

Experience of an international network in radiological protection in Latin American countries

Eduardo Medina Gironzini
Instituto Peruano de Energía Nuclear
Lima, Perú

On March 15th 2002 the international network "RADIOPROTECCION" is created, with 11 people from 11 countries, with the purpose of exchanging its members information about different topics about safety and radiation protection.

This group has been growing significantly. At the end of 2002 it had 179 members and now 6 years after being created, 740 people from 28 different countries are registered., mainly from Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. There are also members from Austria, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

The network is mostly integrated by specialists in radiation protection who work in regulatory bodies, nuclear commissions, universities and entities where radiation is used in the industry, medicine, and scientific research.

More than 2100 messages about congress advertisements, courses, workshops and national and international activities on radiation protection and related topics have been sent from this forum. In addition, technical articles and news on the specialty have been spread. Technical opinions and feedback have also been exchanged, promoting in this way the communication and cooperation among its members.

This network is the continuation of the activities carried out in Latin America through the "Radiation Protection" bulletin from which 65000 copies were printed and distributed in 40 countries for 10 years, (Since 1991 until 2001) thanks to the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). This is complemented by the Website: www.radioproteccion.org.

Since April 2008, an Electronic Bulletin, "Radiation Protection", has been sent, not only in this network but in others: Latin-Americans Regulators, Peru Radiation, Health Physics,...

In this network many issues have been held, for example: Pregnancy and medical radiation, emergency response, occupational exposure, radiation protection responsibilities, lessons learned from accidental exposures, aspects of safety culture, orphan sources, diagnosis and treatment of damage radiation, regulations, etc..

The idea of defining a day to celebrate the radiation protection was set in the network which is being celebrated 2 years since then every April 15th.

This network is opened for all the specialists in radiological protection of Latin America and of other continents that need to have a channel of permanent communication to improve the exchange of experiences and topics of interest in order to help technical problems and to be updated.

It is a network that is growing and the only one where the messages are in Spanish; this doesn't hamper the communication in Portuguese and English, though.