

ICRP Main Commission Meeting

October 29 to November 2, 2012 – Fukushima City, Japan

The Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) met in Fukushima City, Japan, October 29 to November 2, 2012. During the week Main Commission members were able to learn a great deal through visiting a rice monitoring facility in Date City, having discussions with a local farmer in his persimmon field, and observing on-going soil remediation work on private and public properties. ICRP thanks the Mayor of Date City and his staff for the excellent arrangements. Members visited the Decontamination Information Plaza in Fukushima City, and also benefited from exchanges with the Ministry of Environment, Date City, Co-op Fukushima, and many others. Later, members of the Main Commission met with the Nuclear Safety Authority, Ministry of Environment, Japan NUS Corporation, and the Nuclear Safety Radiation Association, and participated in a Nuclear Energy Agency workshop in Tokyo.

The Main Commission participated in a symposium at Fukushima Medical University, having an excellent exchange of information between ICRP and local medical professionals, including those who worked with people evacuated from the area around Fukushima Daiichi NPP. In addition, an open public session was held in Fukushima City on the weekend following the Main Commission meeting. Members and local residents and experts made brief presentations, and engaged in discussions on recovery efforts in the area. ICRP thanks the Ministry of Environment and Fukushima Medical University for making these events possible.

The report of ICRP Task Group 84 on *Initial Lessons Learned from the NPP Accident in Japan vis-à-vis the ICRP System of Radiological Protection* was presented. The summary report will be made available through the ICRP website shortly. Actions are already being undertaken to address many of the issues raised and recommendations made by the Task Group. The work of the Task Group will continue to inform the ICRP programme of work in the coming years.

The draft reports *Occupational Intakes of Radionuclides Part 1* and *Assessment of Radiation Exposure of Astronauts in Space* were approved for publication in the Annals of the ICRP.

The Main Commission noted that the use of the special name *sievert* without proper context can cause confusion, and therefore recommends that the quantity (effective dose or equivalent dose) always be specified. Furthermore, when used for equivalent dose the relevant organ must also be specified.

Improvements to the way in which ICRP undertakes *formal relations* were adopted, allowing for more active engagement with other organisations. This is based on one of ICRP's main objectives outlined in the ICRP Strategic Plan: to improve the way that ICRP works with other organisations. Further details will be released shortly.

The Main Commission discussed the programme for the *Second ICRP Symposium on the International System of Radiological Protection*, to be held in October 22-24, 2013 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.