

## Message from the President

The Twelfth International Conference on the Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials (PATRAM'98) is held in Paris from 10th to 15th May 1998, under the patronage of French Ministries of Industry and Environment.

Industrialists, public authorities, researchers, all those concerned by these subjects, will have an opportunity to share and compare their experiences and approaches to radioactive material transportation issues, as they have done every three years in the past.

Following the request for papers, more than three hundred proposals for papers were received by the PATRAM'98 Co-ordination Committee. An international selection committee, which met for three days in June, ascertained the quality of the papers and defined the main outline of the program proposed in this document.

Study of this program demonstrates that the main issues brought to bear by society are obviously close to the concerns of the actors actually involved in radioactive substance transportation.

One and a half days, therefore, will be devoted to papers on various aspects of transportation by sea of radioactive materials, particularly reprocessed material: the safety of packages, ships, impact in the event of an accident, acceptance by the public. The problem area of transportation of radioactive materials by sea will be introduced in the plenary session.

Due to the flow involved, its position in the nuclear fuel industry, the dual "chemical" and "radioactive" hazards presented, uranium hexafluoride is also an extremely interesting subject: design of packages, study of their behaviour, servicing, use, maintenance. As Director of the Institut de Protection et de Sûreté Nucléaire, involved in "Tenerife" (the international experimental program on the thermophysical behaviour of uranium hexafluoride in a transport container subjected to fire), I am very receptive to this subject.

The end of the fuel cycle, health physics, consideration of the risk of criticality, studies of materials, new packaging concepts, the execution of impact, fire and immersion testing will be treated in specific sessions, since the quality of these transport activities is still strongly based upon a thorough control of their technical aspects.

I am happy to welcome all of you, who are numerous as in the past in this triennial radioactive materials conference. This will, I hope, demonstrate that safety and economic efficiency are progressing by means of continuous questioning, the rejection of a priori certitudes, the sharing and comparison of knowledge between actors.

Michel Livolant  
Director of Institut de Protection et de Sûreté Nucléaire  
President PATRAM'98

Escape from the Island

The two men were walking on the beach, and the sound of the waves was heard in the distance. They were talking to each other, and their voices were low and soft.

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