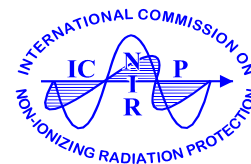




ICNIRP ACTIVITIES

REPORT 2012



Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of the Commission for the period between January 2012 and December 2012.

ICNIRP Structure - Main Commission

According to the Statutes, the Main Commission 2012-2016 elected at the Annual General Meeting, 10-12 November 2011, Manila, Philippines took office after the IRPA Conference in May 2012. It is composed as follows:

Rüdiger Matthes, Chair, Germany
Maria Feychting, Vice-Chair, Sweden

Rodney Croft, Australia
Adele Green, Australia
Kari Jokela, Finland
James Lin, United States of America
Agnette Peralta, Philippines
Carmela Marino, Italy
Per Söderberg, Sweden
Bruce Stuck, United States of America
Zenon Sienkiewicz, United Kingdom
Eric van Rongen, Netherlands
Soichi Watanabe, Japan

In 2012 a new structure replacing the Standing Committees and Consulting Experts was decided. It provides for the creation of a Scientific Expert Group (SEG) covering all specialties necessary for developing protection guidance across the whole non ionizing radiation spectrum. The SEG gathers experts from very diverse scientific backgrounds amongst which members of the Project Groups (PG) will be recruited. Each Project Group is responsible for a specific work plan task and will organize the work necessary to fulfill this task including drafting documents and/or organizing workshops. The SEG members are elected along the same line as the Commission members and must comply with the ICNIRP policy regarding independence. They work on a voluntary basis and only receive reimbursement of the expenses associated with participation in meetings.

All commission members' profiles, and in future also those of the SEG and PG members, are available on the ICNIRP website <http://www.icnirp.org>.



ICNIRP Scientific Secretariat

The Scientific Secretariat is based in Oberschleissheim, Germany. It coordinates the activities of the Commission and overviews the finances.

Declaration of personal interests

The declarations of personal interests are to be filled by all commission members and as of 2013 by all SEG and PG members. The declarations of personal interests are screened by the Commission, which evaluates whether the interests declared there lead to a conflict putting at stake the independence of ICNIRP. All declarations of personal interests are available from the ICNIRP website. → www.icnirp.org/cv.htm and www.icnirp.org/seg.htm.

Commission Meetings

A Commission Meeting was held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 7-9 May 2012 prior to the ICNIRP NIR Workshop and an Annual General Meeting was held on 30-31 October 2012 in Rome, Italy. In Edinburgh, departing, current and new Commission members had the occasion to meet and discuss together the ICNIRP topics allowing for a smooth transition.

Main achievements at these meetings were the establishment of a Work Plan for the new term of office 2012-2016 and the establishment of a new working structure (see above). Scientific topics discussed there were mainly those described below under work plan and activities.

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board (chairpersons and secretariat) met in Munich on 15 March and 6 July 2012. Scientific and administrative issues were discussed, including the organization of the upcoming workshops and meetings.

Work plan activities

Guidelines on limits of exposure to incoherent visible and infrared radiation (0,38 μm -3mm) and Guidelines on limits of exposure to laser radiation of wavelengths between 180 nm and 1000 μm

An update of both guidelines was approved for external review via the online consultation at the beginning of 2011. The open consultation ended on 21 May 2011. The draft on laser radiation is currently being finalized. The Guidelines on limits of exposure to incoherent visible and infrared radiation was finalized in 2012 and submitted for publication in Health Physics at the turn of the year.

Guidelines for limiting exposure to electric fields induced by movement of the human body in a static magnetic field and to time-varying and electric fields below 1 Hz

The draft developed by the Project Group appointed by the Commission was handed to the Commission at the beginning of 2012 and offered for public consultation from 23 February to 24



May 2012. Following this, the draft is now under refinement by the Commission. The guidelines are established for the protection of workers moving in static magnetic fields or being exposed to magnetic fields with frequencies below 1 Hz. The objective is to set the limit well below the threshold of peripheral nerve stimulation and to minimize the possibility of vertigo and perception of visual sensations (magnetophosphenes). The guidelines bridge the gap between the guidelines on static magnetic fields ([Guidelines on Limits of Exposure to Static Magnetic Fields. Health Phys 96\(4\):504-514; 2009](#)) and those for ELF fields ([Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric and Magnetic Fields \(1 Hz - 100 kHz\). Health Physics 99\(6\):818-836; 2010](#)).

Guidelines for limiting exposure to radio-frequency fields (100 kHz -300 GHz)

The Project Group led by James C. Lin was restructured subsequently to the change in the Commission's membership. The Task Group is now composed of Rodney Croft, Maria Feychting, Kari Jokela, Zenon Sienkiewicz, Bruce Stuck, Eric van Rongen, and Soichi Watanabe. The task group met in Rome on 29 October and in Bonn on 3rd December to start drafting the guidelines.

It is noted that the World Health Organization intends to finalize the Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) by 2014. As the ICNIRP guidelines are very much based on the WHO risk assessment, publication of the RF guidelines is intended after the EHC is issued.

External Communication - Website Improvement

ICNIRP at its Commission Meeting in Edinburgh decided to re-launch its website in order to improve ICNIRP's visibility and communication with users. An additional goal is to streamline the internal business processes linked to the online activities (shop, consultation and newsletter).

The process started in April 2012 aiming at defining the project. An internal survey on the current and future website was carried out, a website working group was set up in May which met on 29 October 2012 to develop a consensus view of the future website aims and prepare an according project plan. At its AGM on 30 October in Rome, the Commission approved the project.

The website will not only address the scientific community but a broader audience including policy makers and the interested public. The new website should reflect this intention. Two levels of communication are intended. The general public will be addressed on the first level in lay language. The scientific community will be addressed in a second level mainly through reference to the ICNIRP scientific publications, such as freely available guidelines and statements and e-books (currently prepared). Subject to the availability of external support, it is intended also to offer part of the English website in other languages.

A budget was approved for this task. Further steps in 2013 will be to contract an agency. Implementation is expected during the course of 2013.

Publications

In 2012 the following ICNIRP documents have been published:



Health Issues Associated with Millimeter Wave Whole Body Imaging Technology. Health Phys 102(1):81-82; 2012. → www.icnirp.org/documents/mmwavesICNIRPstatement_2012.pdf

Validity and Use of the UV Index: Report from the UVI Working Group. Allinson S, Asmuss M, Baldermann C, Bentzen J, Buller D, Gerber N, Green AC, Greinert R, Kimlin M, Kunrath J, Matthes R, Pözl-Viol C, Rehfuss E, Rossman C, Schüz N, Sinclair C, Van Deventer E, Webb A, Weiss W, Ziegelberger G. Health Phys 103(3):301-306; 2012.

→ www.icnirp.org/documents/UVIpaper.pdf

The paper was jointly drafted by a Working Group initiated by ICNIRP following the ICNIRP/WHO UVI Workshop entitled "The UV Index and its role in risk communication – How to strengthen sun protection measures?" which was held at Schloss Hohenkammer from 5 to 7 December 2011. The report and a correspondence were published in Health Physics in August and December 2012 and are available for free download. → www.icnirp.org/pubOptical.htm

Online Videos

7th International NIR Workshop, 9-11 May 2012, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

The streams of the videoed lectures were available live on the ICNIRP website during the workshop and were made available thereafter (since 31st August 2012). The quadrennial ICNIRP workshops are designed as tutorial platform on the current state of radiation protection for the different NIR frequencies and to present ICNIRP's working procedures and latest recommendations. Given the strong tutorial character of the workshop the online videos are very appropriate to provide scientific information on NIR protection to everyone in the world. The outreach was extended to more than 1200 people by the end of 2012.

→ www.icnirp.org/NIR2012/NIR2012video.html

Workshops and Meetings organized by ICNIRP or with ICNIRP participation

As a widely recognized international organization in non-ionizing radiation protection, ICNIRP is invited to participate in, or co-sponsor, many international scientific events. In the period covered by this report, ICNIRP has organized and/or contributed to the following meetings:

ICNIRP Main Commission, SC and Board meetings

ICNIRP Executive Board Meeting	Munich, Germany	15 March
ICNIRP Commission Meeting	Edinburgh, United Kingdom	7-9 May
ICNIRP "Structure" Project Group Meeting	Heathrow, United Kingdom	23 May
ICNIRP Executive Board Meeting	Munich, Germany	6 July
ICNIRP "Static field" Project Group Meeting	Rome, Italy	29 Oct
ICNIRP "RF guideline" Project Group Meeting	Rome, Italy	29 Oct
ICNIRP "Web" Project Group Meeting	Rome, Italy	29 Oct



ICNIRP Annual General Meeting	Rome, Italy	30-31 Oct
ICNIRP “RF guideline” Project Group Meeting	Bonn, Germany	3 Dec

ICNIRP Joint Workshops and Seminars

7 th International ICNIRP NIR Workshop	Edinburgh, United Kingdom	9-11 May
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See above topic “online videos”.

ICNIRP/WHO International Workshop on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection in Medicine	Bonn, Germany	2 Dec
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The workshop was organized in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

The workshop covered medical as well as cosmetic applications from all frequency ranges of the non-ionizing electromagnetic spectrum as well as ultrasound. The benefit from NIR use in medicine, such as MRI for diagnostic and interventional imaging, is well recognized, especially in view of the alternative use of ionizing radiation. However, while a key aspect of ionizing radiation protection is optimization through dose reduction, the development of NIR technologies still focuses on image quality improvements without consideration of the ever increasing exposure levels for both health care workers and patients. Also the increasing use of NIR applications such as ultrasound and intense pulsed light (IPL) for cosmetic and wellness business by lay persons call for a closer look at health and safety aspects.

Participation of the Chairperson in Scientific Meetings and Courses

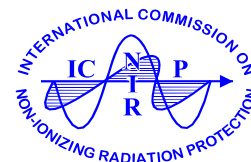
International Health Conference “Ensuring Public Health and Safety in the Mobile Industry”
Organized by the Ministry of Communication and IT, Government of India
New Delhi, India, 8 February 2012

Round Table Conference on EMF Radiation
Organized by the Ministry of Communication and IT, Government of India
New Delhi, India, 27 March 2012

Journées Scientifiques “Champs électromagnétiques, de la dosimétrie à la santé humaine”
Organized by URSI-France
Paris, France, 3-4 April 2012

Conference “EMF in Southern Africa Development Community”
Organized by the Telecommunication Commission of Angola
Luanda, Angola, 23-24 April 2012

International IRPA Conference
Glasgow, United Kingdom, 14-18 May 2012



Collaboration with International Organizations

World Health Organization (WHO)

ICNIRP is officially recognized by the World Health Organization as a collaborative NGO for all aspects of non ionizing radiation protection. ICNIRP's co-operation is mainly related to WHO's International EMF project, and INTERSUN Program. This year WHO's representative, Dr. Emilie van Deventer, attended the International Day held at the ICNIRP Annual General Meeting in Rome, 31 October 2012 to discuss the future range of common activities and in particular the workshop on NIR and Medicine held jointly in Bonn, Germany, 2 December 2012 (see above).

European Commission (EC)

ICNIRP provides scientific advice for the evaluation and interpretation of scientific data, and for their dissemination, especially to Directorate General "Health and Consumer Protection", Directorate General "Enterprise and Industry", and Directorate General "Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities".

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The partnership between ICNIRP and ILO dates back to 1994 when ICNIRP was admitted on the ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental Organizations. Since then many publications have been jointly issued in particular related to EMF and Ultraviolet radiation, such as the Guide on "Protecting Workers from UV Radiation". Munich: International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, International Labour Organization, World Health Organization; 2007. ISBN 978-3-934994-07-2. New collaboration activities were discussed at the meeting.

International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

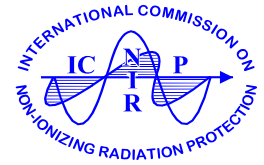
ICNIRP and IRPA are linked per Charter and the cooperation is within this framework. IRPA provides information on ICNIRP activities regarding its publications, current online consultation, the organization of conferences, and the elections on its website. In 2012 IRPA was involved in the nomination process of the election for membership in the newly established Scientific Experts Group. ICNIRP received nominations from the Austrian Radiation Protection Association, the Israel Society for Radiation Protection (ISRP), and the UK Society for Radiological Protection.

Collaboration with National Organizations Worldwide

As part of its mission, ICNIRP provides scientific advice on NIR protection to public agencies with an interest in radiation protection in many countries worldwide (see above). These activities are performed mostly through participation in seminar or round tables and the provision of lectures in training courses and scientific conferences, as well as meetings with protection agencies.

Budget

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NON-IONIZING RADIATION PROTECTION



In 2012 the ICNIRP activities were supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety, the European Union, the World Health Organization, the European BioElectromagnetics Association, and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. ICNIRP annual financial reports are audited by the German Tax Authorities every three years. The below tables form the basis of the statements, which will be submitted to the fiscal audit in 2013.



Financial Report 2011		
Income		
Subsidies	125.216,59	
Workshops and Books	41.291,62	
Total Income		166.508,22
Expenses		
Staff	65.447,68	
Meetings & Workshops	86.239,80	
Publications & Communication	6184,98	
Insurance & administrative expense	1.889,57	
Total Expense		159.762,03
Finance income	287,65	
Finance costs	-99,66	
Financial results		187,99
Surplus of the Year		6.934,18

Financial Report 2012		
Income		
Subsidies	138.049,87	
Workshops and Books	81 497,26	
Total Income		219.547,13
Expenses		
Staff	65.937,58	
Meetings & Workshops	122.959,44	
Publications & Communication	2.495,46	
Insurance & administrative expense	2.439,48	
Total Expense		193.831,96
Finance income	190,65	
Finance costs	-82,84	
Financial results		107,81
Surplus of the Year		25.822,98

The above reports are indicative and not yet audited. The audits will be performed in 2013.