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Katasalan ABF-hust, Wednesday 22 April 2009, 13:30 - 15:30

The meeting will be held in English and is open to the public at no charge.

Time to Re-evaluate the Risks of Radioactivity

- In Commemoration of the 23 Year Anniversary of the 26 April 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear Accident

**Professor Chris Busby, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
with comments by Dr. Jack Valentin, ICRP Scientific Secretary Emeritus
and discussion with the audience.**

The radiation century, 1900-2000, saw a steady increase in childhood cancer and leukemia in step with the parallel contamination of the human environment. The releases of radium and uranium to the environment in the first half of the century were augmented after 1950 by contamination from atmospheric weapons test fallout, nuclear power station accidents and licensed nuclear discharges. Man-made radioactive substances such as strontium-90, plutonium-239 and caesium-137 entered the food chain and now contaminates people all over the Earth.

According to Professor Busby, "Evidence which has emerged in the last 20 years has

shown that the routine releases of radioactive materials from nuclear power stations causes cancer among those living within five km of nuclear power stations. The evidence, which is for internal exposure, shows that the current radiation risk model used by governments to license the operation of nuclear power stations underestimates health risks. Health effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident support this conclusion.

The element uranium has particularly been shown to be extremely dangerous because it chemically binds to DNA and amplifies the effects of additional exposure to radiation, be it natural background or man-made."

Dr. Chris Busby, Professor at the School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, has been researching the health effects of radiation for 20 years. He is a scientist independent from the nuclear industry and



government agencies, and is the Scientific Secretary of the European Commission on Radiation Risk (ECRR, www.euradcom.org). His most recent publication is the February 2009 revised version of The European Committee on Radiation Risk book "Chernobyl: 20 years on" (see www.nonuclear.se/ecrr2006chernobyl2ed). For a list of his publications see:

www.greenaudit.org/publications.htm

Dr. Jack Valentin has been involved with the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP, www.icrp.org) for 20 years and just retired from the position as its Scientific Secretary. Before employment at ICRP, he was Head of Nuclear Installations Supervision at the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority. He has been a Board member of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA, www.irpa.net) and a consultant to the Secretariat of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR, (www.unscear.org)).

