The NEA’s Committee on Radiological Protection and Public Health (CRPPH)

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The NEA: A Forum for Co-operation for the Most Advanced Countries in the World
- Founded in 1958
- 33 member countries
- 8 standing technical committees
- 75 working parties and expert groups
- 21 international joint projects

OECD/NEA Membership
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Luxembourg
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States
- OECD and NEA member
- OECD member, not NEA
- NEA member, not OECD
Why Do We Need HP/RP Specialists?

- Current nuclear plants will operate well past mid-century
- Countries with nuclear plants today will need to decommission many facilities in coming decades
- Countries without plants desire to understand international radiation risks and maintain emergency preparedness programs
- Operations to store, transport, and dispose of nuclear waste will be ongoing through much of the century
- Medical, industrial, and research use of radiological materials is increasing globally

RP Resource Challenges

- Decreasing number of universities offering RP degrees
- New hires need on-the-job-training
- Decreasing opportunities for hands-on experience
- Many experienced RPs will retire in 5 to 10 years
- No clear career path to attract students
- Recognition of foreign qualifications often difficult

The Nuclear Infrastructure is International
Collaboration is Needed on a Global Level
What is Needed?

- Inter-generational knowledge management
- Clear career path development
- Communications strategy and training

The International Radiological Protection School (ISRP)

Preparing Tomorrow’s Radiological Protection Leaders by Learning from Today’s Experts

1. Capture knowledge and nuances of why and what the RP system is today → transfer the “spirit”
2. Present the history of the RP system development → transfer the “meaning”
3. Present the latest epidemiology, radiation biology, and social science → state-of-the-art in RP
4. Evaluate and discuss how the RP system may evolve → what is on the horizon
5. Put the RP system into the context of RP culture → critical understanding of the system
6. Develop a network of RP excellence among participants → build a new community of expertise

IRPS

- When: 20 – 24 August 2018
- Where: Hosted at Stockholm University, Sweden
  - University and CHP credits
- Supported by Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM)
- Target Audience: Mid-career RPs
- Limited to ~ 30 participants
- Applications due 30 April 2018
- http://oecd-nea.org/rp/irps/
Career Framework Elements

- Countries have some or all of these career framework elements
- But few countries have a “critical mass” of interested students AND sufficient career framework elements

What is Needed?

Possible Path Forward

- Mutual recognition of professional certifications and qualifications (not thus-far successful)
- Discussion of an internationally-agreed career-path framework
  - Agreed framework element organisations
  - Broad agreement that RP workers should be encouraged to go where RP expertise is needed
  - Broad agreement that RP framework element organisations should generally accept workers educated and trained in other countries

LOTS OF ISSUES!

RP Career Framework

- Education and training are essential but insufficient
- A clear career path is needed, and could (should) include:
  - Education
  - Post-grad university research
  - National laboratory / industrial research
  - Hands-on industrial work
  - Regulatory work
  - International organisation work
  - University teaching / research
- International RP Career Path Framework Needs
  - Recognition of standard-level qualification (IRPA)
  - Career path framework communications strategy
  - Web library of good training materials
Communications Strategy

- RP is a career with a clear future
  - Nuclear Power
  - Medical
  - Industry
  - Research
- There are many interesting challenges
  - Waste management
  - Low-dose effects
  - Protection of the environment
  - Stakeholder involvement
  - Etc.

Training in Stakeholder Interactions

- The public, elected officials, management, other stakeholders would generally prefer to speak with an expert rather than a communications officer
- But experts should be able to speak to any type of stakeholder in a language that THAT stakeholder can understand
- Training in such communications should become a standard part of university curricula