

EDITORS' PAGE

Five years ago, the Joint U.S.-Japan Working Group on the Reassessment of Atomic-bomb Dosimetry was established by the U.S. and Japanese government agencies responsible for the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF). The Joint Working Group consisted of a U.S. Working Group (USWG) appointed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and a Japanese Working Group (JWG) appointed by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). Once in place, the Joint U.S.-Japan Working Group was independent from, and had minimum direction from, the funding agencies for the RERF. The work of the RERF is important not just in Japan, but in the U.S. and the international radiation protection community. Involvement by the U.S. was made possible through a Congressional mandate and a special Congressional budget appropriation. The major task for the Joint U.S.-Japan Working Group was to address a serious discrepancy between measured and calculated values for neutron activation at Hiroshima that had caused a lack of confidence in the previous dosimetry, designated as DS86.

Ten meetings were held by the Joint U.S.-Japan Working Group to present and exchange information related to the reassessment effort. The locations and dates of these meetings were as follows:

Mitsui Garden Hotel, Hiroshima, Japan, 4-5 December 2000

Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Nagasaki, Japan, 7 December 2000

Hiroshima International Conference Center, Peace Park, Hiroshima, Japan, 21-23 March 2001

Cleveland Conference Center, Sheraton City Center Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, 11-14 June 2001

Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Hiroshima, Japan, 14-16 November 2001

Science Applications International Corporation, San Diego, California, 27 February -2 March 2002

Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Hiroshima, Japan, 3-4 April 2002

Science Applications International Corporation, San Diego, California, 19-20 January 2003

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 21-23 January 2003

Hotel Heart Inn, Tokyo, Japan, 14-15 March 2003

The first meeting at the Mitsui Garden Hotel in Hiroshima was a planning workshop for the dose reassessment. U.S. representatives at the meeting were Dr. Robert W. Young (USWG), Dr. George D. Kerr (USWG), and Dr. Joseph F. Weiss (DOE). The Japanese representatives were Dr. Hiromi Hasai (JWG), Dr. Masaharu Hoshi (JWG), Dr. Shigenobu Nagataki (RERF), Dr. Kiyoshi Shizuma (JWG), Dr. Shoichiro Fujita (JWG), and Dr. Senjun Taira (RERF). The third meeting at the Hiroshima International Conference Center in Hiroshima was the first full meeting of all members of both the Japanese and U.S. Working Groups (see Organization). The fourth meeting at Cleveland, Ohio was held during the Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society. A special session moderated by Dr. George D. Kerr and Dr. Robert F. Christy presented the plans for a new

atomic-bomb dosimetry reassessment effort to the U.S. and international radiation protection community. The other meetings prior to the last two meetings were devoted to special topics and were usually attended by a select group of members from the U.S. and Japanese Working Groups. The final two meetings in 2003 at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, and the Hotel Heart Inn in Tokyo, Japan, consisted of detailed presentations by members of the USWG and JWG on chapter items for a report on the new dosimetry. These presentations were made to a Joint Senior Review Group (JSRG) consisting of four members appointed by MHLW and four members appointed by DOE (see Organization). A new dosimetry, designated as DS02, was approved at the Tokyo meeting by the JSRG for use by the RERF.

Organization of the DS02 reassessment effort was greatly facilitated with the gracious help of Dr. Shigenobu Nagataki and his staff. Dr. Nagataki maintained an active role in the DS02 reassessment effort until the end of his term as Chairman of the RERF on 30 June 2001. Dr. Burton G. Bennett was appointed Chairman of the RERF on 1 July 2001 and also maintained an active role in the DS02 reassessment effort until this report was issued. Dr. Bennett and his staff were most helpful in the planning and coordination of the meetings with the JSRG at both Pasadena, California, and Tokyo, Japan. They also hosted the meetings held at the RERF in 2001 and 2002. Mr. Dean C. Kaul and Dr. Stephen D. Egbert hosted the two meetings at Science Applications International Corporation in San Diego, and Dr. Robert F. Christy hosted the meeting on the campus of the California Institute of Technology.

Following the Tokyo meeting at the Hotel Heart Inn, the arduous task of assembling and editing the DS02 Report began, and the Editors would like to thank all of the authors for their cooperation and perseverance throughout the preparation of this report. We are also grateful to the following individuals for their help in the editing of selected chapter sections: Dr. Harry M. Cullings of RERF, Dr. Stephen D. Egbert of Science Applications International Corporation, and Mr. Tetsuji Imanaka of the Reactor Research Institute at Kyoto University. A special thank you is also due to Dr. John M. Barnes and Dr. Jeffery O. Johnson of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for their help during the final editing of several chapter sections prepared primarily by Mr. Robert T. Santoro. Mr. Santoro was one of four authors who died during the preparation of this report. The other three authors were Mr. Wayne M. Lowder of the Environmental Monitoring Laboratory in New York City, Dr. Eckehart Nolte of the Technical University of Munich, and Dr. Shoichiro Fujita of the RERF. The hard work and friendship of these four individuals will always be remembered and valued by the Editors and the many others involved in the DS02 reassessment effort.

Finally, the Editors would like to acknowledge the excellent interpretation services provided at meetings in both the U.S. and Japan by Ms. Eiko Ishizaki and Ms. Naomi Umehara of the RERF and to acknowledge the outstanding editorial help provided by Ms. Yuko Ikawa and the Editorial Staff at the RERF during the preparation of this report. The work of the government program managers (Dr. Joseph F. Weiss, DOE Office of Environment, Safety, and Health; Dr. David G. Thomassen, DOE Office of Science; Drs. Hirotsugu Kimura, Shigeki Shiba, and Masami Kato, Health Service Bureau, Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) in facilitating funding for specific projects, the overall effort, and the organization of many meetings is also gratefully acknowledged.

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