NEA International Radiological Protection School (IRPS)

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

17-21 August 2020
Stockholm University, Sweden

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

NEA
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

Background

Since shortly after the discovery of X-rays and natural radiation, experts in both national and international fora have worked towards establishing the international radiological protection (RP) system. International organisations have contributed to the evolution of this RP system by sharing state-of-the-art scientific knowledge and experience accumulated over many decades, all of which have continued to refine the principles of the RP system, which have largely been accepted worldwide, and have served as a basis for national regulations and guidelines.

While guidance and standards documents describe the technical facts in relation to the RP system, the body of understanding that they reflect, including how the different elements have evolved, are not well documented. To appropriately and effectively apply the RP system to planned, existing and emerging situations, the "spirit" of the RP system – its nuances and history – need to be fully understood by tomorrow's leaders.

In an effort to respond to this challenge the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency decided to establish the International Radiological Protection School (IRPS), to provide a clear understanding of the RP system, how it is intended to be interpreted for application in diverse and emerging circumstances, and how it is evolving on the basis of lessons from experience.

Key topics

The IRPS programme has evolved over the last three years to address developments in radiological protection recommendations, standards, and related implementation and practices.

The following subjects are covered during the five-day programme:

- the foundation of the international RP framework: understanding the three fundamental principles – justification, optimisation, dose limitation, the three pillars – science, ethics and experience, and key concepts, units and tools; exploring the RP system: past, present, and future;
- building a system of protection around exposure situations: new approaches in international guidance;
- evolving issues: ethics, stakeholder involvement, public communication;
- state of the art of the RP underlying sciences: radiological exposure and dosimetry, radiobiology, epidemiology, social sciences.

Sessions are built on a mix of presentations and illustrative case study discussions to introduce practical aspects of the implementation of RP actions. Leadership and stakeholder engagement skills are deliberated as an undercurrent of the more technical aspects of these topics.

Learning objectives

- Gain a historical overview of how and why the RP system has evolved, and an understanding of the levels of radiation exposure, the health effects and the radiological risks – explained by the experts who contributed to the system's creation.

- Critically understand how the RP system's key features are applied in RP regulation and implementation.
- Understand the roles and differences in approaches at the international, regional and national levels (e.g. International Commission on Radiological Protection [ICRP], International Atomic Energy Agency Basic Safety Standards [IAEA-BSS], European Basic Safety Standards Directives [EU-BSS], National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements [NCRP]).
- Learn about the current state of the art in the RP underlying sciences.
- Discuss lecturer and participant perceptions, experiences and suggestions in relation to the potential evolutionary direction of the current RP system.
- Illustrate good RP communication and leadership skills through presentations and case studies.

Target group

This course is aimed at mid-career experts with relevant education and ideally three to five years of work experience in the field of radiological protection. Applications from junior experts or PhD or Post-doc students, with advanced knowledge in the field of RP, can be considered.

IRPS participants may hold positions at government ministries, regulatory authorities, research institutions, nuclear fuel cycle industries or other industrial or medical sectors, where their jobs include providing policy and practical level advice on RP matters.

Even though medical radiological protection experts are welcome to join the course, the application of ionising radiation in medical diagnostics or treatment is not the focus of the training.

Organisers and venue

The International Radiological Protection School (IRPS) has been implemented in 2018 and 2019 through a co-operation between the NEA, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) and the Centre for Radiation Protection Research (CRPR) of Stockholm University. Thanks to the highly appreciated support from the SSM and from Stockholm University, the 2020 edition of the IRPS will be organised at the same venue, from 17 to 21 August.

Application instructions

A welcome reception will be organised during the evening of 16 August 2020. The application form can be found at the following page: www.oecd-nea.org/confdb/confdb/conf?id=426.

Applications must be received by the IRPS Secretariat (irps@oecd-nea.org) by 30 April 2020. Notification of selection will be sent to the applicants one month after the end of the application phase. Registration fees for 2020 are fixed at EUR 600 for the 5-day course, including coffee/tea and lunch breaks, as well as social events. Payment from selected participants will be due by 30 June 2020.

The third

NEA International Radiological Protection School (IRPS)

17-21 August 2020
Stockholm University, Sweden

oe.cd/nea-irps

Strålsäkerhetsmyndigheten
Swedish Radiation Safety Authority

Stockholms universitet

NEA
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
International Radiological Protection School

Questions and contact information

Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
Division of Radiological Protection and Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety
46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo
92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France
E-mail: irps@oecd-nea.org

Photo credits: Remediation of the MOX fuel fabrication facility, Cadarache, France (AREVA, Jean-Marie Taillat); EPR Flamanville 3, France (EDF Médiathèque, Alexis Morin); aerial view of Stockholm (Bengt Nyman, Creative Commons).

OECD/NEA, February 2020