


# MARPA Newsletter

## Malaysian Radiation Protection Association

**Issue No. 1, June 2003**

### Message from the President

 am glad MARPA has eventually established after the 5<sup>th</sup> RPO Conference in Kuching, Sarawak. I take this opportunity to thank all protem-committee members for their valuable efforts in formulating the Constitution and processing the registration of MARPA with the ROS.

As a newly born association, our members are still small and membership drive needs immediate attention and I hope not only Board Members but everyone is expected to play an ambassador role in inviting friends and colleagues to join MARPA. The Board Members will give a high priority on activities of importance and beneficial to all members. Subcommittees will be established for planning and implementation of relevant activities. We welcome participations, suggestions and ideas from all members.

MARPA represents a pool of professionals of highest skill in radiation protection and safety, and I am proud to be part of it. It is indeed a national assets and resource for experts and specialists in radiation protection and safety. I would envisage that we could contribute to solutions of national, societal and industrial interests involving radiation protection and safety. Smart partnership with related professional bodies and other relevant agencies will be considered in future for effective delivery. As a respectable NGO, we have to always keep good rapport with the media, the public, private and government agencies.

I thank all members for electing me to the office of President of MARPA. Lastly, but of course not the least I hope we will work together to make MARPA as a credible and premier professional association in Malaysia and to stay relevant and effective in enhancing radiation protection and safety for national development.

### Executive Council

<b>President :</b>	<b><i>Dr. Daud Mohamad (MINT)</i></b>
<b>Vice President :</b>	<b><i>Dr. Syed Abdul Malik Syed Zain (MINT)</i></b>
<b>Secretary :</b>	<b><i>Dr. Idris Besar (MINT)</i></b>
<b>Treasurer :</b>	<b><i>Mr. P.P. Abraham (ILSAS)</i></b>
<b>Members :</b>	<b><i>Ms. Naziana Mohd Nasir (INTEL)</i></b>
	<b><i>Mr. Koh Siew Leong (SHELL)</i></b>
	<b><i>Mr. Mohamad Ishak (BHP STEEL)</i></b>
	<b><i>Mr. Loh Moong Hsiung (ChipPac)</i></b>
	<b><i>Mr. Md Zulkarnain Ismail (Advanced Insp &amp; Testing)</i></b>
	<b><i>Tn. Hj. Mhd. Bookeri Md. Ludin (MARDI)</i></b>

## The Birth of MARPA

The idea to form MARPA was first mooted in the Second RPO Conference back in 1997. Since then a protem committee has formed to materialise this idea. Discussions were held from year to year to garner support of the would-be members. Eventually, at the Fifth RPO Conference held in Kuching on 15 September 2002, the first AGM of MARPA was carried out and the First Members of the Council/Board were elected.

The ceremony to hand over MARPA's certificate along with the other 40 societies was organized by Department of Registrar at Holliday Villa Subang on 21 October 2002. MARPA was represented by the Vice-President to receive the certificate.

## MARPA's Objectives

The primary objective of the Association is to provide a platform for advancing scientific and technical knowledge and skill in the field of radiation protection through education research and the compilation and dissemination of relevant information to the members. It is also hoped that the Association act as a catalyst whereby national and international contacts and co-operation may be promoted among those engaged in radiation protection work, which includes relevant aspects of such branches of knowledge as science, medicine, engineering, technology and law. Hopefully, the efforts provide for the protection of man and his environment from the hazards caused by ionizing and non-ionizing radiation and thereby the exploitation of radiation and nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind.

The activities of the Association are those appropriate to the accomplishment of its primary objective, namely to:

- (a) provide for and support national and international meetings for the discussion of all aspects of radiation protection,
- (b) encourage national and international publications dedicated to radiation protection,
- (c) encourage research and educational opportunities in those scientific and related disciplines which support radiation protection,
- (d) encourage the establishment and continuous review of universally acceptable radiation protection standards or recommendations through the international bodies concerned, and,
- (e) undertake any other matters appropriate to the Association.

## The “Dirty Bomb”

Speaking before the Forty-Sixth General Conference of the IAEA in September, U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham called for **an international conference** to address the threat posed by the potential misuse of radiological materials to construct Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDDs), often referred to as “dirty bombs.”

A dirty bomb contains radioactive material, but does not use that material to produce a nuclear explosion, as is the case with a nuclear weapon. Dirty bombs are constructed of conventional explosives and radioactive material and are designed to disperse that radioactive material. Such weapons are ideal for terrorists because of their relative simplicity and the widespread availability of suitable radioactive material in medical isotopes, radiography sources, and power sources used in remote areas.”

Although these dirty bombs are not comparable to nuclear weapons in destructiveness, they are far easier to assemble and employ,” said Abraham. “While the physical destruction they would cause is comparable to conventional explosives, the disruption caused by widespread contamination is far greater. And it is disruption that terrorists seek.” In addition to the psychological disruption, use of a dirty bomb could have significant economic consequences.

## 1st MARPA Executive Council Meeting

**First Executive Council Meeting:** The First MARPA Executive Council meeting was conducted on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2002 at MINT. It was attended by the seven members of the Council. During this meeting, the Council discussed programme to be carried out by MARPA in the next few years. The meeting allowed the Executive Council to address several issues. The following are the meeting highlights;

- Opening of an account for MARPA,
- Membership,
- Newsletter
- Logo
- Association with IRPA

**MARPA is being eyed as a New IRPA Member:** The new Lithuanian Radiation Protection Society was admitted during the E.C. meeting as the 43rd Associate Society. Over the next two years the Executive Council has decided to focus its efforts on a small number of countries that should have a sufficient core of professionals to form a society. These are Belarus, **Malaysia**, Morocco, Panama, Paraguay and the Ukraine. (Excerpt from IRPA pub.)

**IRPA Congress, Madrid, May 2004:** An important part of the work of the Executive Council is to monitor arrangements for the next Congress in Madrid. At the meeting the Second Announcement and Call for Papers for the Congress was reviewed and approved. After the opening Sievert Lecture there is a well-structured programme covering all aspects of protection including protection against non-ionising radiation, medical aspects and protection of the environment. To enable participants to navigate the parallel sessions they have been colour coded by major topic areas. There will also be a number of plenaries from the major international bodies including UNSCEAR, ICRP and ICNIRP (Excerpt from IRPA)

# MARPA LOGO COMPETITION

SUBMIT YOUR  
ENTRY BY  
30 JUNE 2003

## Prizes:

★	<b>First Prize</b>	<b>: RM300</b>
★	<b>Second Prize</b>	<b>: RM200</b>
★	<b>Third Prize</b>	<b>: RM100</b>

### Rule & Regulation:

- ① This contest is open to all Malaysian citizen.
- ② You may submit as many entries as you like.
- ③ You can design the logo by hand drawing OR computer digital print-out.
- ④ Entries will be judged on the criteria of originality and attractiveness.
- ⑤ Your logo design must include the word "MARPA" and use only maximum of 3 colours.
- ⑥ The judge decision is final, no correspondence will be entertained.
- ⑦ Organizing Committee members are not allowed to participate in this Competition.
- ⑧ Please submit your logo design together with complete entry form below.
- ⑨ All entries must be submitted **by 30 June 2003** and send to:

Intel Technology Sdn. Bhd.  
Bayan Lepas Free Industrial Zone,  
Phase 3, Halaman Kampung Jawa,  
11900 Penang.  
(ATT: Naziana Mohd Nasir)



## MARPA LOGO COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

I/C Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization : \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_