Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Radiation Protection Societies (FRALC)

Touzet, R.E.; Bombén, A.M.; Ortiz Magaña, R.;
Jova Sed, L.; Maldonado Mercado, H.;
Medina Gironzini, E.; Khoury, H. and Puig, D.
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FEDERATION OF RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETIES (FRALC)

Touzet, R.E.¹; Bombén, A.M.¹; Ortiz Magaña, R.²; Jova Sed, L.²; Maldonado Mercado, H.²; Medina Gironzini, E.³; Khoury, H.⁵ and Puig, D.⁶

¹Argentine Radiation Protection Society (SAR)
²Mexican Radiation Safety Society (SMSR)
³Radiation Protection Section of the Cuban Physics Society (SPRC)
⁴Peruvian Radiation Protection Society (SPR)
⁵Brazilian Radiation Protection Society (SBPR)
⁶Uruguayan Radiation Protection Association (AUR)

The idea of a Federation of Radiation Protection Societies in Latin America came up at the 1st Regional Congress on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety that was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina), in October 1991. At the 2nd Regional Congress, in Zacatecas (Mexico), in 1993, the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Radiation Protection Societies (FRALC) was officially launched.

The founder members were the Argentine Radiation Protection Society (SAR), the Brazilian Radiation Protection Society (SBPR), the Mexican Radiation Safety Society (SMSR) and the Peruvian Radiation Protection Society (SPR). Now, the FRALC has accepted as members the Radiation Protection Section of the Cuban Physics Society (SPRC) and the Uruguayan Radiation Protection Association (AUR).

OBJECTIVES

The basic objectives of the FRALC are:

- to promote the safe use of radiation and radioactive sources in Latin America and the Caribbean
- to promote the foundation of new Radiation Protection Societies within the region, as mean of associating radiation protection professionals, and then, to promote de affiliation of this new societies to IRPA.
- to encourage the cooperation and mutual aid in the study, research and use of resources, in order to promote the radiation protection development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ACTIVITIES

To achieve these objectives, FRALC develops different activities:

- it sponsors regional congresses organized by Radiation Protection Societies members
- it organizes and sponsors seminars, courses and conferences on radiation protection related subjects
- It spreads radiation protection information in the languages spoken at the region (Spanish and Portuguese)
- it has a Web site.
CONGRESSES

FRALC sponsors regional congresses organized by Radiation Protection Societies members.

3rd REGIONAL CONGRESS ON RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The 3rd Regional Congress on “Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety” was held in Cusco (Peru) from 23rd to 27th October 1995, having been the first Regional IRPA Congress held in Latin America. The meeting was hosted by the Peruvian Radiation Protection Society, with the sponsorship of FRALC and supported by IAEA/ARCAL and OPS. Ing. E. Medina Gironzini was the president of the Organizing Committee and members of SAR, SBPR and SMSR were appointed to participate in the Program Committee.

More than 300 participants from 24 countries, working in different disciplines related to radiation protection and nuclear safety, attended the congress. One hundred eighty-three papers were presented as posters and some of them were selected for oral presentations in the different topical sessions of the congress. The meeting had: 5 Plenary Symposia, 7 Refresher Courses, 3 Round Tables, a Highlights Session and a Publications Exhibition.

A compilation of accepted abstracts and invited lectures was provided to the participants, during the congress. The proceedings, with 224 full papers, were sent later.

4th REGIONAL CONGRESS ON RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The 4th Regional Congress on “Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety” was held in La Habana (Cuba) from 19th to 23rd October 1998. The Cuban Radiation Protection Society organized the congress and CPHR, CNSN and CIEN participated in the Organizing Committee. The sponsors of the meeting were: IRPA, IAEA/ARCAL, OPS and FRALC. Appointed members of SAR, SBPR, SMSR and SPR participated in the Scientific Committee.

More than 300 participants from 22 Iberoamerican countries and International Organizations attended the meeting. The accepted papers were presented at the Poster Viewing Session and some of them were selected to be delivered as mini-presentations at the 17 Topical Sessions. At the meeting were also: 9 Invited Lectures and 2 Round Tables. At the Plenary Session, the main points discussed at the parallel Topical Sessions and Poster presentations, together with the conclusions reached, were presented.

A Course on “Radiation Protection of the Patient” organized by the GRIAPRA was held from 14th to 20th October, with participants from different Latin American and Caribbean countries. A Workshop on “Regulatory Aspects of Radiation Protection of the Patient” was organized as a pre-congress activity.

5th REGIONAL CONGRESS ON RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The 5th Regional Congress on “Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety” will be held in Recife (Brazil), from 29th April to 4th May 2001. The congress will be hosted by the Brazilian Radiation Protection Society, under the joint sponsorship of FRALC and UFPE-DEN Department of Nuclear Energy. Its designation as a Regional IRPA Congress has been requested. The designation of II Congress of the Iberian, Latin American and the Caribbean Radiation Protection Societies is being considered by the GRIAPRA. Dr. H. Khoury was appointed president of the Organizing Committee.

The scientific program will include: Invited Lectures, Topical Sessions, Poster Viewing, Associate Society Forum, Plenary Symposia and Highlights of the Congress. A course on radiation protection matters will be held during the congress.
This meeting will be the appropriate place to promote new developments and new ideas on radiation protection and nuclear safety. It will be also an excellent opportunity to discuss 21st century perspectives of radiation protection activities in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. The main purpose of the meeting is to bring together professionals from the industry, universities and research laboratories to present and discuss the latest research results, and to review the state of the art on applied and fundamental aspects of the radiation protection. Focus will be on Latin America and the Caribbean, however, posters, papers and participants from other regions are most welcome. The official languages will be: Portuguese, Spanish and English.

COURSES, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES SPONSORSHIP

FRALC organizes and sponsors seminars, workshops and conferences on radiation protection related subjects, with the mutual aid of member societies. It is worthwhile to mention some of the activities held during 1999:

- **Seminar on “Biological Indicators in Ionizing Radiation Overexposed Patients”**

  The seminar was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina), in June, organized by the Argentine Radiation Protection Society. Experts from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Chile and France delivered lectures and more than 130 participants attended the seminar.

- **Conference on “Advances in Internal Dosimetry”**

  Dr. M. Stabin delivered the conference in Buenos Aires (Argentina), in October. It was organized by the Argentine Radiation Protection Society and the Brazilian Radiation Protection Society, with the joint sponsorship of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Argentina and the Argentine Nuclear and Biology Association.

- **Course on “Quality Control in Diagnostic Radiology and Mammography”**

  The course was held in Lima (Peru), in November. It was organized by the Peruvian Radiation Protection Society with the support of the Iberoamerican Group of Radiation Protection Societies.

- **Seminar on “Radiation Safety in the Use of Radioactive Materials in the Industry”**

  The course was held in Lima (Peru), in November. It was organized by the Peruvian Radiation Protection Society with the support of ARCAL XX and the sponsorship of FRALC.

PUBLICATIONS AND FRALC ON THE INTERNET

One of the main objectives of FRALC is to spread radiation protection information in Latin America and the Caribbean. In view of this mission, FRALC has a section dedicated to its activities in the Bulletin “Protección Radiológica”. This publication is edited in Peru and Ing. E. Medina Gironzini is the chief editor. ARCAL/IAEA and OPS/WHO support this bulletin and it is supplied free of charge.

FRALC has a special section in the Uruguayan Radiation Protection Association and the Brazilian Radiation Protection Society electronic bulletins, to promote radiation protection news and activities within the region.

Taking into account the lack of information on radiation protection subjects written in the region official languages, FRALC promotes the translation in Spanish and Portuguese of International Organization publications and radiation protection subject papers.

FRALC MEMBERS RECENT ACTIVITIES

ARGENTINE RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY (SAR)

The SAR organized a Seminar on “Biological Indicators in Ionizing Radiation Overexposed Patients (Dose Assessment and Follow up). It was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina), on June 10th 1999. Local and international invited experts from France, Brazil, Chile and Cuba, and more than 130 participants, from Argentina and Uruguay, attended the seminar.

A Workshop on “Medical Response to Radiation Accidents”, was organized by SAR, in Buenos Aires (Argentina), on September 10th 1999. Local and international invited experts (UK and IAEA) and more than 120 participants, attended the workshop. The advances in the project of a Latin American radiopathology network of cooperation in case of radiation accidents were presented.

In addition, SAR sponsored conferences, congresses and courses organized by scientific societies of related disciplines, which support radiation protection.

To achieve the objective of diffusion of radiation protection information, standards and recommendations, SAR launched a bulletin and its own Web site, in 1999. An editorial committee was appointed in September 1999. The goal is to create a new-look for ¨Seguridad Radiológica¨, the journal written in Spanish and edited by SAR, with greater encouragement for paper contributions and an improved profile. To contact SAR: www.sar.radioproteccion.org.ar or sar@sede.arn.gov.ar.

BRAZILIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY (SBPR)

Presently, all the efforts of the SBPR are focused on the organization of the 5th Regional Congress on “Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety”. The Congress Organizing Committee is looking for financial support and the sponsorship of radiation protection related national and international Organizations. The committee is making an extensive promotion of the meeting in all international forums to achieve the objectives of a large number of participants and a successful congress. To obtain further information contact Dr. H. Khoury, president of the Congress Organizing Committee: khoury@elogica.com.br.

The SBPR edits a quarterly newsletter and its own Web site is under construction.

RADIATION PROTECTION SECTION OF THE CUBAN PHYSICS SOCIETY (SPRC)

After the successful 4th Regional Congress on “Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety” held in La Habana (Cuba), in 1998, organized by the SPRC, a lot of activities derived of this meeting have been carried out.

To contact SPRC president: jova@cphr.edu.cu.

MEXICAN RADIATION SAFETY SOCIETY (SMSR)

The SMSR organized the International Joint Meeting “The Role of Nuclear Power to Mitigate Climate Change”. It was held in Acapulco (Mexico), from 18th to 21st July 1999, with most than 400 participants from America and Europe. It was sponsored by the Mexican Nuclear Society, the Latin American Section of the American Nuclear Society and the FRALC.
The SMSR has an official publication, “Protección Radiológica”, written in Spanish, which has been edited for the last 22 years. To contact the SMSR president: mverdejo@intersky.com.

At the FRALC General Assembly, that took place at the 4th Regional Congress on “Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety”, in La Habana (Cuba), in October 1998, Ing. R. Ortiz Magaña, SMSR member, was appointed FRALC President. Therefore, SMSR will host the FRALC Executive Committee Presidency until the next regional meeting.

PERUVIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY (SPR)

The SPR organized the 4th Peruvian Congress on Radiation Protection that was held from 19th to 21st November 1999. During the congress, a Course on “Quality Control in Diagnostic Radiology and Mammography” and a Seminar on “Radiation Safety in the Use of Radioactive Materials in the Industry” took place. The SPR also organized conferences delivered by regional experts, in 1999.

Since 1987, SPR continues the training program in radiation protection related to the use of radioactive material and X-rays in medicine, industry and research. The completion of this training course is necessary to obtain the individual permission given by the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute (IPEN). Up to now, more than 1500 professionals and technicians have attended the course.

To contact the SPR: cip@mail.cosapidata.com.pe or medina@ipen2.gob.pe

URUGUAYAN RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (AUR)

The AUR was launched in April 1998 and one year later was accepted as member of IRPA.

The AUR and the Argentine Radiation Protection Society organized a Workshop on “Advances in Radiation Protection”. It was held in Montevideo (Uruguay), under the conduction of Dr R. Touzet, SAR President, from 24th to 26th November 1998.

A Seminar on “Radiation Protection” was held in Montevideo (Uruguay), from 9th to 11th September 1999. Some of the topics included in the program were: Radiation protection in diagnostic radiology, Radiation protection in industrial radiography, Quality assurance program and Legislation. Dr. A. Yacozenco, from the Rio de Janeiro University (Brazil), delivered the invited lecture. In addition, a Round Table on “Radiation and Society” was organized in September.

To achieve the objective of diffusion, some AUR members and its president, Dr. D. Puig, delivers conferences on radiation protection subjects in different forums and edits an electronic bulletin. To contact the AUR: divapuig@adinet.com.uy.
One of the main objectives of FRALC is to promote new Radiation Protection Societies in the region and as a consequence of this Panama and Dominican Republic have launched theirs. Presently, the Panamanian Radiation Protection Association (APPRA) is applying to become a member of IRPA.

**FRALC AS MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

FRALC along with the Radiation Protection Societies of Spain (SEPR) and Portugal (SPCCRI) launched the GRIAPRA (Iberoamerican Group of Radiation Protection Societies), in Córdoba (Spain), in 1996.

Several meetings of GRIAPRA Executive Committee took place during regional and international events (the National SMSR Congress, in Guadalajara (Mexico), in April 1997; the International Meeting on “Goiania Accident-10 years later”, in Goiania (Brazil), in October 1997; and the 4th Regional Congress on “Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety”, in La Habana (Cuba), in October 1998). In these meetings different cooperative projects were presented and financial supports were analyzed.

Within the framework of GRIAPRA some research programs are being carried out. A project on biological dosimetry is being carried out, within Argentine, Cuban, Peruvian, Portuguese and Spanish institutions. A project on the assessment of internal contamination at workplaces, has been considered with the potential participation of Argentine, Cuban, Mexican and Spanish work groups. In addition, GRIAPRA sponsored technical visits and the attendance to Courses. A survey on perception risk in medical practices was conducted, in the framework of GRIAPRA activities.

One of FRALC main objectives is to promote the foundation of new Radiation Protection Societies within the region and to achieve this objective, FRALC is contacting and encouraging professionals who work in radiation protection areas, in different countries of the region. FRALC is offering them support and its experience in the launching and running of Radiation Protection Societies.

To achieve the objective of promotion of radiation protection and the mutual support among professionals in the region, different activities are being schedule for the near future and new projects are being analyzed.
Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Meetings
5th Regional Congress on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

V CONGRESO REGIONAL SOBRE SEGURIDAD RADIOLÓGICA Y NUCLEAR

Recife - Pernambuco, Brazil
April, 29 - May, 04 2001

Topics of interest

• Dosimetry and Instrumentation
• Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation
• Natural Radiation Exposure
• Protection against Non-ionizing Radiation
• Radiation and Nuclear Accidents
• Radiation Protection at Workplaces
• Radiation Protection for Medical Exposure
• Radiation Protection in the Environment
• Standards and Interpretation
• Training, Education and Communication
• Waste Management and Decommissioning

Time Table

May 2000 The 2nd announcement and call for papers
15 August 2000 Deadline for abstract
30 September 2000 Notification for acceptance
31 December 2000 Deadline for full papers
28 February 2001 Notification for acceptance
29 April-4 May 2001 Congress date

Official languages: Portuguese, Spanish and English

Information

Organizing Committee 5th Regional Congress of IRPA and II Congress of Iberian and Latin American Radiation Protection Societies
CEJEM - Promoções e Treinamento Ltda
Rua General Americano Freire, 394 - Sl. 403 - Boa Viagem
51021-120 - Recife - PE - Brazil
Phone: (81) 465-8594 / 465-8136 - Fax: (81) 325-5015
FRALC on the Internet

FEDERACION DE RADIOPROTECCION DE AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

Esta organización tiene como objetivos principales: promover la formación de asociaciones de especialistas en protección radiológica en aquellos países de la región en donde no las hay organizadas, así mismo recoge la difusión de las normas a la INTERNATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (IRPA) en el intercambio de experiencias entre los profesionales, la expresión técnica y científica mediante el desarrollo de eventos y la distribución de información técnica.

Actualmente está integrada por más de 450 miembros de las 8 asociaciones existentes en la región y afiliadas a la IRPA.

Sociedad Argentina de Radioprotección (SAR)
Sociedad Brasileña de Radioprotección (SBRP)
Sección de Protección Radiológica de la Sociedad Cubana de la Técnica (SCPTC)
Sociedad Mestiza de Radioprotección (SMMR)
Sociedad Panamericana de Radioprotección (SPR)
Asociación Unificada de Radioprotección (AUR)

ANTecedentes

La FRALC fue fundada en Zacatecas, México, en una ceremonia especial efectuada minutos antes del acto de clausura del 2do. Congreso Regional de Seguridad Radiológica y Nuclear el 30 de noviembre de 1990, desde su inicio el Acta de fundación fue denominada “ACTA DE ZACATECAS”.

En la ciudad de Zacatecas, México, se realizaron dos horas del día veintena de noviembre de mil novecientos noventa y tres, y durante el desarrollo del Segundo Congreso Regional de Seguridad Radiológica y Nuclear, se reunieron los representantes de las Sociedades de Protección Radiológica asociadas en América Latina y el Caribe: Adela Salyum (Tasmania, Sociedad Brasileña de Protección Radiológica), Carlos Arana (representante, Sociedad Argentina de Radioprotección), Gustavo Müller (Presidente, Sociedad Guatemalteca de Protección Radiológica) y Eduardo Maldonado (Presidente, Sociedad Panamericana de Radioprotección) con el fin de conformar una institución que integre a las Sociedades de la región dedicada a asistir los temas de radiación y cooperación mutua, brindando el soporte técnico necesario para el desarrollo del Congreso Regional.

1. Crear la Federación de Radioprotección de América Latina y el Caribe.
2. Aprobar los Estatutos de la Federación, el cual fue aprobado previamente por la Comisión Organizadora.
3. Conformar el Concejo Directivo de la siguiente manera:

   Concejo Directivo

   Eduardo Maldonado (SFP)
   Adela Salyum (SBRP)
   Gustavo Müller (SARG)

   4. Ratificar y aprobar la realización del Tercer Congreso Regional de Seguridad Radiológica y Nuclear que tendrá lugar en el Perú en mil novecientos noventa y cinco.

   5. Propiciar que este evento se realice en el Perú, se realice junto con el Congreso Regional del IRPA, para lo cual se fijan las gestiones correspondientes ante la IRPA.

   6. Apoyar a la Sociedad Brasileña de Protección Radiológica para que realice el Cuarto Congreso Regional de Seguridad Radiológica y Nuclear. Siendo las dos fechas y resultados de las, de no ser concluidas la presente sesión de fundación”.

(Firma de los representantes de las Sociedades, y además firma de un representante de cada país de la región como apoyo a la Federación)

REUNIONES

FRALC EN EL CISCO
EDAL EN VIENA
SOCIEDADES IBEROAMERICANAS DE PROTECCION RADIOLOGICA
FRALC Y GRUPO DE GUARDIANES
RECENTES REUNIONES

162