

IRPA 12
12th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RADIATION
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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In about two months time, after a lot of organisation, hard work and the support from many people, the IRPA12 Congress will take place in Buenos Aires offering an exceptional overview of the latest developments in radiation science and in the international radiation protection approach. IRPA12 policy objective is to engage all participants in order to put in practice its motto: “*strengthening radiation protection worldwide*”. The other general policy objective is to produce a definite outcome, namely concrete findings and follow-up recommendations that can be implemented

The Congress Programme aimed at attaining the objectives described really reflects current and emerging challenges in radiation protection in the world. It will be focused on three major areas:

- 1- The epistemology of radiation, namely the methods, the validity and the scope of current knowledge of the physical and biological sciences in relation to the effects of radiation exposure.
- 2- The paradigm of radiation protection, namely the conceptual model for keeping people safe from the health effects due to radiation exposure
- 3- The practice of radiation protection, namely the actual application and use of radiation protection plans and methodologies by practitioners and industries making use of radiation.

Forty Technical Sessions addressing current topical issues will cover the Congress three major areas. Each TS will include a Keynote Lecturer who will summarise the state-of-the-art on the topic, short orals and poster presentations and a summary by a Rapporteur of all the papers accepted for the TS. The Technical Sessions’ Chairpersons will summarise the highlights and present the conclusions of each TS in three Concluding Plenary Sessions subdivided according to the major areas.

In four Background Plenary Sessions, also linked to the main technical fields, the content and directions of the current and future work of relevant international organizations will be presented by a panel of speakers.

The Congress will also feature two special Plenary sessions, one of them dedicated to the 80th anniversary of ICRP and the other to present highlights and conclusions of the annual meeting of the NCRP which was held in Bethesda (US) in April 2008 on low doses and low-dose-rate radiation effects. An attractive training programme will provide Congress participants with an opportunity to update their knowledge in specific areas of radiation protection or professional activity. Twenty refresher courses will be delivered by selected instructors. Additionally three five hours Seminars will be delivered in parallel, where different topics around a given theme will be addressed by a team of specialists.

The Sievert Award and the Gold Medal Ceremonies will certainly be the touching moments of the event.

Almost 1500 abstracts from 84 countries have been accepted by the reviewers. Several intergovernmental organizations, such as the WHO, the PAHO and the IAEA, are cooperating with the International Congress Support Committee to facilitate the attendance of colleagues from all continents, particularly those from developing countries.

And last but not least, Buenos Aires, a vibrant modern city with rich traditions, is waiting for the participants to show them its outstanding cultural life and the best expression of tango within the culture and environment of its origin.