



Dr. François BRECHIGNAC

Institute for Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN)

Centre d'Etudes de Cadarache - Bât 229 - BP 3
13115 St-Paul-lez-Durance - France
email: francois.brechignac@irsn.fr

Present and recent relevant professional responsibilities

Scientific director deputy at IRSN (since 2010)
President of IUR (2007-2010; 2011-2014), General Secretary (2003-2006)

Proposed responsibility: General Secretary or Vice-President

Declaration of intention

Many specific achievements have been accomplished during the last Board of Council mandate for which you chose me to act as President (new task groups, networks, reports, conferences and workshops, etc...). I would just like to highlight two quite successful and important ones for our community. The promotion of better liaison with the Journal of Environmental Radioactivity engaged some years ago has now yielded a very significant improvement of its audience, as one can notice from the evolution of its impact factor, moving from 0.7 in the early 2000s up to 3.7 now, raising JER's popularity at the level of prominent scientific journal dealing with environmental sciences. Worldwide networking, the very "raison d'être" of our Union, has now reached an operational status with the launch in 2014 of the IUR FORUM which gathers more than 15 topical or regional networks active in Radioecology around the world. This wide process of worldwide coordination is aimed at ensuring that the civil use of nuclear energy is evolving with sound scientific understanding and appropriate mastering of the potential consequences on both man and the environment. The FORUM is only starting, and I propose to promote the further work of integration and coordination that needs to be developed along the 3 initial objectives that it has identified. One of them - integration and consensus building - deserves high priority as it conditions ability to good and efficient communication towards stakeholders and the overall society. Indeed, long-term environmental impact issues, which are still controversial after several major accidents having contaminated large portions of territories, are now crucially requiring elaboration of better scientific understanding and operational knowledge. This is the challenge for IUR which I propose to tackle with all of you under the auspices of our Union.

There are finally two strategic issues worth stressing in front of the above-mentioned challenge. Evidently, we need first to promote liaison, coordination and collaborative work with our Japanese colleagues at Fukushima to learn more about the appropriate assessment of risks from radiation, and also to promote operational solutions of land recovery (decontamination, remediation, mitigation,...). Meanwhile, adoption of a general ecocentric view in radioecology opens the path to renewed radioecology objectives and justification, especially in the radiation protection arena. It helps in variation directions: 1) moving forward old-fashioned paradigms, 2) evolving with a protection framework that will really meet the protection goals assigned to environment protection against any hazard (populations-ecosystems/individual organisms), 3) placing integration of human and environment protection frameworks, but also radiation and other stressors, within an ecosystemic conceptual context able to account for, and explain, how humans are interlinked with the environment.

I am proposing to further serve our Union within its Executive Board of Council along the lines mentioned above. According to our Constitution which introduced a mandatory turn-over after 2 successive mandates, this will necessarily be with a different position but the same level of commitment.