

40

This year, in 2018, IUR has reached its 40th birthday!

The Union's members and the successive Boards of Council that drove its development until now are proud to share such a unique achievement. This demonstrates a long standing and continuous commitment to promoting radioecology worldwide in order to support the safe development of using nuclear technologies.

The current Board of Council wishes IUR another 40 years of successful developments. This is especially deserved when facing this breakeven period of time marked by problems of climate change and biodiversity dramatic decline. Being focused on ecological issues as per its title, the Union has quite an important role to play, in relation to radionuclides impact of course, but also more generally in relation to understanding the stressors-induced degradation of ecological functioning to which almost all life kingdom is pledged.

The continuous opened attitude of IUR members and leaders since its origin has proven to be very productive and will be continued. One should remember that the pioneer radioecologists both in USA (the Odum brothers) and USSR (V.I. Vernadsky) promoted new concepts and theories in ecology that are still in place. With such a background, IUR has always been placed at the forefront of developing science. It particularly seeded a number of innovations, whether conceptual or applied. One can mention a few. IUR was first to gather radioecological databases that are now supporting risk assessments and prevision under the general management of the IAEA. More recently, it has been first also to recommend and promote the development of concepts and approaches to environmental radiation protection, a feature that is now tackled by most international organisations.

Quite grateful and aware of this historical background, the current Board of council is committed to enter this new phase of development with the same spirit as demonstrated by its founding members. All members are therefore encouraged to take initiatives, to invent new ways of tackling the problems, to bring in issues of interest that never were discussed so far... all directed at promoting a better world for all to share and live in.

On behalf of the IUR Board of Council
François Bréchnignac, General Secretary