

Memorandum of Understanding between
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)
and
International Union of Radioecology (IUR)

Preamble

There is a mutual interest in promoting cooperation between the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) and the International Union of Radioecology (IUR). Both Organizations share many similar scientific interests concerned with chemical toxicants and radioactive materials, and promote the protection, enhancement and management of sustainable environmental quality and ecosystem integrity.

As a consequence, both organisations often deal with similar scientific issues, with radioactive elements and other chemicals obeying the same rules of chemistry. Radionuclides are simply specific chemical elements which are unstable and decay with radiation emission. Radionuclides' toxicity can arise either from radiation per se (e.g., promoting DNA alteration), from chemical toxicity (especially for heavy elements such as uranium, plutonium, etc.), or from both. The two parties therefore recognize that there is a high reciprocal value to construct a stronger linkage between the two organisations, in a way that would also respect their individual characteristics.

This Memorandum of Understanding describes in more details the various aspects of the linkages agreed between the two organisations and the guiding principles which govern them at the date of its signature. This extends from simple sharing of information to real scientific collaboration on dedicated projects which could result in yielding common or joint official deliverables.

Guiding Principles

The overarching guiding principle is the common decision to contribute, via this Memorandum of Understanding between SETAC and IUR, to establishing linkages and collaborative actions of mutual interest.

The identity of the respective organisations, here SETAC and IUR, is not to be impaired by this agreement. Each organisation retains the right to decide, through its own General Assembly or governing body or any other pertinent means, its strategies, directions and actions, and especially to identify what could be developed in collaboration due to recognised reciprocal interest.

Responsibility for all activities in relation to IUR will remain with IUR.

Responsibility for all activities in relation to SETAC will remain with SETAC.

When deciding upon a specific area of collaboration, this will be clearly specified by means of a written document giving the terms of reference of the collaboration (membership involvement, respective resources necessary if any, deliverables planned, schedule, meetings, etc.).

Deliverables to result from any of the above-mentioned collaborations will clearly acknowledge and show the double origin of its authorship (intellectual property).

For the time being, no financial resource exchange is foreseen within this agreement, unless a specific decision is jointly made for this purpose. Would this turn out to be necessary, this would be examined on a case by case basis, and specified in a written document.

Areas of Cooperation/Collaboration

Specific areas of mutual interest that can be identified at present, not precluding further topics that could be identified at later stage, will be pursued and currently include:

- Promoting the exchange of scientific information, whether through their respective web site, their respective publications (e.g., reports, newsletters, journals) or the scientific workshops and conferences that they support, organise or promote.
- Conducting joint activities by the means of joint task groups, duly acknowledged, or by any means or tool felt desirable (e.g., workshop, seminar, scientific mission).
- Promoting the conduct of innovative research in environmental chemistry and radioactivity, in view of supporting the development of an integrated protection framework for risk assessment that is appropriate and fully justified.
- Promoting publication in the scientific literature.
- Contributing to the construction of a common strategy for the harmonised and optimised development of worldwide research and development in the related scientific disciplines, such as to reach a sound worldwide network of expertise when facing any radiologically or chemically relevant environmental problem.

Approach and Activities

The approach to be followed and the activities planned are provided in Appendix 1.

Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain valid for a period of 4 (four) years, renewed automatically as such for similar periods, unless amendments need to be introduced. Would amendments be felt necessary, these can be introduced at any time, and will be joined to this Memorandum of Understanding, mentioning the date of introduction (entry in force).

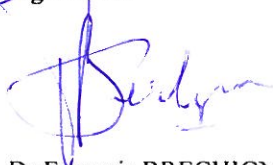
Amendments

A letter stipulating specific amendments may amend any part of this agreement at any time when signed by the Presidents or responsible officers of the concerned parties, here SETAC and IUR.

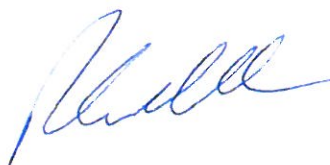
Termination

Any party to this agreement may withdraw by informing the other party/parties of its intent in writing with a 3 months prior notice.

Signatories



Dr François BRECHIGNAC
President
International Union of Radioecology



Dr. Peter Campbell
President
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

Date 5/5/2014

Date 25/4/14

Appendix 1. Approach and Activities

1. SETAC and IUR will both implement visibility of the companion organisation on their respective web sites, by establishing appropriate links on their home pages at <http://www.iur-uir.org> and <http://www.setac.org/>.
2. The respective membership of both organisations, SETAC and IUR, will be made accessible to each organisation, in an electronic format.
3. Cross promotion and access to deliverable products produced either by SETAC or IUR, whether a report, a newsletter, a book or a journal publication, will be made available to the other organisation(s) at no charge, when possible. Discounts to SETAC books will be extended to IUR members.
4. SETAC and IUR will respectively facilitate the implementation and organisation of special sessions within the respective recurrent international conferences where they act as leaders or associate co-organisers (ICRER, INSINUME, IUR Workshops, SETAC World Congresses, geographic unit meetings, focused topic meetings, special science symposia, etc.). In the case of hosting jointly sponsored workshops, the intended publication outlet should be clearly articulated during the planning stages of the workshop.