Summary of Science and Values Workshops

The first Science and Values in Radiological Protection Workshop (hosted by STUK, Finland, 2008) brought stakeholders together to ask "What if?" - IF science develops along postulated lines, then WHAT, if anything, should change in terms of radiological protection? The key topics examined were: Non-targeted effects; Individual sensitivity; Radiation-induced circulatory diseases. Dialogue among the attending regulators, scientists and NGOs improved mutual understanding of the choices underlying radiological protection, and began to shape a process and framework for the better integration of its social and scientific dimensions.

The second Science and Values in Radiological Protection Workshop (hosted by IRSN, MEEDDAT and CEPN, France, 2009) engaged stakeholders in considering "What now?" – examining new data and observations that stimulate us to ask whether current public health and regulatory approaches are still adequate, or whether they may need revision. The key topics examined were: Domestic exposure to radon; Growing medical exposures in diagnostic and screening procedures; Radiation-induced vascular effects. Participants reviewed stakeholder experience, rationale and justification for adopting new approaches, practical actions, research needs, and process and framework elements that could enhance radiological protection by better integration of scientific and social aspects.

The Third Workshop on Science and Values in Radiological Protection Decision Making / Sixth Asian regional conference on the evolution of the system of RP (hosted by the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS), Japan, 2012) followed up by asking "Where do we go from here?". Three topics were addressed: Assessment and management of low-dose exposures and public health; Protection of children and self-help behaviour approaches; and Non-cancer effects. Participants addressed the values issues of these three topics in great depth, to assist radiological protection to move forward in an accepted and sustainable direction.
The Fourth Workshop on Science and Values in Radiological Protection Decision Making (hosted by the State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rosatom” (ROSATOM), the Federal Medical Biological Agency (FMBA), and the State Research Centre – Burnasyan Federal Medical Biophysical Centre (SRC-FMBC)) chose three current topics: Medical Surveillance, Uses of Effective Dose, and Addressing Safety Concerns. Participants addressed how the values aspects of these topics are used in practice in making radiological protection decisions.