Memorandum of Understanding between

South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Association (SPERA)
and
International Union of Radioecology (IUR)

As contributing to the foundation of the
International Federation of Environmental Radioactivity Associations (IFERA)

Preamble

There is a mutual interest in promoting cooperation between the South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Association (SPERA) and the International Union of Radioecology (IUR). Both Organizations share essentially the same scientific interests concerned with reaching a better description of environmental radioactivity, and a better understanding of its potential deleterious interaction with humans and ecological systems, irrespective of its actual source (natural or linked to human activities).

As a consequence, both organisations are dealing essentially with similar scientific issues, even though these are differentiated by the geographical focus of their respective memberships. The two parties therefore recognize that there is a high reciprocal value to construct a stronger linkage between the two organisations, in a way that would also respect their respective personal identity.

This Memorandum of Understanding describes in more details the various aspects of the linkages agreed upon between the two organisations and the guiding principles which govern them at the date of its signature. This extends from simple share of information to real scientific collaboration on dedicated projects which could result in yielding common or joint official deliverables.

Guiding Principles

The overarching guiding principle is the common decision to contribute, via this Memorandum of Understanding between SPERA and IUR, to establishing an International Federation of Environmental Radioactivity Associations, IFERA. This Federation, as initiated here, will be open to host any future further international association or organisation, non-governmental, sharing the same goals and wishing to join the Federation. The IFERA statute and organisation will be worked out when the Federation will host more than three different organisations. IFERA will make explicit reference to the national countries gathered within the Federation through its member organisations and/or associations. IUR, as having the largest membership worldwide and as the major founder and contributor to the Federation, holds the responsibility of examining and deciding upon any newcomer's request to join IFERA.

The identity of the respective organisation, here SPERA and IUR, is not to be impaired by this agreement. Each organisation retains the right to decide, through its own General Assembly or governing body or any other pertinent mean, what are its strategy, directions and actions, and especially to identify what could be developed in collaboration due to recognised reciprocal interest.

Responsibility for all activities in relation to IUR will remain with IUR.

Responsibility for all activities in relation to SPERA will remain with SPERA.

When deciding upon a specific area of collaboration, this will be clearly specified by means of a written document giving the terms of reference of the collaboration (membership involvement, respective resources necessary if any, deliverables planned, schedule, meetings, ...)

Deliverables to result from any of the above-mentioned collaborations will clearly acknowledge and show the double origin of its authorship (intellectual property).

For the time being, no financial resource exchange is foreseen within this agreement, unless a specific decision is jointly made for this purpose. Would this turn out to be necessary, this would be examined on a case by case basis, and specified in a written document.

Areas of Cooperation/Collaboration

Specific areas of mutual interest that can be identified at present, not precluding further topics that could be identified at later stage, will be pursued and currently include:

- Promoting the exchange of scientific information, whether through their respective web site, their respective publications (Reports, newsletters,...) or the scientific workshops and conferences that they support, organise or promote.
- Conducting joint activities by the means of joint task groups, duly acknowledged, or by any means or tool felt desirable (workshop, meeting, scientific mission, ...)
- Promoting the conduction of sound research in environmental radioactivity and radioecology, and promoting its publication in the open scientific literature.
- Promoting, especially via IFERA, the construction of a common strategy for the harmonised and optimised development of worldwide research and development in the related scientific disciplines, such as to reach a sound worldwide network of expertise when facing any radiologically relevant environmental problem.

Approach and Activities

The approach to be followed and the activities planned are provided in Appendix 1.

Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain valid for a period of 4 (four) years, and re-conducted automatically as such for similar periods, unless amendments need to be introduced. Would amendments be felt necessary, these can be introduced at any time, and will be joined to this Memorandum of Understanding, mentioning the date of introduction (entry in force).

Amendments

A letter stipulating specific amendments may amend any part of this agreement at any time when signed by the Presidents or responsible officers of the concerned parties, here SPERA and IUR.

Termination

Any party to this agreement may withdraw by informing the other party/parties of its intent in writing with a 3 months prior notice. Any such withdrawal will not affect the existence and functionning of the remaining IFERA member organisations.

Signatories

Dr François BRECHIGNAC
President of International
Union of Radioecology

Date March 15th, 2012

Dr Riaz AKBAR
President of South-Pacific Environmental
Radioactivity Association

Date 1 June 2012

Appendix 1. Approach and Activities

1. SPERA and IUR will both implement visibility of the companion organisation on their respective web sites, by establishing appropriate links on their home pages at http://www.iur-uir.org and .

2. The respective membership of both organisations, SPERA and IUR, will be made accessible to each organisation, in an electronic format.

3. Any deliverable produced either by SPERA or IUR, whether a report, a newsletter, a book or a journal publication, will be automatically made available to the other organisation(s) at no charge. This will be made irrespective of what further distribution the receiving organisation is willing to promote.