REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REPORT FROM THE OECD NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

NEA Activities of interest to EPResc Members since the 2nd EPResc Meeting

International Workshop on Post-Accident Food Safety Science
Hosted by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

The workshop was held in Fukushima, Japan, 8-10 November 2016. The workshop brought together 137 participants, including experts and scientists from ten countries and local residents. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- present the state of the art scientific aspects of post-accident food safety, including:
  - radionuclide transfer to foodstuffs and dose modelling;
  - agricultural management to reduce food contamination;
  - measurement techniques;
- present the status of and the remaining challenges related to local, national and international management of post-accident food safety;
- discuss approaches for addressing remaining challenges.

One important conclusion of the workshop was that the food criteria set by the Japanese government, though much lower than international standards, had been set using state of the art science, and that the processes and detection systems used to certify that food meets the criteria were also state of the art. NEA will produce and published a report on the workshop. For more information, click here.

INEX 5

The official time window for conducting INEX-5 exercises on notification, communication and interfaces related to catastrophic events involving radiation or radiological materials ended on 30 June. 22 Participating countries are now concluding the process of sending their completed evaluation questionnaires. Observations, lessons & issues captured in the INEX 5 Evaluation questionnaires will form the bases of the follow-up INEX 5 International Evaluation Workshop scheduled in 2017 (date to be defined).

Expert Group on Lessons Learnt From Non-Nuclear Accidents (EGNE)

The background for the setting up of this Expert Group, under the Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Matters, was based on the fact that sheltering and evacuation are key protective actions in emergency preparedness planning. However many types of hazards do not have preparedness plans drafted and practiced. Rather, response to many non-nuclear disasters and accidents is ad-hoc, as such the study of such evacuation experience provides an opportunity to understand contributing factors that support the effectiveness of nuclear emergency response activities. In the framework of these activities, the NEA Secretariat has established fruitful collaboration with the OECD/WGCA (Working Group on Chemical Accidents), the JRC (the EC Joint Research Centre), and Japan; also with other OCDE directorates, such as Public Governance. The expertise of these groups and organisations on lessons learnt from disasters will be summarized in the form of contributions to the final EGNE report. Experts on public health will also contribute.
Next Meeting of the Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Management

23-26 January 2017 in the OECD Headquarters in Paris. It will be held in conjunction with the INEX 5 Meeting.

POSSIBLE NEW CRPPH ACTIVITIES

The following areas of work relevant for EP&R were discussed by the CRPPH during its 74th meeting, April 2016, and were approved for further consideration. The CRPPH Secretariat was charged with developing concrete proposals for coordinated, value-added work in these areas for decision during the 75th CRPPH meeting in March 2017. Preliminary activity outlines are presented below:

Sharing Evacuation Criteria and Approach Experience

Decisions to evacuate populations around nuclear installations during emergency situations have been highlighted by experience from the Fukushima Daiichi NPP accident. In particular, approaches to and “criteria” used by regulatory bodies to make recommendations to responsible governmental organisations have been seen as areas where experience exchange would be of value. In particular, the psychological effects of evacuation have been increasingly identified as significant, and it is felt that consideration of the psychological benefits and detriments of evacuation should be more clearly included in the judgements used to make evacuation decisions. It is proposed that the CRPPH study experience and approaches to balancing radiological and psychological effects when making evacuation and relocation decisions.

The NEA is currently working to enhance cross-disciplinary cooperation, and to extend links between its Standing Technical Committees. It is intended that this activity should be jointly addressed by three NEA Committees (e.g. CRPPH, CNRA, and CSNI), with active participation of the new NEA Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety (HANS) Division.

Sharing Experience in the Use of Social Media

The recent CRPPH conference, Stakeholder Dialogue Webinar: Experience and Lessons for Young and Old Experts and Researchers (March 2016), was a new experience for the NEA and for the CRPPH, utilising modern approaches to information sharing. The Webinar demonstrated the importance of social media as part of organisational stakeholder involvement, information and transparency efforts. However, webinar presentations and discussion suggested that not all radiological protection experts are experienced in the use of social media, particularly in emergency situations.

Proposed work would focus on sharing institutional experience and approaches to the use of social media as a transparency and trust-building tool, particularly during and following emergency situations.