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## IRPA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



IRPA's International Congresses, held every four years, are an essential component of the radiation protection landscape and a 'must go to' event for radiation protection professionals. The next Congress (IRPA14), to be held in **Cape Town, 9 – 13 May 2016**, will be especially important as the radiation protection community will celebrate IRPA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To mark this unique occasion we are having a special program, integrated into the Congress, which will focus on the role and importance of radiation protection societies, and their liaison and cooperation at an international level through IRPA.

This celebration will provide the central focus for Wednesday's program of the Congress. The morning will begin with a brief overview of IRPA's history and achievements by the President, highlighting the interfaces with the principal international organizations in the field of radiation protection. This will be followed by a panel discussion reflecting on the key issues arising from the prestigious Sievert Lectures over the past 20 years, exploring their relevance to radiation protection as it stands today.

A second panel session will address the role and challenges facing IRPA and our Associate Societies, acting as NGOs in the radiation protection field. This will cover issues at both national and international levels, and will seek to motivate our radiation protection practitioners to re-energize our collective desire to enhance professionalism in our workplaces and for our societies to act as the voice of the radiation protection profession at both national and international levels.

The afternoon will be devoted to the formal business of the General Assembly, whilst those congress attendees who are not formal society delegates are free to join the meeting as observers or to enjoy the delights of Cape Town. In the evening there will be a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner, included in the Congress fee, to round off a memorable day of celebrations.

The 50<sup>th</sup> celebratory theme will be reflected in other parts of the program, including an opportunity for Associate Societies to share their good practices and challenges. Some of the keynote presentations in the scientific program throughout the week will reflect a 50<sup>th</sup> perspective.

IRPA14 will be great Congress, covering the full range of radiation protection issues as usual, but enhanced by the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The Second announcement is available on the congress website [www.irpa2016capetown.org.za](http://www.irpa2016capetown.org.za).

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Cape Town, and hope to have representatives of each and every one of IRPA's 50 Associate Societies (or more?) to help us celebrate IRPA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and design our way forward as a respected and trustworthy voice of radiation protection professionals.

Renate Czarwinski  
IRPA President

International Radiation Protection Association



<https://www.facebook.com/IRPA0>



<https://twitter.com/IRPA>



[www.irpa.net](http://www.irpa.net)



(Five past presidents of HPS at the 1961 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada: Lauriston S. Taylor (center) also served as Chair of the ICRP, 1937-1950; Karl Z. Morgan (right) was instrumental in promoting the creation of IRPA)



(IRPA President Renate Czarwinski and Mike Boyd, Chair of HPS International Collaboration Committee at the 2012 HPS meeting in Sacramento, California)

## The Health Physics Society

(Submitted by Armin Ansari)

The Health Physics Society (HPS) had its first organizational meeting in June 1955. One year later, it was officially chartered in the United States as an independent nonprofit scientific organization. As such, HPS is not affiliated with any government or industrial organization or private entity. Today, HPS has approximately 4,400 members, 42 chapters throughout the United States, and 2 international chapters (one in Taiwan and another in Georgia).

In its early years, HPS enjoyed an ever increasing international membership because “health physics” had already become a growing international field of science. This interest prompted the early leaders of the Society to encourage formation of HPS chapters in other countries. France, Japan, and the United Kingdom chapters of the HPS were formed in the early 1960’s. After an outreach to nearly 1000 scientists in 70 countries, it was clear that an international body to represent our profession was strongly favored. Consequently, the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) was formed in 1965; and, as we all know, it thrives today with 50 associate societies.

HPS has a standing International Collaboration Committee which encourages international participation in HPS activities, and when appropriate, provides assistance to other nations in planning and organizing radiation protection organizations. The ultimate goal of supporting international chapters is to encourage and promote their membership in IRPA as associate societies.

Another HPS standing committee worthy of mention is the Student Support Committee which is made up of current or recent students and aims to enhance their membership experience, provides mentorship, and facilitates participation of students in other HPS activities. One student member of this Committee serves as advisor to the Board of Directors – the governing body of HPS – and attends and contributes to all Board meetings. Recognizing the importance of participation by young professionals, HPS provides a significant number of travel grants each year to students so they can attend Society meetings.

The HPS holds two major meetings each year –an annual meeting held during summer and a midyear meeting in the winter. HPS will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Indianapolis in July, 2015. Typically a Professional Development School (PDS) is provided in tandem with one of the meetings. Each PDS is intended to focus on specific areas of radiation protection and offers advanced topics as continuing education for all health physicists. The Society publishes the *Health Physics Journal* and *Operational Radiation Safety*. In addition, *Health Physics News* brings 40 rich pages of educational and entertaining material to our members every month. This newsletter is available to all IRPA members at no cost.

The HPS also provides an Ask the Experts (ATE) service available to members of the public who have questions about radiation safety. Several topic editors and many expert members of HPS contribute to this public service feature which so far has answered more than 11,000 questions. These questions and answers are archived according to topic and access is open to anyone interested <http://hps.org/publicinformation/ate/>.

HPS also has an active Standards Committee and is an accredited standards developer with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Free access to ANSI/HPS Standards is another benefit for our members.

I began this short article describing the historical connection between HPS and IRPA, and I would like to end on that note. HPS had the honor of hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> IRPA Congress in Washington D.C., back in September 1973. We hope to have the privilege of hosting our international colleagues again in the United States for the 16<sup>th</sup> IRPA Congress in 2024. If we are successful, 50 years will have passed by then since the IRPA Congress was held in the United States! In the meantime, our members look forward to our continued collaboration on many IRPA initiatives, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2016 Congress in Cape Town.

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Asian and Oceanic Congress on Radiation Protection (AOCRP-4)

(Submitted by Mohamad Lebai Juri, the President of AOARP)

Malaysian Radiation Protection Association (MARPA) has organised the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian and Oceanic Congress on Radiation Protection (AOCRP-4), at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur on the 12-16<sup>th</sup> May 2014, in collaboration with Malaysian Nuclear Agency and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

This congress served as a conducive platform to share scientific knowledge and latest findings on radiation protection. It also provided a great opportunity to introduce Malaysia to the foreign participants as well as to establish network and linkages among scientists and researchers globally in the dissemination and exchange of information.

AOCRP Congress is organised every four years by the country members of Asian and Oceanic Association for Radiation Protection (AOARP). The previous AOCRPs were organised by the main players of the Asian and Oceanic Association for Radiation Protection (AOARP), namely Korea (2002), China (2006) and Japan (2010). It is an honour for MARPA to organise the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress in Malaysia. MARPA is an association of workers in the nuclear technology industries in Malaysia and was established in 2002.

The Congress was participated by a total of 324 participants from 34 countries involved in radiation protection. There were 146 paper presentations in which 65 participants presented orally while the remaining 81 papers presented in poster session in their respective field of expertise. Presentations and discussions at the AOCRP-4 included topics such as effects of ionising radiation, radiation measurement and dosimetry, safety and security of radioactive sources, emergency preparedness, standards, regulations, education, radiation protection in medical field, radioactive waste management, non-ionising radiation, and nuclear safety. Eight special sessions, namely the IAEA Special Session, AOARP Special Session, IOMP-WHO Special Session, IRPA Special Session, ICRP Special Session, UNSCEAR-WHO-IRPA Special Session, and the Young Scientist Special Session have been organised during the Congress. Dr. Mohamad Lebai Juri, Malaysian Radiation Protection Association (MARPA) has been elected as the new President of AOARP (2014-2018). The Congress was successfully organised and officially closed by President of MARPA.



## The 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Croatian Radiation Protection Association

(Submitted by Tomislav Bituh, Branko Petrinec and Ines Krajcar Bronić)



The 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Croatian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA) with international participation was held from 15 to 17 April 2015 in Šibenik, Croatia. It was organized by CRPA in collaboration with the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Ruđer Bošković Institute and State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety. A total of 93 participants (73 from national scientific and research institutions, universities, health facilities, and private companies and 20 international participants from Bosnia and Hercegovina, Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia, and Qatar) presented 65 papers, all printed in the Proceedings edited by Branko Petrinec, Tomislav Bituh, Nevenka Kopjar, and Mirta Milić, available at the CRPA web page [www.hdzz.hr](http://www.hdzz.hr).

The scientific program started with two introductory lectures: “Ten symposia of the Croatian Radiation Protection Association 1992 – 2015” by Ines Krajcar Bronić (CRPA President) and “The potential of fission nuclear energy in resolving global climate change” by Dubravko Pevec (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb). The scientific part of the symposium was divided into eight sections: General topics in radiation science and radiation protection; Radiation dosimetry; Biological effects of radiation; Radiation protection of the public; Radiation protection in medicine; Radioecology; Non-ionizing radiation and Instrumentation and measuring techniques. There were 28 poster presentations and 37 oral presentations. Each oral presentation raised a lot of interest and resulted in a discussion. The award for the best poster presentation went to Katarina Marušić for her contribution “Protection of cultural heritage objects by ionizing radiation”.

The city guided tour with a visit to the fortress of St. Michael was sponsored by the City of Šibenik, and a visit to Etnoland Dalmati was organized. During the conference dinner, participants were surprised by a special “birthday cake” for the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> symposium. Technical exhibition and sponsors contributed to the success of the symposium.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium of CRPA with international participation represented once again a unique opportunity to scientists and practitioners of various profiles to exchange knowledge and experience in the interdisciplinary field of radiation protection in a stimulating international environment.

