



Third African IRPA Regional Conference



6 – 10 September 2010
Nairobi, Kenya



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Eastern Africa Association for Radiation Protection (EAARP)

Third African IRPA Regional Conference 2010

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Theme: *Strengthening Radiation Protection Infrastructures in Africa: Towards Establishing Effective and Sustainable Co-operations and Networks*

Dates: *September 6-10, 2010*

Venue: *Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), Nairobi, Kenya*

Website: *(to be included in the 2nd announcement)*

Dear colleagues,

Eastern Africa Association for Radiation Protection (EAARP) is hosting the third African International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) Regional Conference (AFRIRPA2010) on 6-10, September 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to join us in this unique scientific and cultural experience. AFRIRPA2010 will provide a platform to share the latest scientific updates, current developments, and future trends in radiation protection.

Introduction

Radiation is an inescapable part of the natural environment, and it is also produced artificially with a variety of unique applications in health, environmental studies, industry, etc. It is evident that our present and future lifestyles are unsustainable without peaceful applications of radiation technologies. Events around the world continue to indicate an increasing need for nuclear and other renewable energy sources. According to the recommendations of a high level African Regional Conference on the contribution of Nuclear Energy to Peace and Sustainable Development held in January 2007 in Algiers, which was adopted by the Executive council of Ministers during the 8th African Union (AU) summit of January 2007, 'it is important for African countries to promote the acquisition of scientific know-how and the necessary infrastructure for the peaceful use of nuclear energy'. However, in order to derive the full benefits of nuclear energy and radiation technologies certain protective measures must be established and used correctly. Experts will examine how far the African states are benefiting from these technologies and make recommendations for further improvements both in the applications and in the safety aspects.

Conference Theme

Regional IRPA conferences have been held twice in Africa: South Africa in 2003; and Egypt in April, 2007. When the EAARP was bestowed the honour to host the AFRIRPA2010 in Nairobi we wanted to make an impact on the Radiation Protection infrastructure and practices in Africa, hence the choice of our conference theme: "*Strengthening Radiation Protection Infrastructures in Africa: Towards Establishing Effective and Sustainable Co-operations and Networks*". With this slogan we plan to create opportunities for open high-level discussions by the relevant stakeholders with a view to present an accurate current situation of applications of radiation technologies and radiation protection practices in Africa, and make resolutions for necessary improvements. Such discussions will involve decision makers, professionals in various fields of applications of radiation, relevant organizations (local and international, governmental and NGO) and the general public. It is our hope that your attendance and contributions will help us shape the future of applications and safety of radiation technologies in Africa.

Conference Scope

The scope is broad, multidisciplinary and inter-sectorial, including (but not limited to) the following topics:

- **Radiation protection infrastructures (including establishment of legal framework and regulatory systems);**
- **Procedures and techniques for assessing occupational, public, and medical exposures; etc.**
- **Dosimetry, Radiation detection/measurement methods;**
- **Biological and health effects of radiation at low doses;**
- **Natural sources of radiation:** Occupational exposures to Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM), e.g., in mining and milling of minerals, oil refining, geothermal fields, etc.; radiological impacts of NORM on the general public and environment; In-flight exposures of aircrew and frequent flyers to cosmic radiation; studies in the High Background Radiation Areas (HBRA); Radon studies, etc.
- **Nuclear and other renewable energy options for Africa:** As a result of the greenhouse effects of the fossil fuel – based energy sources, many African countries are considering nuclear and other energy options. (AFRIRPA2010 will provide a forum for discussions involving policy makers and experts in the nuclear and renewable energy industry).
- **Application of nuclear metrology to environmental studies:** Measurements of radionuclides in the atmosphere/hydrosphere are used to examine atmospheric/aquatic processes and study global climate changes and their impacts on the ecosystem. AFRIRPA2010 will showcase such studies and provide the platform for the development of a regional network for the application of nuclear metrology in environmental studies, e.g., to study the impacts of global environmental and climatic changes on the water-land resources, e.g. in the African river basins using the Nile Basin as case study. This is in line with meeting the emerging needs for sustainable use of natural resources in Africa.

- **Health and safety concerns for non-ionizing radiation sources:** (Microwave-oven (applications), mobile telephones, high-frequency base-stations, magnetic resonance imaging devices, etc.)

- **Education and training in radiation protection:** Strategies for building human capacity, infrastructures, and forming scientific networks towards achieving a unified African vision.

Hosts

EAARP is a scientific and professional association whose basic function is to promote the development, gathering and dissemination of scientific knowledge regarding peaceful and beneficial uses of radiation, the potential risks involved, and ways to protect humans and the natural environment against them. EAARP is the Eastern Africa affiliate of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), the umbrella body that brings together more than 20,000 radiation protection professionals from across the world.

There will be a number of governmental and Non-governmental organizations, as well as other IRPA Associate societies in Africa co-hosting this event. A detailed list of the co-hosts will be provided in subsequent conference updates and announcements.

Conference Sponsorship

IRPA is a major sponsor and supporter of AFRIRPA2010. The organizers are also contacting various international organizations



for a variety of sponsorships. We also encourage corporate organizations to showcase their company's activities/expertise/products and develop new revenue opportunities by becoming an active Corporate Sponsor of AFRIRPA2010. A complete list of sponsors will be presented in subsequent conference updates.

Program Highlights

The conference will have a six-day program of events, which will include several scientific and technical sessions. Each session will comprise an invited keynote lecture, selected oral presentations and poster presentations. There will also be refresher courses, IRPA Associate Society forum, and round table discussion on topical issues.

If resources permit, we plan to popularize the use of computational techniques in Radiation protection and related areas. In this regard, a one-week pre-conference training course will be held in Introductory Monte Carlo and applications in radiation protection and dosimetry. This training course will be open only to a few young African researchers who demonstrate adequate interest and capabilities in this field.



In addition to the Scientific Program, delegates and accompanying persons will also enjoy the cultural sights and sounds from different parts of Kenya. We have planned excursions that will suit delegate's interests. From the sprawling skyscrapers and luxurious hotels, to its natural wildlife and snowy mountain tops, Kenya presents a captivating blend of modern life and nature. September is a wonderful time to visit Kenya,

and we encourage delegates to extend their visit and get to know Kenya better.

Conference Venue

Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), Nairobi, Kenya.

www.kicc.co.ke



Call for Abstracts

Will be contained in the second announcement.

Call for Exhibitors

We encourage manufacturers of relevant scientific and technical products, service providers, etc. to seize the opportunity of AFRIRPA2010 to spread awareness of their latest products or services, as well as the unique corporate image of their organizations by participating as exhibitors. With over 1000 delegates from all over Africa and the rest of the world in attendance, AFRIRPA2010 will definitely provide additional international networking opportunities for your business.

Contact

For further information and/or any advice on AFRIRPA2010, you could contact us through eaarp@yahoo.co.uk and the addresses below or visit the congress website (to be included in the 2nd announcement).

We look forward to seeing you in Nairobi for a stimulating and enjoyable conference. _._

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