



Towards guiding principles for IRPA communication and engagement with the public:

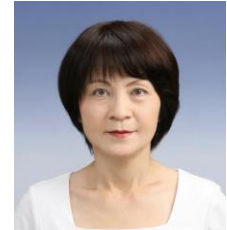
The Work of the IRPA Task Group on Public Understanding of Radiation Risks

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IRPA Work on Public Understanding of Radiation Risk?

The Task Group on Public Understanding of Radiation Risk was established in 2014 with the aim of encouraging and supporting Associate Societies in the development of effective means of enhancing public understanding of radiation risk through the sharing of good practice, ideas and resource materials. The TG is currently chaired by Dr Hiroko Yoshida – Executive Council Member – from Tohoku University in Japan.



What’s been accomplished so far?

Stories in the media demonstrate that the general public has a poor understanding of radiation risk. IRPA believes that one of the responsibilities of the Associate Societies of IRPA is to inform the public about radiation risk. IRPA encourages the Associate Societies of IRPA to develop effective means of enhancing public understanding of radiation risk in their regions of the world through the sharing of good practices, ideas and resource material.

Up to now the group’s endeavours have focussed on promoting the study of public (including media) engagement with radiation protection issues and the publication of articles thereon plus the development of a library of good practice activities which have been made available on a dedicated IRPA webpage.

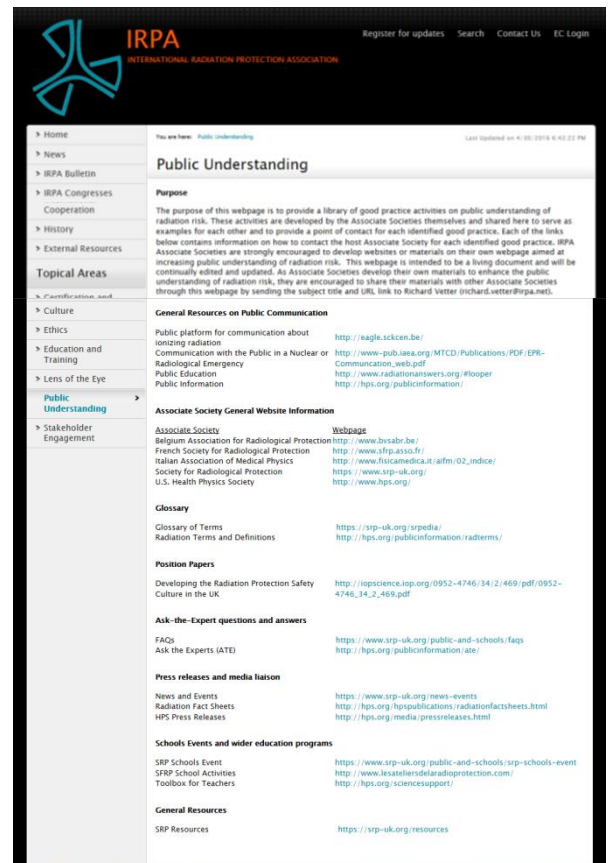
The way forward – 1

To develop the IRPA guiding principles for communicating and stakeholder engagement with the public. The proposed work plan is:

- a) To develop methodology and protocol for engaging with IRPA membership in order to garner ‘guideline’ ideas.
- b) To organise and host international and regional workshops specifically on ‘communication and stakeholder engagement of IRPA’ to collect good practices, explore ideas and identify needs for inclusion in the ‘guidance’ at different radiation protection events.
- c) To conduct the first of these workshops at the RICOMET 2018 conference in Belgium, and improve the workshop methodology.
- d) Present results from these workshops and first draft guidance document at IRPA EC 2019
- e) To revise the first draft of the IRPA Principles based on feedback to a second draft which will be presented to IRPA 2020 in Korea for approval and subsequent launch.

Invitation

In case you wish to organise a national or international workshop in the context of IRPA communication and engagement with public, kindly contact Dr Hiroko Yoshida, Chair of the TG on Public Understanding at hiroko@m.tohoku.ac.jp



The way forward – 2

The development of a ‘soft skills’ tool pack to facilitate IRPA AS to hold training sessions for radiation protection professionals on communicating with the public and stakeholder engagement. It is essential that radiation safety professionals obtain some rudimentary skills in communicating the concepts of risks and benefits to non-specialists including the media. Such ‘tool packs’ will need to take into account a variety of languages and cultures but may include slide sets, desktop exercises, case studies, links to expert science communicators, and feedback questionnaires.