



PRESIDENT'S BLOG

As I settle into the Presidency after the wonderful Cape Town Congress, it is clear that there's a lot happening in IRPA. We have a big programme, with many calls on our time – and this means that we only succeed with the full involvement of you and the Associate Societies.

In June I attended IAEA's Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC), and there is a report of items of interest in the news section of our website [irpa.net]. Please look at what is happening here, as we are attaching great importance to keeping you up to date with key developing issues at the international level.

I have just returned from Australia as a guest of the Australasian Society ARPS at their annual conference held in Adelaide. A major theme was the ongoing challenge of communicating radiation and risk to the wider community – in their case currently a hot topic as South Australia considers a novel proposal to establish an international waste fuel repository.

You may be aware that IRPA has undertaken a consultation on the presentation and communication of the system of protection. The response from the societies has given a great insight into how you as the RP professionals see the challenges, and some interesting and thought-provoking issues are emerging. We will shortly issue our preliminary outcome for review by the Associate Societies, so please watch out for this opportunity to shape our response.

In November we will have our first Executive Council (EC) meeting of the new term, with a very wide ranging agenda. We will establish our strategy and priorities, and key issues will include how we interface with the medical sector, the next steps for our programme on public understanding, and how to secure the widest representation on the IRPA EC.

All in all, a very exciting and busy time.

Roger Coates, IRPA President



IRPA President meets with the Australasian Society (ARPS) President Cameron Jeffries and other members of their Executive.

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IRPA15 PRESENTATION FOR 2020, Seoul, Korea

Draft Report of Site Visit by the IRPA EC, March 2016

Introduction

R Czarwinski, R Coates and B LeGuen from the IRPA Executive Council visited Seoul, Korea, on 2-4 March 2016 for the purpose of assessing the status of preparations for the proposed IRPA15 International Congress to be hosted by the Korean Association of Radiation Protection (KARP) in May 2020. We visited the COEX complex, which is the proposed congress venue, together with technical visits to the Seoul National University Hospital and the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) in Daejeon.

We were hosted by KARP, led by the proposed ICOC Chairman Jong Kyung Kim and the KARP President Young-Khi Lim, together with several members of the proposed ICOC and supporting committee. The visit was supported by the Seoul Tourism Organisation, and representatives of the proposed PCO (MECI) were in attendance.

General

It is clear that Seoul is a significant player in the international conference business, and has been voted the world's fifth best congress location. There is a very significant recent track record of hosting international congresses and meetings of many different sizes, with successful outcomes. There are excellent international transport links through a modern airport which is well linked to the city. The cost of living is reasonable for a city of this size, and the city provides an excellent public transportation system and a safe and secure environment. The 'high-tech' approach to life is visible everywhere, and this is balanced by the many cultural attractions across the city and the surroundings.

IRPA15 Planning

KARP has established an International Congress Organising Committee (ICOC) which is appropriately focused around the key functional activities necessary for the successful delivery of the congress. They have made good progress in securing support from the relevant players in Korea, in initial planning with the congress centre, and in preparing an initial budget. The ICOC composition is well-balanced across the radiation protection sectors – nuclear, industrial, medical and academia.

There is very good support for the congress across related professional associations, from nuclear and radiation technology industries, national government ministries and the Seoul local government. An experienced PCO (MECI) has been engaged and is integrated into the planning team.

A preliminary budget has been prepared, with the congress fees assumed to be in line with those for IRPA14.

Congress Venue

The congress will be held at the COEX Congress and Exhibition Centre in south Seoul. This is a large complex capable of holding several events. It is connected to local hotels and is integrated with a large shopping centre. The venue is flexible, with several auditoria, lecture rooms and exhibition halls. The preliminary layout proposals for IRPA15 would support an excellent congress, and there is flexibility to adjust the detail as the planning for the congress develops. As expected for Korea, there is state of the art supporting technology.



Hotels and Restaurants

The COEX complex is linked directly to three hotels, one of which is likely to be chosen as the headquarters hotel. There are 23 listed hotels within 10 minutes walking distance, and within south Seoul there is the necessary range of accommodation from luxury to budget hotels and hostels. There is a wide range of restaurants and food outlets within the immediate large shopping and hotels complex, with the opportunity to sample the national cuisine at many restaurants across the city. Two metro stations are directly linked to the COEX complex.

Visits Programme

There is a wide range of options for technical visits, covering nuclear and radiation technologies and medical applications. There are also a large number of cultural and social attractions within the city area.

Summary

Overall our assessment is that the Organising Committee is very competent and enthusiastic, there is very wide ranging support from all the relevant sectors in Korea, the proposed congress venue is appropriate for IRPA's requirements and the development in the planning to date provides a very sound basis for ensuring a successful congress in 2020. We therefore recommend that the IRPA Executive Council and the General Assembly approve finally the proposal to hold IRPA15 in Seoul, Korea in 11-15 May 2020.





THE KOREAN ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION (KARP)

KARP is the leading academic society for radiation protection and promotion of safe radiological practices among industry workers as well as the general public in South Korea. Since its foundation in 1975, KARP has developed a membership comprised of approximately 550 actively working members among over 1,000 registered members representing balanced proportions of expertise in science, industry applications and medicine. The association holds biannual conferences and workshops for researchers and industry workers. It also publishes a quarterly Journal of Radiation Protection and Research as well as translations of ICRP publications into the Korean language. It is also a frequent host of public education programs and social events to raise awareness of radiation protection in the general public.

KARP has long maintained cooperative relations with other international associations for radiation protection. In 2002, jointly with Asian and Oceanic Association for Radiation Protection (AOARP) and International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), KARP successfully hosted the first Asian and Oceanic IRPA congress. In addition, KARP has initiated the CJK (China-Japan-Korea) cooperation with radiation protection academic societies in China and Japan. In collaboration with Japanese experts, KARP held insightful workshops in Seoul in 2012 and 2014, to review radiological and psychological effects of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident. Recently, in October 2015, KARP hosted the 3rd ICRP symposium on the system of radiological protection in cooperation with International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

KARP is now proud to announce hosting of the 15th congress of IRPA in Seoul, Korea after being selected as the preferred venue for IRPA 15 at the 2012 Glasgow congress and officially confirmed at the 2016 Cape Town congress. KARP commits to expand its responsibility for sharing the experience and knowledge in radiation protection through hosting the IRPA 15 congress in Seoul in 2020.





O.B.E FOR SERVICES TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION.

Queen's Birthday Honours, 11 June 2016

A native of Halifax, West Yorkshire, Roger received a degree in natural sciences from Cambridge University in 1968, a PhD in physics from Reading University, and undertook post-doctoral research at Swansea University. In 1975 he joined the Health and Safety Department at Sellafield, and continued to work for British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) for over 30 years, both at Sellafield and at the company Head Office in Warrington. After a period as Head of Safety at Sellafield, in 2000 he became Acting Director of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) for BNFL, and continued as EHS Director for British Nuclear Group until his retirement from the company in 2006.

He then took a post with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA – part of the United Nations family) in Vienna, where he became involved in supporting the government of Iraq in the decommissioning of their war-damaged nuclear facilities. Since 2008 he has been a Non-Executive Director at the LLW Repository Ltd in West Cumbria, as well as advising several other nuclear organisations on safety issues.

Roger has had extensive national and international involvement in the field of radiation protection, and served as President of the Society for Radiological Protection in 1995/6. He was Vice President for Congress Affairs for the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), leading the organisation of a major international congress held in Glasgow in 2012. He was IRPA Vice President for the period 2012-2016, and became IRPA President (for the period 2016-2020) during the recent IRPA International Congress in Cape Town in May 2016.

Roger has been married to Hazel for 48 years, with two grown-up sons based in Macclesfield and Cheltenham, together with two grandchildren. During 1975-1990 the family lived in Gosforth, West Cumbria, and for the last 20 years Roger and Hazel have lived in the South Lakes village of Bouth, near Ulverston, Cumbria.

Roger Coates O.B.E

President

International Radiation Protection Association



EGYPT NEWS

1. One day seminar organized by Egyptian Medical Physics Association was held at Nasr Medical Institute, Cairo on 14th of August. Aim of the seminar was to review Medical Physics activity in Egypt.
2. During the period from 24 to 29 September, the 7th conference on Environmental Physics was conducted at the beautiful city of SHARM ELSHEIKH, Sinai , Egypt.
3. The first issue of the new Journal (Radiation and Nuclear Applications) was released. Journal website at <http://www.naturalspublishing.com/ContentTB.asp?JorID=54>

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