP Statement on Tissue Reactions was approved, and released through the ICRP web site immediately following the meeting. For occupational exposure in planned exposure situations the Commission now recommends an equivalent dose limit for the lens of the eye of 20 mSv in a year, averaged over defined periods of 5 years, with no single year exceeding 50 mSv.

The intention is to publish this statement along with the report Early and Late Effects of Radiation in Normal Tissues and Organs: Threshold Doses for Tissue Reactions and Other Non-cancer Effects of Radiation in a Radiation Protection Context.

The report Lung Cancer Risk from Radon and Progeny was approved for publication following consultation. The Commission reviewed progress of and provided direction to the Committee 4 Task Group on radiological protection against radon exposure.

The report Environmental Protection: Transfer Parameters for Reference Animals and Plants was also approved for publication following public consultation.

In addition, the following draft reports were approved for public consultation:
- Radiological Protection in Paediatric Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology
- Patient and Staff Radiological Protection in Cardiology
- Radiological Protection in Fluoroscopically Guided Procedures Performed outside the Imaging Department

A special session was held on the radiological protection implications of the Fukushima Daiichi accident. This included invited delegates from the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan, Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Kyoto College of Medical Science, and Oita University of Nursing and Health Science. Representatives of Tokyo Electric Power Corporation joined the half-day session by video conference. The Commission received information on the current situation, and offered advice in relation to its recommendations on emergency and existing exposure situations.

Dr William Morgan was elected to become a Main Commission member and Chair of ICRP Committee 1 (Radiation Effects) upon the retirement of Dr R Julian Preston effective October 31, 2011.

Planning continued for the first ICRP Symposium on the International System of Radiological Protection to be held in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, October 24-26, 2011 in conjunction with the upcoming joint meetings of the ICRP Main Commission and Committees.