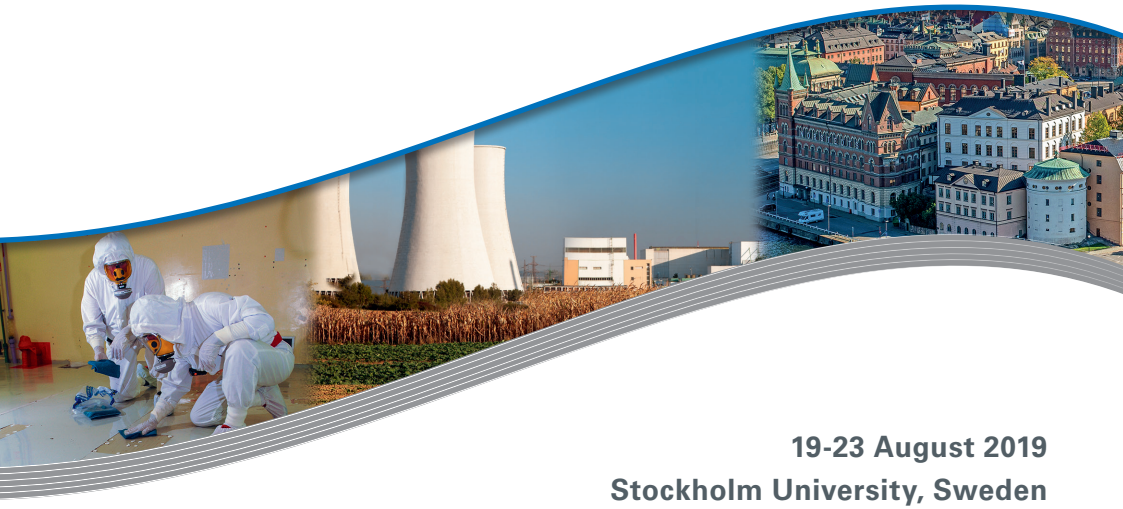
NEA International Radiological Protection School (IRPS)

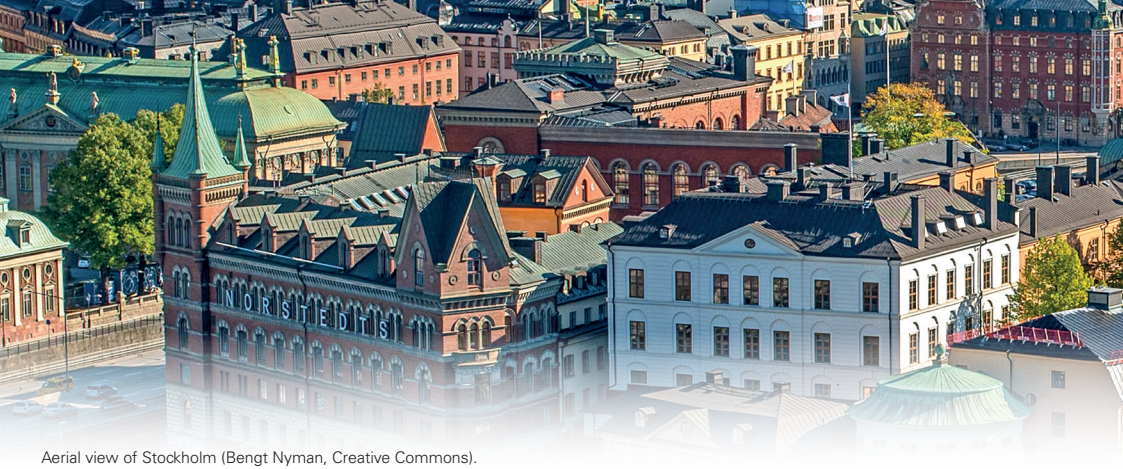
Preparing Tomorrow's Radiological Protection Leaders



19-23 August 2019
Stockholm University, Sweden

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

NEA
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY



Aerial view of Stockholm (Bengt Nyman, Creative Commons).

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.

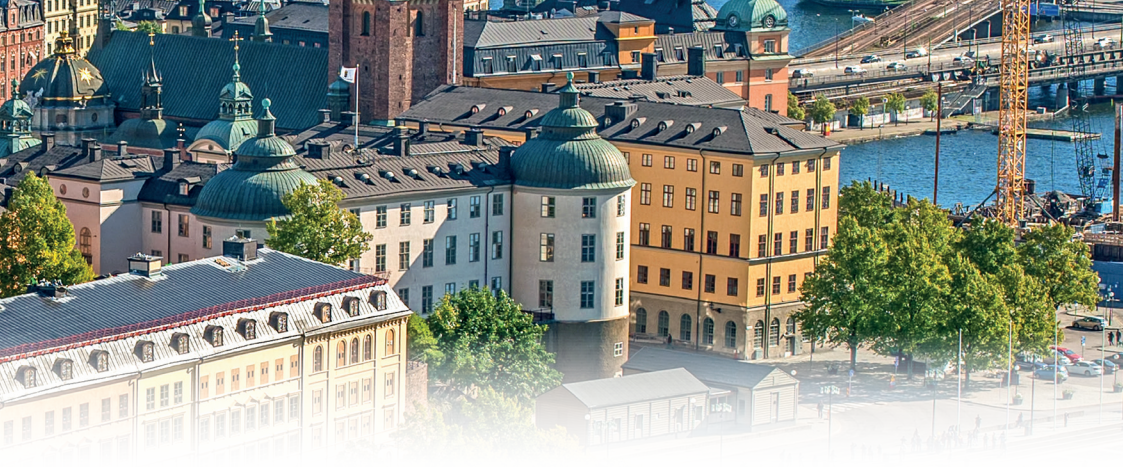
While guidance and standards documents describe the technical facts in relation to the RP system, the body of understanding that they reflect, including how the different elements have evolved, are not well documented. To appropriately and effectively apply the RP system to existing and emerging situations, 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 Nuclear Energy Agency decided to establish the International Radiological Protection School (IRPS), to provide a clear understanding of the RP system and how it is intended to be interpreted for application in diverse and emerging circumstances.

Objectives and key topics

The experts who contributed to the RP system's creation provide an historical overview of how and why the RP system evolved, as well as a deep understanding of what the system is intended to mean. The programme, held over five days, includes sessions built on a mix of presentations and illustrative case studies. Objectives and topics covered include:

- understanding the foundation of the international RP framework – detriment, dose and other fundamentals;
- understanding how the RP system's key features are applied in RP regulation and implementation;
- understanding the state of the art: radiological aspects of biological, epidemiological and social science;
- understanding differences and similarities of principles and standards at the international and national levels (e.g. the International Commission on Radiological Protection [ICRP], the International Atomic Energy Agency Basic Safety Standards [IAEA-BSS], the European Basic Safety Standards Directives [EU-BSS], the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements [NCRP]);
- exploring the RP system: past, present and future, including lecturer and participant perceptions, experiences and suggestions in relation to the potential direction of the RP system;



- building a system of protection around exposure situations: new approaches in international guidance;
- evolving issues: ethics, naturally occurring radiological material (NORM) and public communication;
- building leadership and stakeholder engagement skills as an undercurrent of the more technical aspects of topics described above.

First session

The first school session, IRPS-1, took place in August 2018, welcoming 41 participants from 24 countries, including 3 from non-NEA member countries. A total of 15 distinguished lecturers gave 32 presentations, provided case studies, and participated in breakout discussion sessions with participants. Most lecturers remained with IRPS-1 throughout the week, fostering ad hoc discussions during breaks, lunches and evening events. Post-IRPS assessment comments by participants indicated that the school was very well appreciated, and in general exceeded participant's high expectations.

Target audience

The programme is aimed at mid-career experts in the field of radiological protection. Participants should hold positions providing policy and practical level advice in government ministries, regulatory authorities, research institutions, nuclear fuel cycle industries or in other industrial sectors. Lecturers will build on participants' own experiences to ensure that discussions are relevant to their situation and concerns insofar as possible. Applications from non-NEA member countries are welcome.

Organisers and venue

The IRPS is organised by the Nuclear Energy Agency in co-operation with its member countries. The second session will be held at the Centre for Radiation Protection Research (CRPR), Stockholm University, with the support of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM).

2019 IRPS

The next IRPS will take place from 19 to 23 August 2019. Applications should be submitted by 31 May, and successful applicants will be notified of their acceptance by 17 June. Application forms can be found on the IRPS website www.oecd-nea.org/rp/irps. Completed forms should be sent to irps@oecd-nea.org.

Participants receive a certificate upon completion of the programme. University credits (ECTS) can also be awarded to participants upon request to Stockholm University, and the IRPS will count as continuing education credits for those already holding RP certification.

The second

NEA International Radiological Protection School (IRPS)

19-23 August 2019
Stockholm University, Sweden

oe.cd/nea-irps

Strål säkerhets myndigheten
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
Dr Ted Lazo
46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo
92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France
E-mail: irps@oecd-nea.org

Front cover photo credits: Protective clothing (Orano, France); Jaslovske Bohunice NPP, Slovak Republic; aerial view of Stockholm (Bengt Nyman, Creative Commons).

OECD/NEA, March 2019