

ICRP 2013

2nd International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection

October 22-24, 2013 – Abu Dhabi, UAE

Following the success of ICRP's 1st symposium in 2011, the 2nd International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection was held in Abu Dhabi, on October 22-24, 2013, hosted by the UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation.

ICRP 2013 attracted nearly 300 registered participants from 37 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxemburg, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UAE, UK, Ukraine, and USA.

Participants came from all six Gulf Cooperation Council states, making up about 40% of the attendees.

In addition to a session providing an overview of the work of ICRP, five topical sessions were held on high-priority issues in radiological protection:

Tissue reactions: The road from science to protection

This session began with the basic science of tissue reactions, in particular radiogenic cataracts and circulatory disease. Presentations also addressed questions of dosimetry, international implementation of new dose limits, implications in medical imaging and other areas, and science and value aspects.

Advances in recovery preparedness and response following Fukushima

Experiences from Japanese government and non-government perspectives, including engaging with local stakeholders, and progress on clean-up efforts in Fukushima, were a highlight of this session. Two presentations also covered progress outside Japan on planning for recovery following a major accident.



Dr Claire Cousins, ICRP Chair

NORM issues in the real world

A review of the ICRP system of radiological protection on existing exposure situations, followed by an overview of ICRP's current efforts on radiological protection for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM), introduced this session. This was balanced by a presentation on practical experience in regulation and management of NORM in North America. A presentation from the Federal Authority on Nuclear Regulation outlined current regulatory developments in the UAE, and a presentation from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company explored local issues related to waste management in NORM.

What do we need from ICRP in medicine?

This session opened with views from ICRP on the use of Effective Dose in Medicine, followed by a review of recent and current ICRP efforts in radiological protection in computed tomography (CT). Recent epidemiological studies in paediatric CT were critically examined. Evolving efforts radiological protection in medicine in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, as well as international views from the World Health Organisation, were presented.

The ICRP approach to environmental radiation protection: issues and application

The ICRP approach to protection of the environment, the subject of an ICRP publication in press, was presented, followed by an examination of information on relationships between environmental exposures and consequences for wildlife, and a proposal to improve dosimetry for reference animals and plants. Three presentations focused on the marine environment, including use of the ICRP system, marine biodiversity in Abu Dhabi, and modelling marine exposures and effects after the Fukushima accident.

Presentation materials were made available through the ICRP website in near-real-time, helping to share the results broadly.

Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection will be published in the Annals of the ICRP. Thanks to support from the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, registered participants will be eligible to receive a printed copy at no charge.

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Given the success of ICRP's series of symposia, planning has already begun for the 3rd International Symposium on Radiological Protection. It will be held in Seoul, Korea, October 20-22, 2015, in conjunction with the next biennial joint meetings of the Main Commission and Committees.