Launches of the IRPA Young Generation Network at IRPA The Hague Congress and AOCRP Melbourne – A synthesis of actions set up by national Young Generation Networks

Sylvain Andresz, Pete Bryant, Akihiro Sakoda

The events

June 2018 represented a major milestone for IRPA with the official launch of the IRPA Young Generation Network at the European IRPA Congress in The Hague, The Netherlands. A similar event took place at the 5th Asian and Oceanic IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection (AOCRP-5) in Melbourne, Australia.

Both events took a similar format and included an introductory talk on the IRPA YGN, followed by a number of short talks from representatives of regional Young Generation Networks (YGN) discussing their history, mission and activities. The event at The Hague included talks from Mr. Cristian Candela Juan (President of the J-SEPR, Spain), Mr. Angelo Infantino (Italian Association for Radiation Protection), Mrs. Mélanie Maître (Young Club of the French Association for Radiation Protection), Mr. Franz Kabrt (The Young Scientists and Professionals of the Austrian Radiation Protection Association) and Mr. Thomas Suter (Rising Generation Group, United Kingdom). The event in Melbourne included talks from Mr. Noriaki Kataoka (Young Researchers Association, Japan), Mr. Wi-ho Ha (Young Scientist Group, Korea), Mr. Zhi Zeng (Personal, China) and Mr. Alexander Borovskis (AusYGN, Australia).
The key elements presented by the national representatives are summarised in the Table at the end of this note.

Despite having worked separately, it is interesting to see that the national YGNs **have invested in addressing similar topics** and are also **facing common issues**.

Actions engaged by national networks

In general, the YGNs are meeting regularly, they have a presence on their Radiation Protection Society's website and on social media and are also planning specific events such as technical

visits. The YGNs are also involved, to some extent, in the planning of the Society's congress and attend at the conference with stand and manage a prize system. The participation of members is encouraged via reduced fees.

It can be noted that Austrian and French YGN have organized their own symposium. The French symposium was dedicated to innovation in radiation protection and how it can shape its perspectives.

'*How to attract the younger generation, students and scholars, into the field of RP?*' is an overriding question that goes across all the national YGNs. Talks at schools and universities have been implemented in Spain and United Kingdom to generate interest about RP at the early age. Exhibition to and conversation with children have also been made at local scientific events in Japan. Dissemination and promotion of employment in the RP sector can be made through representation at career fair (Spain, United Kingdom) and the publication of scholarship or job offers (Spain, France and United Kingdom).

The development and support of students and young professionals studying or working in RP is another common topic and is tackled differently. Actions can take the shape of videos or webinars (Spain), dedicated training courses (Italy) on topics of interest and also a mentoring scheme (United Kingdom) – It should be noted that these actions rely to some part on more experienced members of the Society. These actions are quite innovative and have been implemented very recently.

Prospective for the IRPA YGN: proposals for an Agenda

IRPA YGN can find inspiration by actions implemented at the national scale - Finally the IRPA YGN intends to be the 'network of the networks'!

Topic 1. The IRPA YGN Launch Event at The Hague was the opportunity for 5 national YGN to meet and compare their experience. This was a first-of-its-kind event.

1. *In the future, an IRPA YGN specific event can be planned at the occasion of IRPA congresses (ex. IRPA Seoul, 2020). This can help to encourage the participation and representation of the young generation.*

   Examples: refresher courses, introductory courses, technical visits, 'school / university events', dinners, quiz, etc.

Point of attention: this requires engagement with the relevant programme committees. The IRPA EC should provide legitimacy and support to the YGN in this.

Some national YGNs are very new – and it is also possible that some young professionals may decide to set up a YGN in a few years.

2. *The progress and experiences of the national YGNs should be discussed and the sharing of information formalised. For instance* 'how to start a sustainable young network in radiation protection?' *It could be a simple document or even an article published in journal.*

Topic 2. National YGNs (already in place or emerging) share common goals and may be willing to implement similar programmes or initiatives that the other YGNs undertake. To favour the sharing of experience, the IRPA YGN could:

3. *Maintain a list of initiatives implemented by national YGNs (cf. Table below) and put them into visibility.*
4. *Collect feedback and experience from the implementation of these initiatives. This can be particularly focused on the most innovative, such as: the mentoring scheme and informative videos.*
5. *Collate relevant material (ppt, training course summary etc.) and make it available for others.*
6. *Provide a list of training courses in radiation protection available in the various countries. Point of attention: this should not overlap with actions of other networks (e.g. EUTERP).*

To favour the visibility of the young generation in radiation protection:

7. *After Europe and Asia, the next IRPA Regional Congress will take place in Africa (Tunisia). IRPA YGN should investigate to find contacts and/or YGN in these area.*
8. *Put forward job opportunities in the radiation protection field via career profiles, displayed on the IRPA YGN webpage. The profiles are changed regularly.*

The survey that ran in 2017 was quite successful.

9. *The results of the survey and its outcome will be submitted for publication (in* Radioprotection*).*
10. *This can be re-iterated in the future – topics to be decided.*

NATIONAL YGN	GENERAL ACTIVITIES	ATTRACTING INDIVIDUALS INTO THE FIELD OF RP	ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS STUDYING/WORKING IN RP
J-SEPR, Spain • Funded September 2017 • 6 members	• Social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) • News in the journal of the Society • *Own section on the Society website** • *Visit of installations**	• Specific award • Talks in primary schools • Talks at university level • Seminar on career opportunity at university • *Publication of job offers**	• *Webinar/Videos for young professionals**
Italian YGN • Funded end 2016	• Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, *Facebook**)	• Specific award (dedicated session)	• *Dedicated training course for young professional (1-2 days)**

NATIONAL YGN	GENERAL ACTIVITIES	ATTRACTING INDIVIDUALS INTO THE FIELD OF RP	ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS STUDYING/WORKING IN RP
Young Club of the French Society • Funded 1997, reboot 2016 • Core: 12 members	• Social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) • Own section on the Society website • Visit of installations • Involvement in the sections of the Society • At the Society main congress: guest lecture, stand and specific event (ex. a quiz) • Organize its own 'Scientific Day' • *Publication in the Journal of the Society**	• Identification of RP courses in France • Support a scholarship and job seeking webpage	• Elaboration and dissemination of an international survey dedicated to the Young in RP
Young Scientists and Professionals of the Austrian Association • Funded 2013	• Visit of installation • Organize its own symposium	• Specific award	• "Encouragement of young members"

NATIONAL YGN	GENERAL ACTIVITIES	ATTRACTING INDIVIDUALS INTO THE FIELD OF RP	ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS STUDYING/WORKING IN RP
Rising Generation Group (United Kingdom) • Core: 10 members in the leadership committee; total: around 200 members	• Social media (Facebook, Twitter) • Own section on the Society website + forum • Advice / Guidance on gaining certification to be Radiation Protection Expert. • At the Society main congress: RGG award and specific event (dinner)	• Representation at school and public scientific events • Representation at university talks • Representation at career forums	• Set up a mentoring scheme matching young professional with senior members
Young Researchers Association (Japan) • Funded 1987 • 40 members	• Social media (Web, Facebook) • Organize its own seminar / workshop • Visit of installation • At the Society annual meeting: YGN's own session • Involvement in committees of the Society	• Exhibition and conversation with children (and parents as well) at local scientific events	• From the Society: travel grant for participation in IRPA congress or relevant international congress

NATIONAL YGN	GENERAL ACTIVITIES	ATTRACTING INDIVIDUALS INTO THE FIELD OF RP	ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS STUDYING/WORKING IN RP
Young Scientist Group (South Korea) • Funded 2017 • 50 members	• Organize its own periodic meeting / workshop • Contribution to education / training	•	• Intercomparison exercises in radiation measurement and dosimetry (ARADOS)

* *in italic: planned but not yet implemented.*