

IDPA Exercise

First IRPA Workshop on Radiation Protection Culture

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Group 2

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Identification (1)

- Key current drivers to reinforce RP culture
 - *Further improvement of RP safety*
 - *New build (new countries), increase of medical exposure*
 - *Transfer to the next generation (retirement problem)*
- Need of a linkage to wider safety culture
 - *Commonalities, particularly top management leadership (not all leaders are committed to RP)*
 - *Learning organization*
 - *Questioning attitude, “no blame” or “just” culture*
 - *Transparency*
 - *Role of regulator*
- Education and training
 - *Science, technique, experience, values, ethics, History*

It is important not to reinvent the “wheel”

Identification (2)

- Specificities of RP sector
 - *What is common to all RP exposure situations?*
Broad acceptance of a good underpinning system
Key role of the LNT assumption
ALARA for the management of stochastic effects
 - *What is sector specific?*
Nuclear (contractors). Medical (status of doctors compare to RP professionals). Conventional industry (radiography, sources),
Research and teaching
- Society perception and knowledge
 - *RP culture as the basis for communication*
 - *Need to improve public understanding*

Importance for the professionals of developing a narrative on RP culture to address stakeholders with the common language

Diagnostic (1)

- Recognition of a general deficit of RP culture
- A possible key role for IRPA and national societies
Building of a platform with other safety societies
- Dealing with the intrinsic uncertainties of RP is a challenge for developing the culture
- Responsible operators must lead the development of the RP culture throughout the organization
- Key responsibility of top management but the RP professionals must be able to influence. RP professionals must become the RP conscience of the whole organization
- How to motivate the top management? Good safety is good business...

Diagnostic (2)

- Role of RP in the overall picture of safety culture i.e how RP, nuclear safety, security are interlinked?
- Lack of RP culture dimension in the general RP training
- More active involvement of retirees in experience transfer
- Education and training is not sufficient to develop RP culture: need for coaching...

Enhancing RP culture will be a long process

Prospective (1)

- **Negative scenario**

- *IRPA is failing to get the commitment of AS and do not develop Guiding Principles. The whole profession maintain the status quo. Nobody cares*

- **Positive scenario**

- *The IRPA initiative energies the profession and the Guiding Principles become a landmark in the development and spreading of RP culture*

- **Current trend**

- *The IRPA initiative is at the right time because of the generally favourable safety climate*
- *The present situation is quite favourable but fragile. IRPA must take the lead and keep it.*

Prospective (2)

- **Main threats:**

- *The IRPA initiative is seen as “fuzzy” and not technical enough*
- *“Old voices” coming back on the frontline – arrogance...*
- *Lack of resources*

- **Main opportunities:**

- *The new environment (medical, nuclear, retirement) is opening a time of questioning*
- *To involve the whole profession : medical, industry,... other safety colleagues in an international perspective (including the former generation)*
- *The ALARA experience is a good basis but need to clarify the difference between ALARA and RP culture*
- *Link with safety and security culture*
- *Building on high level statements of ICRP, IAEA,... (but beware, are they really committed?)*

Prospective (3)

- **Time frame: It will be a long journey, at least a decade?**
- **Without RP culture the communication with the public and other relevant stakeholders will remain ineffective**

Actions (1)

- To develop Guiding Principles – Roadmap
 - *Section on the IRPA web site*
 - *Engagement of AS and non engaged countries*
 - *Engagement with other organizations: international and professional*
- Clear understanding of the scope of our work programme
- To consider RP culture in programme of conferences
 - *Sessions on ethics, History, experience, values*
- To develop practical actions to test RP culture we are developing
- To develop pragmatic material and avoid to remain general and philosophical
- Encourage RP journals to promote articles dealing with RP culture

Actions (2)

- Make a link with the IRPA Code of Ethics, GPSI and definition of RP professional
- Criteria of success
 - *Feedback from outside (other professionals, media,...)*
 - *Interest from other international and professional organizations*
- Development of “simple” tools to evaluate the degree of mastering by the professionals themselves and the degree of integration of RP culture in organization

First immediate step : prepare a brief summary and a few attached questions for getting feed back from AS

Why RP culture? What is its added value?

- To promote radiation risk awareness
- To maintain the RP heritage
- To facilitate its transmission
- To improve quality and effectiveness of RP
- To contribute to the general safety
- To give visibility to the fundamentals of RP (science and values)
- To improve communication with the society
- To be in the position to do the best
- To enhance the visibility of RP in our societies

Roadmap

- Open a RP culture Section on the IRPA Web site
- Prepare a short summary and questionnaire for AS
- Prepare the report for the Helsinki, Tokyo, Medellin and Nairobi AS Forum
- Develop a working document and encourage discussion and dissemination in AS
- Prepare the second workshop (venue and date)
- ...