Foreword

The Second IRPA International Congress and General Meeting to Be Held in Asia —In Expectation of Active Promotion and Advancement of Radiation Protection in Asia

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The International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) is an international association that is one of the four global pillars of radiation protection worldwide. As you all know, these pillars are *Science* through UNSCEAR (United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation), *Principles* through ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection), *Standards* through IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), with IRPA addressing *Practice*. As the international voice of the radiation protection professional, IRPA plays an important role as a final delivery medium that prepares guiding principle documents in the field and continuously gives feedbacks on review comments to relevant organizations so that practical field experiences can be reflected in recommendations and international standards.

IRPA is an international non-profit association that was first launched in June 1965 and consists of societies related to radiation protection as members to exchange knowledge and technology in radiation protection (IRPA Website: www.irpa.net). Membership includes 52 associate societies covering 67 countries, a total of approximately 18,000 individual professionals. IRPA has been holding international congresses every four years since it hosted its first international congress in Rome, Italy in September 1966. The IRPA10 congress and general meeting was the first congress to be held in Asia and was held successfully in Hiroshima, Japan in May 2000. Twenty years later the IRPA15 International Congress (www.irpa2020.org) will be held in Seoul, Korea in May 2020. To date, 14 countries (and their radiation protection societies) have hosted the event, including Italy, Britain, the United States, France, Israel, Germany, Australia, Canada, Austria, Japan, Spain, Argentina, Scotland/UK, and South Africa.

Since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident caused by the March 11, 2011 earthquake, fears of radiation exposure have increased further globally, especially in Northeast Asia. By hosting the international congress for radiation protection, which is a core element of radiation safety, in Northeast Asia to provide a forum for discussion, it is expected to contribute greatly to the technical and institutional advancement of the radiation protection field in the region as well as to promote the enhancement of the public's acceptability on radiation safety. In this respect, the Congress Theme of IRPA15 was designated as "Bridging RP Culture and Science - Widening Public Empathy." It is of great importance to take measures and strategies for radiation protection through which experts and the general public can communicate and empathize with each other. This is because whilst experts may believe that there is virtually no risk of radiation exposure, the public may not feel and accept the same as the experts.

The IRPA15 Congress consists of 48 technical programs on 8 different topic areas. Each of these programs will also address four specific themes: Ethics, Communication/Public Understanding, Human Capital & Competency, and Culture. It will operate 8

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plenary sessions and about 15–20 special sessions with various issues and themes. International institutions and organizations - IAEA, ICRP, ICRU (International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements), ILO (International Labor Organization), IOMP (International Organization for Medical Physics), ISRRT (International Society of Radiographers & Radiological Technologies), NCRP (National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements), OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)-NEA(Nuclear Energy Agency), PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), UNSCEAR, WHO (World Health Organization), and WNA (World Nuclear Association) - will form several cooperative sessions with IRPA to participate in this event. In particular, a special open session under the theme of “Radiation Protection with the People” is being prepared, which will be a forum for experts and the general public to discuss and share their opinions.

As satellite meetings, the “2020 Spring ICRP Main Commission Meeting” and the “2020 REMPAN (Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network) General Assembly” will be held, and the IAEA TC (Technical Cooperation) meeting is also expected to be held during this event period. Another notable matter is that NIR (Non Ionizing Radiation) technical sessions, workshop, and special session will be held for this specific topic, and there will also be a satellite meeting organized by ICNIRP (International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection). During this period, a special session and workshop will also be held in particular for young scientists from all over the world led by the newly launched YGN (Young Generation Network) in IRPA last year. In addition, a total of 25 refresher courses will be opened, covering both beginners and experts. I would like to introduce JHPS members in advance that such various programs are currently in preparation.

The IRPA15 Congress is expected to involve more than 2,000 people worldwide, and will serve as a forum for discussions covering academic research, industry and medicine, standards and regulations, culture, and ethics in the field of radiation protection. In order to present the highest quality of scientific programs, the International Congress Program Committee (IRPA ICPC) has already conducted meetings with the core group members twice in Seoul and online thrice. Efforts are put forth to invite world-class experts as presenters to plenary sessions and special sessions. Aside from the publication of the JRP (Journal of Radiological Protection) international journal, a considerable number of outstanding papers presented in the IRPA15 are expected to be contributed to the JRPR (Journal of Radiation Protection and Research), a new international journal created jointly by the three associate societies of ARPS-JHPS-KARP.*

Lastly, although IRPA15 is organized mainly by the KARP, it is IRPA’s vision that all of the RP communities in Asia, led by the JHPS in a long history, would unite in staging this event successfully.

* ARPS: Australasian Radiation Protection Society, KARP: Korean Association for Radiation Protection.

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2016–2020: (Current) Congress President and Chairman of the International Congress Organizing Committee (ICOC), IRPA15

2014–2017: (Former) President of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI)

2013–2014: (Former) President of Korean Nuclear Society (KNS)

2010–2013: (Former) Commissioner of the Korea Atomic Energy Commission

2008–2020: (Current) Executive Council Member (2008–) and Vice President for Conference Affairs (2016–) of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

2001–2003: (Former) Editor-in-chief of the Journal of KNS (Renamed as “Nuclear Engineering and Technology - NET”)

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