

International Forum for Reactor Aging Management
Dr. Leonard Bond, Secretariat for Global Steering Committee

August 2010

Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of the quarterly IFRAM Newsletter

The primary mission of IFRAM is to build global cooperation for reactor aging management. The intent of this newsletter is to share information and help build cooperation. It is an open circulation newsletter so please forward it to others. If you send us names, affiliations and email addresses we will add people to the distribution list. If you don't want to continue receiving this newsletter please let us know.

A part of the rationale for IFRAM is:

1. Organizations worldwide share common challenges
2. Magnitude and scope of these challenges are beyond what any one organization can accomplish with their limited time and resources
3. Cooperation is a powerful tool to economize resources, save time and minimize needless duplication of efforts in addressing these challenges.



If all participants say, "Help us and let us help you" then IFRAM will be able to achieve its mission. A proposal for IFRAM was discussed at workshops held in Asia (October 2009) and in Europe (May 2010). The result was the appointment of the IFRAM Global Steering Committee to carry out all of the activities necessary to start-up IFRAM in 2011.

Global Steering Committee Holds First Meeting

The GSC held its first meeting on July 8th, 2010, by conference call. Committee members included:

- Tetsuo Shoji, Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency & Tohoku University
- Il Soon Hwang, Seoul National University
- Michel Bieth, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Jan van der Lee, Materials Aging Institute
- Rauno Rintanaa, NULIFE
- Milan Brumovsky, Nuclear Research Institute Rez
- C.E. (Gene) Carpenter, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Richard Reister, U.S. Department of Energy
- John Gaertner, Electric Power Research Institute
- Ki-Sig Kan, International Atomic Energy Agency
- Alejandro Huerta, Nuclear Energy Agency
- Han En-Hou, Institute of Metal Research
- Vivekanand Kain, Homi Bhabha National Institute
- Andrei Blahoianu, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- Leonard Bond, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (GSC Secretariat)

Goal for the GSC

The primary goal for the GSC is to prepare the organizing Charter for IFRAM, create the Operations Guidelines, and make arrangements for the 2011 start-up event.

- **Prepare IFRAM Charter.** The Charter will describe why IFRAM is necessary and point to its benefits. It will describe what IFRAM will do and who will help carry out its mission to promote global cooperation. The GSC will develop a charter to provide the IFRAM with the format and flexibility necessary to:
 - a. Strengthen regional, and build global, networks;
 - b. Facilitate the development, and sharing of, data, information and best practices; and,
 - c. Identify opportunities to leverage resources to accomplish technical and operational objectives.
- **Create Operations Guidelines.** The IFRAM Operations Guidelines will describe the types of IFRAM activities, when they will be conducted, and how they will be managed. The GSC will create this roadmap for how interested parties from around the globe can benefit from participation in IFRAM. A key attribute which is crucial to IFRAM's success is its ability to be nimble in achieving its objectives. Without this ability IFRAM's immense contribution to reactor aging management will be jeopardized.
- **Make Arrangements for the IFRAM Start-up Event.** The GSC will select the date, location and venue for an IFRAM global meeting. It will cooperate with others to make full plans for this "Start-Up Event."

Additional Tasks for the GSC

In addition, GSC will initiate the following tasks to help IFRAM's start-up be more effective.

- **Initiate Global Network.** Build a global network of parties interested in reactor aging management. The GSC will brainstorm to identify organizations, groups and individuals.
- **Use Tools for Sharing.** Develop a suite of tools to promote global sharing and cooperation such as websites, electronic newsletters, web conferencing, and conference calls. The objective is to capitalize on the ease, speed and low cost of electronic communications.
- **Gather Information.** Conduct internet on-line survey to gather information about on-going projects and programs and the capabilities and experience of groups and individuals. The information about on-going projects and programs will make it possible to identify opportunities for cooperation, reduce redundancy, find gaps in efforts to address technical issues, and develop a comprehensive integrated approach for reactor aging management. The information on capabilities and experience of groups and individuals will be used to establish technical focus groups and match capabilities and experience to technical issues.

The GSC chose early summer 2011 for the "kick-off" event for IFRAM. Specific dates and locations are being considered. Committee members noted some existing charters that could be employed as models for the IFRAM Charter. The IFRAM pages on the [Proactive Management of Materials Degradation \(PMMD\)](#) website were noted. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) will develop an IFRAM questionnaire to gather information about on-going projects/programs and the capabilities and experience of groups and individuals and create a draft outline for the Operations Guidelines.

IFRAM Talk at PVP Meeting

The message about IFRAM and its importance to life extension for nuclear reactors was presented by Leonard Bond and Gene Carpenter at the ASME 2010 Pressure Vessel and Piping Division Conference in Seattle on July 18-22. Their talk entitled "Life extension through proactive management of materials degradation (PMMD) and the International Forum for Reactor Aging Management (IFRAM)" presented the

case for managing materials degradation and the benefits of forming IFRAM.



Contributions and Suggestions

Please submit items for this newsletter. We want this newsletter to be an effective way to communicate globally about IFRAM activities. Also make suggestions about the content or format for future issues of the newsletter.

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