



Editorial

Dear Colleague, dear Friends,

With summer finally having arrived after an odd hesitation period in May and June, most of us in Northern hemisphere are enjoying the hot weather, sun, and well deserved summer holidays.

With this issue of the e-Newsletter, we would like to bring you up to date with the relevant events taking place within and outside the network and to make sure you are well informed and aware of your fellow-colleagues activities around the world.

One of the recent important developments at the WHO, is the adoption of the new [Emergency Response Framework](#) (ERF) to clarify WHO's roles and responsibilities in this regard and to provide a common approach for its work in emergencies to best serve and be accountable to populations affected by emergencies. To that accord, the ERF sets out WHO's core commitments in emergency response which are those actions that WHO is committed to delivering in emergencies with public health consequences to minimize mortality and life-threatening morbidity by leading a coordinated and effective health sector response. It outlines the WHO's four critical functions during response: leadership, information, technical expertise and core services. The ERF was presented at the 2013 [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) organized by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and WHO in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2013.

In performing these essential tasks, WHO relies on its technical expert networks and Collaborating Centers. We are happy to congratulate on successful and timely redesignation our colleagues from two standing WHO Collaborating Centers (CC) – REMPAN veterans – for a renewed period of four-year collaboration: University of Wuerzburg (CC Heads – Prof Chr. Reiners and Dr R. Schneider) and ARCRM / St Petersburg, Russia (CC Head – Dr A. Aleksanin). In addition, the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) in Chiba/Japan is at the very end of the designation process to become a WHO Collaborating Center in August, 2013.

These and more news you find in the current issue of the e-Newsletter. In the meantime, I wish you a happy reading, enjoyable summer vacations and a peaceful month of Ramadan for our Muslim colleagues!



Dr. Zhanat Carr
WHO-REMPAN Coordinator

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News – From REMPAN Secretariat

By Zhanat Carr, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

The 3rd Coordination and Planning Meeting of the WHO BioDose Net (BDN) was organized in Leiden, The Netherlands on March 24, 2013 as a satellite event of the International Conference EPR-BioDose-2013 and was attended by 40 experts from 30 countries. The BDN members shared information on dose assessment after radiation accidents, reported on joint projects and discussed potential ways of aligning and synergizing activities pertaining to emergency response capacity building through research and inter-comparison exercises. In addition, the meeting participants discussed the ways of utilizing the extensive library of digital images accumulated by network members, which could serve for training purposes. ♦



The 3rd Coordination meeting of the WHO BioDoseNet – Leiden, The Netherlands, March 2013

Under the umbrella of the **Global Initiative on Health Security (GHSI)** by the health authorities of G-7 countries plus Mexico, WHO contributed to the meeting of the GHSAG WG on Countermeasures against Radio-Nuclear Threats held at the US CDC offices in Atlanta, Georgia, USA in April 2013. The meeting discussed current issues and priorities in the field of EPR and WG work plan for the year ahead. Harmonizing internationally recommendations/approaches for the use of potassium iodide thyroid blocking in planning for and responding to nuclear emergencies has been identified as one of most important issues. ♦



Members of the GHSAG RNWG visiting CDC Emergency Operations Center in Atlanta, USA, (right to left):

J.R. Jourdain (IRSN, France), A. Laffan (HHS, USA), R. Whitcomb (CDC, USA), C. Li (Health Canada), L. Prosser (PHE, UK), Z. Carr (WHO)

News – From WHO Offices



The IAEA-PAHO/WHO Sub-Regional Workshop on “**International Emergency Notification and the Role of the Health Sector in Radiation Emergencies**” was organized April 24-26, 2013, in Panama for Central American and the Dominican Republic countries. Three participants per country were invited from the Competent Authority under the IAEA Conventions, the National IHR Focal Point Office and the coordination agency or organization responsible for national health emergency planning for nuclear or radiological emergencies. All the countries attended except Guatemala.

The objectives were to:

Update on the notification protocols under the International Conventions and the **International Health Regulations**

Discuss the needs and means, at national level, of coordination and harmonization of those two notification channels to the international response arrangements.

Understand and/or clarify the role of the health sector in national preparedness and response efforts to a radiation emergency and the need to coordinate with other national agencies and institutions involved in emergency preparedness.

Explore the functional and infrastructural needs of the health sector in such emergencies and identify the gaps on a regional level.

The objectives were met and next steps were agreed and drafted with the participants. ♦

News from REMPAN Secretariat

By Zhanat Carr, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

As a member of the IACRNE Working Group on planning the next ConvEx(3) exercise in Morocco in November 2013, WHO attended the **2nd ConvEx planning meeting held in Rabat, Morocco in May 2013**. The scenario will be based, for the first time in ConvEx history, on a malevolent event. Among organization-specific objectives, WHO aims at exercise the IHR notification mechanism and provision of medical and public health advice and assistance to the accident state. ConvEx(3)2013 preparation was also discussed at the last **IACRNE meeting hosted by Europol in The Hague, The Netherlands on May 22-24, 2013**, where Committee members reported on relevant activities and participated in a table-top exercise. ◆



IACRNE members at the Europol – The Hague, The Netherlands, May 2013

Since 2012, WHO Radiation Program is developing **new guidelines for public health response to radiological and nuclear emergencies**. The Guidelines Development Group (GDG) is working towards completion of the first draft, according to the special protocol and requirements set forward by the **WHO policy on guidelines development**. The 2nd meeting of the GDG was held in Amman, Jordan, on 06-08 June 2013, to review the results of the systematic reviews, evaluate the quality of the available evidence, to develop recommendations and assess their strength. The draft guidelines document is being currently developed and will be subjected to a vigorous peer-review process in the last quarter of the 2013. The publication target date is mid-2014. ◆



2nd GDG meeting participants at the WHO-EMRO Center for Environmental Health Activities – Amman, Jordan, June 2013

News – From WHO Offices



The national core-capacities pertaining to the chemical and radiation emergencies preparedness and response have been identified by many countries health authorities as high priority. WHO supports member states in implementation of the **International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)** through regional consultations and workshops with National IHR Focal Points and key stakeholders.

A **regional technical consultation on public health response to chemical and radio-nuclear events** in the context of IHR (2005) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 20-22 March, 2013. ◆



Z. Carr (WHO HQ), S. Widodo (BATAN, Indonesia), V. Pinyowiwat (WHO-SEARO), P. Ravindran (MoH, India), M. Akashi (NIRS, Japan) discussing the strategy for strengthening regional capacity for response to radiation emergencies – Colombo, Sri Lanka, March 2013

News – From the Network Members

REMAT reorganized in 2013, Chiba, Japan

By By Hideo Tatsuzaki, Misao Hachiya, Takako Tominaga, Makoto Akashi, National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS), Chiba, Japan

In 2010, the **National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS)**, Chiba, Japan, has established the medical assistance team Radiation Emergency Medical Assistant Team (REMAT) consisting of physicians, nurses, radiation protection experts, and health physicists ready to



respond to a radiation emergency. Then, the primary aim of **REMAT** was medical assistance to radiation emergency in foreign countries, and upon request by the foreign governments of

the nations affected or international organizations such as WHO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), NIRS was to activate REMAT.

In March 2013, NIRS has reorganized the REMAT as a department with staff members appointed to this department as their main duty and also revised roles of REMAT. This team has now a new function of response to domestic as well as to foreign radiation emergency. Dr. Makoto Akashi, executive director of NIRS, is also director of REMAT. ◆



REMAT team

New IRSN video on Fukushima Accident online

The analysis of the Fukushima Daiichi accident of March 2011 by the **Institut de Radioprotection et de Surete Nucleaire (IRSN)**, France, has been made available as a film to help viewers better understand the events that took place at Fukushima focusing entirely on the events that resulted in a core meltdown in three of the reactors at Fukushima. ◆



News – From the Network Members

New training facility built at NIRS, Chiba, Japan

By Hideo Tatsuzaki, Misao Hachiya, Takako Tominaga, Makoto Akashi, National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS), Chiba, Japan

A **new training facility** was built at the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) in Chiba, Japan, in April 2013.



New training facility – Chiba, Japan, April 2013

The three stories high building provides two ordinal lecture rooms, a lecture room equipped with personal computers, and six laboratories in which radioactive materials can be used for trainings/drills. The new facility will be opened on May 20, 2013. ◆

Scientific Events

International Academic Conference on Radiation Health Risk Management in Fukushima, Japan

On February 25-27, 2013 the **Fukushima Medical University (FMU)** held the International Academic Conference on Radiation Health Risk Management in Fukushima, Japan. The conference participants reviewed the first findings of the Fukushima Health Management Survey and shared the views on the management of health consequences of the accident.



The conference was broadcasted through live-streaming online. In addition, [presentations and video recordings](#) of two plenary discussion sessions are available online. ♦

Participants – Conference on Radiation Health Risk Management in Fukushima, Japan, February 2013

20th Nuclear Medical Defence Conference, Munich, Germany

By Viktor Meineke and Christina Beinke, Bundeswehr Institute of Radiobiology / University of Ulm, Munich, Germany

On May 13-16, 2013, the **Global Conference on Radiation Topics – Preparedness, Response, Protection, and Research - ConRad 2013**, an international and interdisciplinary biennial conference was held the Bundeswehr Institute of Radiobiology/ University of Ulm. The event was attended by 331 military and civilian scientific delegates and professionals attended from 44 countries.



Radiation accident medical preparedness, management and response, radiation protection as well as new research findings in the fields of radiation medicine and radiobiology were the key topics. Participants from various sectors (e.g. medicine, research, government, and defense forces) took the opportunity to address important issues including the developments in radiation emergency management, advances in science and the future perspectives in the field of nuclear medical defense.

Col. Prof. Dr. V. Meineke, Chair – Munich, Germany, May 2013

The books of abstracts and impressions from the conference on photographs are now available on the [conference homepage](#). ConRad 2013 conference proceedings will be published in a special issue of the Health Physics.

The participants took home valuable knowledge and memories of the ConRad-2013 and will look forward to the next Nuclear Medical Defence Conference, **ConRad 2015**, in Munich on May 04-07, 2015. ♦

Scientific Events

IX Latin American IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection and Safety, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

By Teresa Leite, Eletronuclear Medical Assistance Foundation (FEAM), Angra dos Reis, Brazil

From April 14-19, 2013, the Brazilian Radiation Protection Society (SBPR), with the support of the Latin American and the Caribbean Federation of Radioprotection (FRALC) and the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) held the “IX Latin American IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection and Safety” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The congress was also attended by a team of physicians from the **Eletronuclear Medical Assistance Foundation (FEAM)** specialized in treating patients overexposed to radiation. Dr. Teresa Leite, FEAM’S Superintendent Director, presented a training program developed by FEAM, CMRI (Ionizing Radiation Medical Center) and CIRA (Radioepidemiology Information Center) targeting health social workers to improve knowledge about effects of ionizing radiation.



Dr. Teresa Leite – IX Latin American IRPA Regional Congress –Rio de Janeiro, April 2013

So far 60 people have been trained; the aim is to train about 400 social workers. The rationale of training social workers is to provide information about ionizing radiation among populations living in the vicinity of the nuclear power plants. ♦

Scientific Events

NIRS Workshop on Medical Response to Nuclear Accidents in Asia 2013, Chiba, Japan

By By Hideo Tatsuzaki, Misao Hachiya, Takako Tominaga, Makoto Akashi, National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS), Chiba, Japan

On March 11-13, 2013, the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) organized the **Workshop on Medical Response to Nuclear Accidents in Asia 2013** – an interactive training for medical professionals in Chiba, Japan.



NIRS Workshop – Chiba, Japan. March 2013

The workshop was co-organized by WHO and the IAEA.

Participants from 11 Asian countries attended the workshop. The meeting stressed “two-ways” lectures to enable discussions during the lectures. Dr. Zhanat Carr, WHO, gave a lecture on “Activities in radiation emergency medicine by WHO” via a live internet connection, and answered questions. The participants improved knowledge and skills concerning radiation emergency medicine. ◆

International Conference and 10th Anniversary of RRCRM&HE, Gomel, Belarus

By Alexander Rozhko, Republican Research Center for Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology, Gomel, Belarus

January 31, 2013 the International Conference “**Current Issues in Radiation Medicine: From Science to Practice**”, which marked the 10th anniversary of the Republican Research Centre of Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology (RRCRM&HE) was held in Gomel, Belarus.

The conference was attended by over 200 representatives of the medical, educational and scientific institutions of the Republic of Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Iran. The conference offered the opportunity to the participants to discuss a wide range of issues related to radiation protection. The scope of the conference topics covered a broad range of research areas: radiation medicine, radiation epidemiology, radiation biology, and radioecology, radiation dosimetry and radiation safety. ◆

International Conference – Gomel, Belarus, January 2013

(Photo credit:

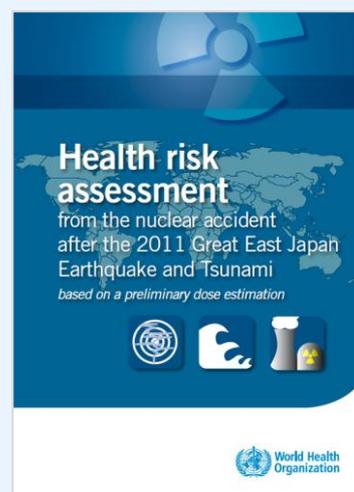
<http://www.tvr.by/eng/society.asp?id=82274>)



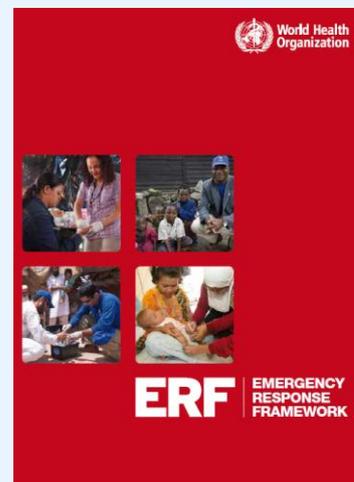
New Publications

In 2013, WHO published the report “**Health risk assessment from the nuclear accident after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami**” based on preliminary dose estimation.

The primary purpose of this health risk assessment of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident is to estimate its potential public health impact so that future health needs can be anticipated and public health actions can be taken. This assessment is based on a preliminary estimate of radiation doses, as described in a WHO report published in May 2012. ◆



The **Emergency Response Framework (ERF)** is a strategic framework document to clarify WHO’s roles and responsibilities and to provide a common approach for its work in emergencies throughout all levels of WHO structure: country level, regional offices and headquarters. ◆



Exercise and Training

XXII Annual Retraining in December 2012, Angra dos Reis, Brazil

By Teresa Leite, Eletronuclear Medical Assistance Foundation (FEAM), Angra dos Reis, Brazil

The **Electronuclear Medical Assistance Foundation (FEAM)** held the XXII Annual Retraining at the Ionizing Radiation Medical Center (CMRI) in Angra dos Reis, Brazil, November 30 - December 02, 2012. The main topics of the course were biodosimetry and response capacity.

During the retraining program one of the most recurring issues was the radiation accident in Goiânia in 1987, still considered the largest radiological accident in the world. According to Dr Nelson Valverde, FEAM consultant and IAEA collaborator, who attended the victims in Goiânia, there had been an evolution in the preparation of medical professionals and health due to diligent studies performed since the accident. According to him, workshops sponsored by FEAM such as retraining, are also of fundamental importance to this development. ♦



XXII Annual Retraining – Angra dos Reis, Brazil, December 2012

Integrated special tactical exercises in Urals region

By Elena Kuznetsova, Urals Research Center for Radiation Medicine (URCRM), Chelyabinsk, Russia

The Urals Research Center for Radiation Medicine (URCRM) held special exercises in February and April 2013, conducted by the Emergency Response Center of the National Anti-Terrorist Committee of the Chelyabinsk Oblast together with the Chief Directorate of the Ministry of Emergency Situation of Russia and the administration of the Chelyabinsk Oblast.

The command-post exercise "Metel 2013" (Snowstorm 2013) was conducted to test the efficiency of the counterterrorist operation (CTO) plan to prevent radiological terrorist attacks on health care facilities. Physicians and researchers of the URCRM were involved in triage and provision of emergency assistance to those affected by radiation.

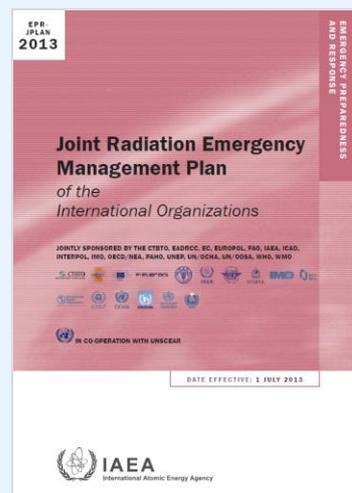
On April 24, 2013, experts of the URCRM participated in integrated special tactical exercises aimed at extinguishing a forest fire on the territory of the East Ural Radioactive Trace (EURT) and dose assessment. ♦

Snowstorm 2013 – Urals, April 2013

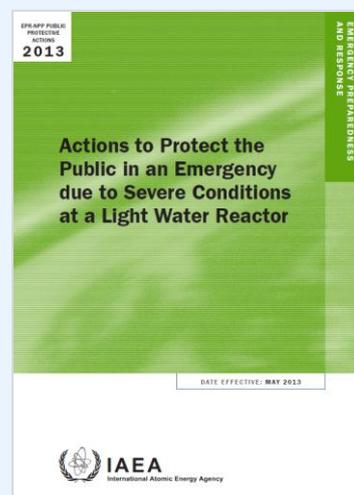


New Publications

The the new edition of the **Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan** co-sponsored by the member-agencies of the IACRINA, was published in July 2013. The JPlan describes inter-agency arrangements for preparedness and response to a radiation emergency under the **two Emergency Conventions**, independent of whether it arises from an accident, natural disaster, negligence, security event or any other cause. ♦



The 2013 IAEA EPR publication **“Actions to Protect the Public in an Emergency to Severe Conditions at a Light Water Reactor”** published in May 2013 is part of the IAEA’s Emergency Preparedness and response series. It takes account of the lessons learned from response to past emergencies, including the accident at TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in 2011. ♦



Exercise and Training

4th International Expert Course in May 2013, Stockholm, Sweden

By L. Stenke, Karolinska University Hospital and Institutet, Sweden

On May 15-17, 2013 the “**4th International Expert Course** on the Medical Management of Radiological and Nuclear Events” chaired by Assoc. Prof. Leif Stenke, Karolinska Institutet, was held in Stockholm, Sweden. The course arranged in collaboration between the **Karolinska Institutet** Stockholm, WHO-REMPAN, the European Blood and Marrow Transplantation group (EBMT) and the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, was attended by 17 experts, mainly hematologists and oncologists responsible for medical preparedness to radiation emergencies.



4th International Expert Course – Stockholm, Sweden, May 2013

The course program emphasized on the medical lessons learnt from the Fukushima Daiichi NPP accident in 2011. Dr. L. Walsh presented the 2013 WHO Health Risk Assessment Report; important primary data from Japan were provided by Prof. M. Akashi, NIRS, Japan. Other lecturers were professors A. Wiley, REAC/TS, USA and R. Powles, EBMT/NAC, UK. Participants discussed the large scale emergency exercises in US and the EBMT’s views on role of stem cell transplantation. The course program also included group activities based on emergency scenarios with major medical implications. ◆

Upcoming Training Courses

- **06-09 August, 2013, Oak Ridge, USA**
Radiation Emergency Medicine (REM)
<http://orise.orau.gov/reacts/capabilities/continuing-medical-education/radiation-emergency-medicine.aspx>
- **12-16 August, 2013, Oak Ridge, USA**
Advanced Radiation Medicine
<http://orise.orau.gov/reacts/capabilities/continuing-medical-education/advanced-radiation-medicine.aspx>
- **10-11 September, 2013, Oak Ridge, USA**
Pre-Hospital Radiation Emergency Preparedness
<http://orise.orau.gov/reacts/capabilities/continuing-medical-education/pre-hospital-radiation-emergency-preparedness.aspx>
- **21 - 25 October, 2013, Trnava, Slovak Republic**
NERIS-TP Training Course
<http://www.eu-neris.net/index.php/activities/training-courses/60-neris-tp-training-course-21-25-october-2013-trnava.html>
- **18-22 November, 2013, Mol, Belgium**
Radiation Protection Course
http://www.sckcen.be/en/Events/RP_EN_20131118

Upcoming Events

- **29 July - 02 August, Boston, USA**
Radiological Emergency Planning: Terrorism, Security, and Communication
<https://ecpe.sph.harvard.edu/programs.cfm?CSID=REP0813&pg=cluster&CLID=1&loc=lp>
- **31 July - 02 August, Baltimore, USA**
Mitigation and Treatment of Radiation Damage
<https://mtds.emeetingsonline.com/emeetings/websitev2.asp?mmno=278&pagename=ATTENDEE>
- **01-05 September, 2013, Dublin, Ireland**
40th Annual Meeting of the European Radiation Research Society
<http://www.err2013.ie/index.html>
- **15-19 September, 2013, New Orleans, USA**
59th Radiation Research Society Annual Meeting
http://www.radres.org/events/event_details.asp?id=282003
- **10-11 October, Bali, Indonesia**
International Conference on the Sources, Effects and Risks of Ionizing Radiation
http://www.batan.go.id/serir_conference/
- **22-24 October, Abu Dhabi, UAE**
ICRP 2013: 2nd International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection
<http://www.icrp.org/page.asp?id=141>
- **23-27 June, 2014, Geneva, Switzerland**
IRPA 2014
<http://www.irpa2014europe.com/>

Important Update!

The deadline for submission abstracts for IRPA 2014 is 15 September, 2013



Mark your calendars! The 14th WHO REMPAN Meeting

On May 07-09, 2014, the 14th WHO REMPAN Coordination and Planning Meeting hosted by the WHO Collaborating Center Wuerzburg will take place at Hotel Novotel Würzburg, Germany.

Participation by invitation only! ♦



Department of Nuclear Medicine, Wuerzburg

Disclosure

The REMPAN e-NEWSLETTER is produced 2 times a year and circulated by WHO Secretariat to the network members to provide information about latest news on the network's activities, developments in radiation emergency preparedness and management.

The REMPAN e-NEWSLETTER was prepared by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance, Würzburg, Germany and the REMPAN Secretariat, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland.

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Previous e-Newsletters can be downloaded from:

<http://www.rempan.uk-wuerzburg.de/who-rempan-e-newsletter.html>

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