

Asia and the Pacific Regional ALARA Network

Presented by Chadia Rizk,
Acting chair of the steering
committee



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development



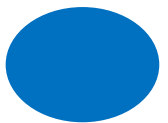
ARAN Past status

ARAN :

- is a regional network initiated by the IAEA in 2007
- was coordinated by Steering Committee (SC), IAEA and Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA), comprising representatives from 17 countries.

The main objectives of ARAN network were:

- To maintain and enhance radiation protection competence in participating countries through information, findings and data exchanges and the effective use, exchange and integration of skills and expertise etc., with special emphasis on the implementation of the ALARA principle.
- To harmonize the objectives, standards and practices, particularly concerning ALARA, within participating countries



ARAN Past status

- However, since 2011, ARAN hasn't been working for almost 10 years, except an attempt in 2017 with an IAEA regional workshop.
- In consideration of its significance, **IAEA decided to help the Asia and the Pacific Region with the reactivation process of ARAN network.**



ARAN Past status

In order to continue to play its significant role:

- **China Institute for Radiation Protection (CIRP)** was recognized by the IAEA to be the acting secretariat of ARAN and was commissioned to help the reactivation process of ARAN.
- IAEA and CIRP decided to organize a **virtual meeting** in order to discuss the following topics:
 - The reactivation of ARAN.
 - The Term of Reference of ARAN.
 - The framework of the ARAN website.
 - Other issues.



ARAN current status: ARAN lunching meeting

- The virtual meeting was organized on May 6th, 2021.
- 17 participants from several countries attended the meeting (Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Philippines, Qatar, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey (observer), United Arab Emirates)
- Some networks were also invited to share their experiences:
 - African ALARA Network (AFAN)
 - Asian Radiation Dosimetry Group (ARADOS)
 - European ALARA Network (EAN)
- In addition to:
 - IAEA representatives
 - RCA for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) Chair
 - ARAN Acting Secretariat



ARAN current status: ARAN lunching meeting





At the end of the meeting:

- The SC comprising the Acting Chairperson, Acting Vice-Chairs and Acting Secretariat was elected
- It was decided the following:
 - The member states shall nominate their representatives
 - Several preparation meetings for the Management Board meeting (MBM) should be organized
 - The SC will be in charge until the MBM and for necessary preparation in consultation with the IAEA representative.
 - The MBM is decided to be held virtually on November 10th , 2021.



ARAN current status: Nominations of MSs representatives

- An invitation letter was prepared and sent to the national liaison officers (NLOs)

  <p style="text-align: right;">16 June 2021</p> <p>Dear National Liaison Officers,</p> <p>On behalf of the Acting Steering Committee of Asia and the Pacific ALARA Network (ARAN), I am writing you in my capacity as the Acting Chairperson of ARAN as elected during the Virtual Re Coordination Meeting, organized on 6 May 2021 by the China Institute for Radiation Protection (CIRP) in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).</p> <p>ARAN is a regional network initiated by IAEA in 2007, aiming at maintaining and enhancing radiation protection competence in participating countries through information, findings and data exchanges etc., with special emphasis on the implementation of the optimization / ALARA principle. The Network was committed to harmonizing the objectives, standards and practices, particularly concerning ALARA, within participating countries and the effective use, exchange and integration of skills and expertise across Member States in the region. ARAN was coordinated by Steering Committee, IAEA and Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA), comprising representatives from 17 countries.</p> <p>However, ARAN hasn't been working since 2011, as well as its website. In order to continue to play its significant role, the IAEA has triggered consultations in the region for possible reactivation of the Network and the CIRP voluntarily agreed to act as the Secretariat of ARAN during the transition period.</p> <p>The May 2021 meeting has discussed and agreed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The reactivation of ARAN.• The Term and Conditions of ARAN.• The framework of the ARAN website.	  <p>Kindly find attached the meeting agenda, summary record and the draft Terms and Conditions of the ARAN network.</p> <p>In order to proceed with the ARAN activities, national representative from each Member State within Asia and the Pacific region need to be designated. Therefore, you are kindly suggested to designate one representative from your country by the end of July 2021 (COB) and inform us with their contact information. Please note that the participation in the network is restricted to one nominated representative per country.</p> <p>The national representatives from each Member State will be then invited to participate to the Management Board meeting of ARAN. This meeting will be organized virtually in 2021 or during the first or second quarter of 2022 in person if the global situation allows. The main goal of the Management Board meeting is to agree and approve the Terms and Conditions of the ARAN network.</p> <p>I remain at your disposal for any further information that you may need.</p> <p>Respectfully yours,</p> <p>Chadis RIZK Acting Chairperson of ARAN</p> <p><u>Members of the ARAN Steering Committee</u></p> <table><tr><td>Acting Vice Chairs</td><td>Mr Mohammad Hassan Kharita Mr John Konsoli Bin Sangau</td></tr><tr><td>Acting Secretary</td><td>Mr Cao Qianjian</td></tr><tr><td>IAEA Representative</td><td>Mr H. Burçin Okyar</td></tr><tr><td>Former Chairperson</td><td>Mr Kazuo Sakai</td></tr></table> <p>Enclosures: May 2021 meeting agenda</p>	Acting Vice Chairs	Mr Mohammad Hassan Kharita Mr John Konsoli Bin Sangau	Acting Secretary	Mr Cao Qianjian	IAEA Representative	Mr H. Burçin Okyar	Former Chairperson	Mr Kazuo Sakai
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IAEA Representative	Mr H. Burçin Okyar								
Former Chairperson	Mr Kazuo Sakai								



ARAN current status: Nominations of MSs representatives

- Representatives from several countries were designated

	Country	Institute	Representative name	email
1	China	CIRP	Liu Liye	liuliye@cirp.org.cn
2	Iran		Mehran Taheri	mtaheri@aeoi.org.ir
3	Jordan	Jordan Atomic Energy Commission	Ahmad Issa Ahmad Hamdan	ahmad.hamdan@emrc.gov.jo
4	Kuwait	Ministry of Health	Nasser Al Juwaisri	Naser.Alazemi@gmail.com
5	Lebanon	Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission	Chadia Rizk	rizkchadia@gmail.com
6	Nepal	Ministry of Education, science and technology	Pralhad Pokhrel	Pralhad.Pokhrel@gmail.com
7	Oman		Hadj Slimane Cherif	pnto@fm.gov.om
8	Palestine	Nuclear Energy and Radiation Regulatory Authority	Rafat Fathi Mahmoud Odeh	raafatest@gmail.com
9	Syria	Atomic Energy Commission of Syria	Abdalkader Bitar	abitar@aec.org.sy

- Not all the countries with the region are represented.
- ARAN Secretariat will circulate the invitation again as a reminder to NLOs who didn't respond with nominations for ARAN.



ARAN current status: Nominations of MSs representatives

- Countries within Asia and the Pacific region present in this technical meeting are encouraged to send their nominations to the following contacts:

Mr. OKYAR, Burcin: H.B.Okayar@iaea.org

and

Mrs. RIZK, Chadia: rizkchadia@gmail.com

Please note that the new deadline for representatives nomination is 30th of September



ARAN current status: Preparation of Management Board Meeting

- The first and second preparation meetings were held in July 7th, 2021 and September 1, 2021
- It comprised the acting SC, the secretariat and the IAEA representative.
- It aimed to:
 - Finalize and approve the Terms and Conditions (done)
 - Finalize the ARAN website (on going)
 - Finalize the working group technical areas and objectives (done)
 - Finalize the ARAN Newsletter (on going)
 - Collaboration with regional/international organizations (on going)
 - Finalize the status of ARAN network (on going)



ARAN current status: Terms and Conditions



DRAFT PROPOSAL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ALARA NETWORK (ARAN)

6 May 2021

Agreed draft during the Virtual Re coordination Meeting of ARAN

To be endorsed at the first Management Board Meeting

Preamble

The Agency and the following countries,

AGREE to reactivate and participate in the operation of – the Asia and the Pacific Regional ALARA Network (hereafter referred to as “ARAN”) under the Terms and Conditions set out below:

ARTICLE 1

Objectives of ARAN

In accordance with these Terms of Reference, the members of the network shall co-operate together and with the IAEA in the operation of ARAN.

The main objectives of ARAN are:

- To share and exchange information, experience and expertise for promoting the implementation of the ALARA principle for the management of occupational exposure in all situations, in the participating countries.
- To enhance and develop skill and competence in occupational radiation protection for the different stakeholders concerned, in particular through the proposals for appropriate training programmes.
- To contribute to the harmonisation of radiation protection policies and practices, particularly concerning ALARA, both at regulatory and operational levels across the region.
- To identify and investigate topical issues of common interest within the countries to further improve the implementation of ALARA.

The activities of the network will cover:

The working language of ARAN is English.

ARTICLE 2

Main activities

Once a year, the ARAN aims to co-organize a Workshop with the IAEA under the regional project of radiological protection. The Management Board select its subject (see article 4) among those where significant improvements in terms of ALARA implementation may be found. At the end of each Workshop, recommendations addressed to relevant stakeholders are issued.

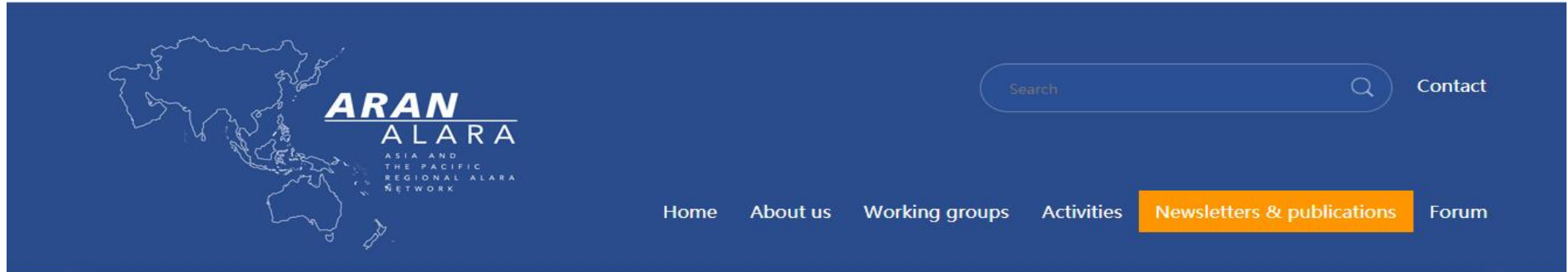
The ARAN aims to produce regular issues of the ARAN ALARA Newsletter at least once a year. It includes lessons learned from incidents, workshop recommendations, and examples of “good” and “bad” practices, experts’ viewpoints and other ALARA related information.

An ARAN website will be developed and maintained with the support of the IAEA, to enable a broad public access to the ARAN information and publications such as the Newsletters, material and recommendations from the Workshops. The website may include a forum for discussion between members from the participating countries.

ARAN can establish and co-ordinate sub-networks, working groups or panel groups to improve feedback, and encourage the involvement of end users in their radiological risk management through panel groups and other initiatives such as regional surveys and lessons learned from incidents.

ARAN according to available resources, can assist and co-operate with other radiation protection networks.

ARAN current status: ARAN website



- The link to the ARAN website: ap-alara.com
- The ARAN website is still under preparation but will be finalized soon



ARAN current status: working groups proposals (WGs)




The main objective of the **WGs** is to establish a network and coordination of research to promote collaboration of external/internal dosimetry and occupational radiation protection experts, technical service providers and regulatory authorities.

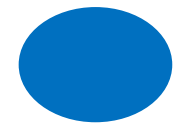
WGs main tasks proposals are:

- 1. External monitoring (whole body, extremity and eye lens dosimetry)**
- 2. Internal monitoring**
- 3. Workplace monitoring**
- 4. Protection of staff in the medical field (radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and diagnostic/interventional radiology).**
- 5. Protection of workers in industrial radiography and industrial irradiators.**
- 6. Exposure of workers to naturally occurring radioactive material**
- 7. Exposure of workers in a nuclear and radiological emergency**



ARAN current status: ARAN Newsletter (under preparation)

 <p>ARAN NEWSLETTER 1st Issue - September 2021</p>	 <p>ARAN NEWSLETTER 1st Issue - September 2021</p>
	<h3>The reactivation of ARAN</h3> <p>ARAN was initiated in 2007, through information, findings and data exchanging, it aims at maintaining and enhancing radiation protection competence in participating countries, with special emphasis on the implementation of the ALARA principle. However, since 2011 till now, ARAN has not been working for almost 10 years, except an attempt in 2017 with an IAEA regional workshop. In consideration of its significance, IAEA helped with the reactivation process of ARAN together with the China Institute for Radiation Protection (CIRP). The CIRP proposal for ARAN reactivation included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIRP was recognized by the IAEA to be the acting secretariat of ARAN and was commissioned to help the reactivation process of ARAN. • The draft Terms and Conditions were introduced and agreed to be submitted for the first ARAN Management Board meeting with the proposal to have two Vice-chairs due to large coverage of the ARAN. • The design of ARAN website (http://www.ap-aran.org/) was introduced and agreed.
<h3>CONTENTS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial • The reactivation of ARAN • The Term of Reference of ARAN • The ARAN website. • ARAN Network Working Groups • ARAN news • Future activities • [Other contents to be included] 	<h3>Editorial - The relaunch of ARAN</h3> <p>The Asia and the Pacific Regional ALARA Network (ARAN) was initiated by IAEA in 2007, aiming to maintain and to enhance radiation protection competence in participating countries through information, findings and data exchanges etc., with special emphasis on the implementation of the ALARA (optimization) principle. However, ARAN has not been active for a long time, and to continue to play its intended role, IAEA helped the Asia and the Pacific Region to reactivate this ALARA Network. An IAEA reactivation virtual meeting was held on 5 May 2021 with the voluntary support of the China Institute of Radiation Protection (CIRP) which will manage the operation of the Network and support the provision of a new website for ARAN. The meeting unanimously elected a new Acting Chairperson for the Acting Steering Committee, and two new Acting Vice-chairs and new Acting ARAN Secretary.</p>
<p>Editorial board: (Note to be filled with members of editorial board)</p>	<p>It is expected that countries in the region can work together within the Network, through conducting virtual exchanges, offline workshops and even training courses, to exchange and share data, technologies as well as good experiences. A reactivation virtual was organized by the IAEA on 6 April 2021 where 17 participants attended the meeting from the following countries: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Philippines, Qatar, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey (observer), and the United Arab Emirates. This meeting unanimously elected Mr. Chadia Bak as the new Acting Chair person, Mr. Mohamed Hassan Khatib and Mr. John Kong as the new Acting Vice-chairs and Mr. Cao Diao as the new Acting ARAN Secretary (support of the CIRP will continue with the dedicated individuals). The IAEA representative is Mr. Guro Chava, of the Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security.</p> <h3>The Term of Reference of ARAN</h3> <p>In accordance with these Terms of Reference, the members of the network shall co-operate together and with the IAEA in the operation of ARAN with the following:</p> <h3>Objectives of ARAN</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share and exchange information, experience and expertise for promoting the implementation of the ALARA principle for the management of occupational exposure in all situations, in the participating countries. • To enhance and develop skill and competence in occupational radiation protection for the different stakeholders concerned, through the proposals for appropriate training opportunities. • To contribute to the harmonization of radiation protection policies and practices, particularly concerning ALARA, both at regulatory and operational levels across the region. • To identify and investigate topical issues of common interest within the countries to further improve



ARAN current status: Collaboration with regional/international organizations (on going)

- Recognizing the value of developing strong relationships with other societies working in the field of occupational radiation protection or related subjects, ARAN is willing to sign a **Memoranda of Understanding** with a number of organizations:
 - Middle East Federation Of Organizations of Medical Physics (MEFOMP)
 - Asian Radiation Dosimetry Group (ARADOS)
 - **Etc...**

- An invitation letter is drafted and will be sent to regional /international organizations



ARAN future work

- The following Progress Reporting Meetings of the Acting SC are decided to be organized respectively on:
 - September 30th, 2021
 - October 13th, 2021.
- As stated, the MBM will be held on November 10th, 2021.
- Hopefully, scientific collaborations will start by 2022



Thank you for your attention



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