

Welcome to the 9th IAC meeting

Sincere thanks to:

**Nesrin Seyhan and her colleagues, and
Sarah Bullock**

**For a super effort to arrange the meetings this
week**



Progress report: 2003-4

For period May 2003 to June 2004

Contents:

- **Project overview for first time participants**
- **Highlights for year**
- **Health risk assessments**
- **Scientific reviews**
- **Research coordination**
- **EMF risk management**
- **Precautionary framework**
- **EMF risk perception and communication**
- **Standards framework**
- **Administration**
- **Project resources**
- **Meetings**



First time attendees

- **Austria: Katharina Stangl**
- **Brazil: Maximiliano Salvadori Martinhão, José Gustavo Sampaio Gontijo, Francisco Tejo, Hamilton Moss de Souza and José Antonio Simas Bulcao**
- **Canada: Michel Bourdages (rep. IEC)**
- **Ireland: Bob Hanna (taking over from Tom McManus)**
- **Italy: Paolo Ravazzini (EMF-NET)**
- **Japan: Tomohiro Saito (for Michi Kabuto)**
- **Poland: Stefan Rozycki**
- **Sweden: Lars Mjones (for Gert Anger)**
- **European Commission: Philippe Martin (for Giulio Gallo)**
- **WHO Regional Offices: Ahmed Nejjar (AFRO), Houssain Abouzaid (EMRO)...apologies SEARO and EURO**
- **IARC: Elisabeth Cardis...returning after a spell away??**



What do we want to achieve for this meeting of IAC?

- **Provide a report on progress for the year**
- **Obtain final input prior to publication for:**
 - **Standards framework**
 - **Fact and information sheets**
- **Introduce and obtain input for:**
 - **Health risk assessment process**
 - **Model legislation**
 - **Precautionary framework and case studies**
 - **EMF management programs**
 - **National contact database**
 - **Research activities (incl. cohort study etc)**
 - **New fact sheets (children, hypersensitivity, base stations, etc)**
 - **Standards developments (international?)**
 - **How can our collaborating institutions and national authorities assist the project?**



WHO and RADIATION

CLUSTER

Sustainable Development and Healthy Environment (SDE)

DEPARTMENT

Protection of the Human Environment (PHE)

UNIT

Radiation and Environmental Health (RAD)

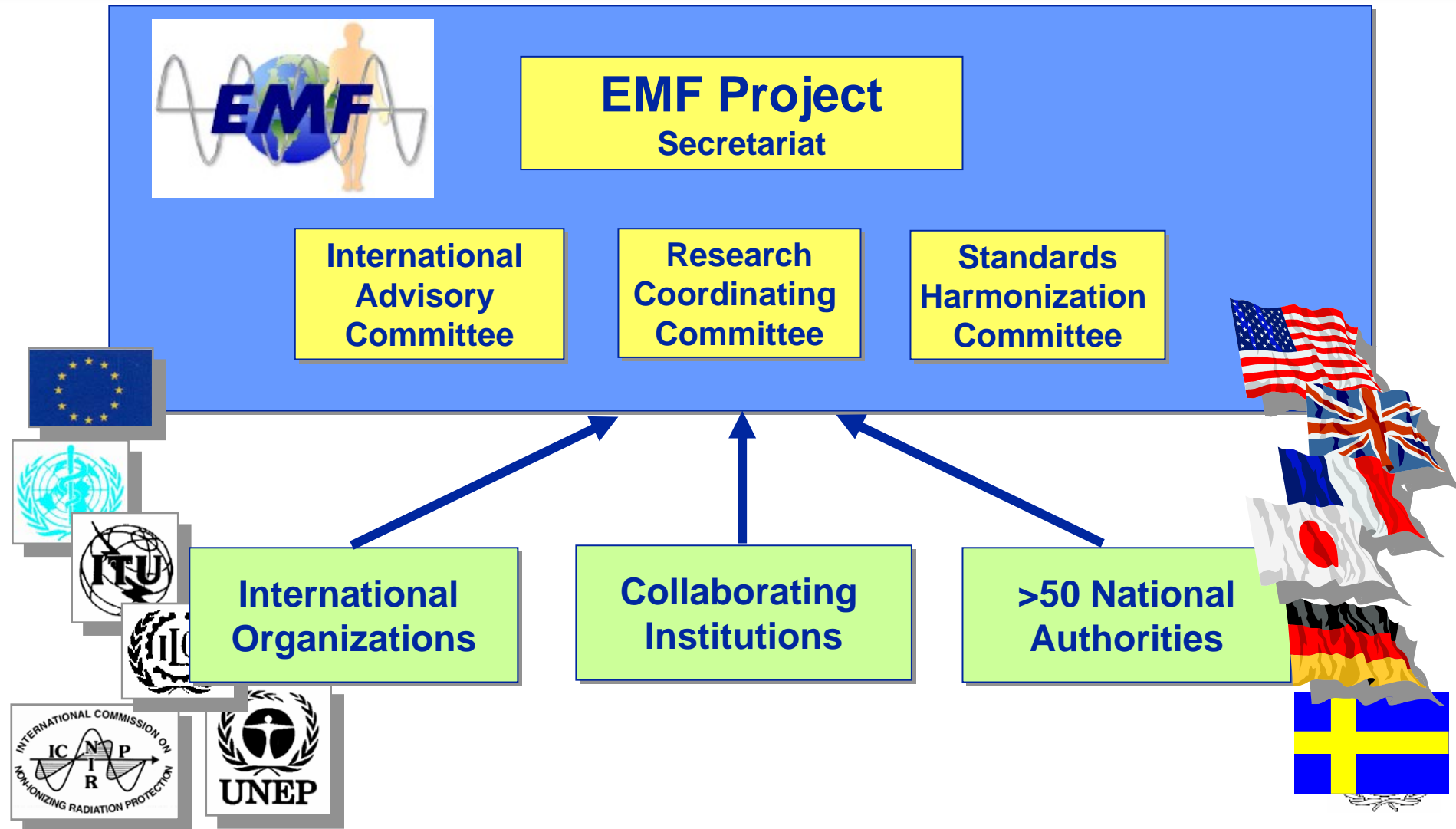


**Ionizing
Radiation Safety**

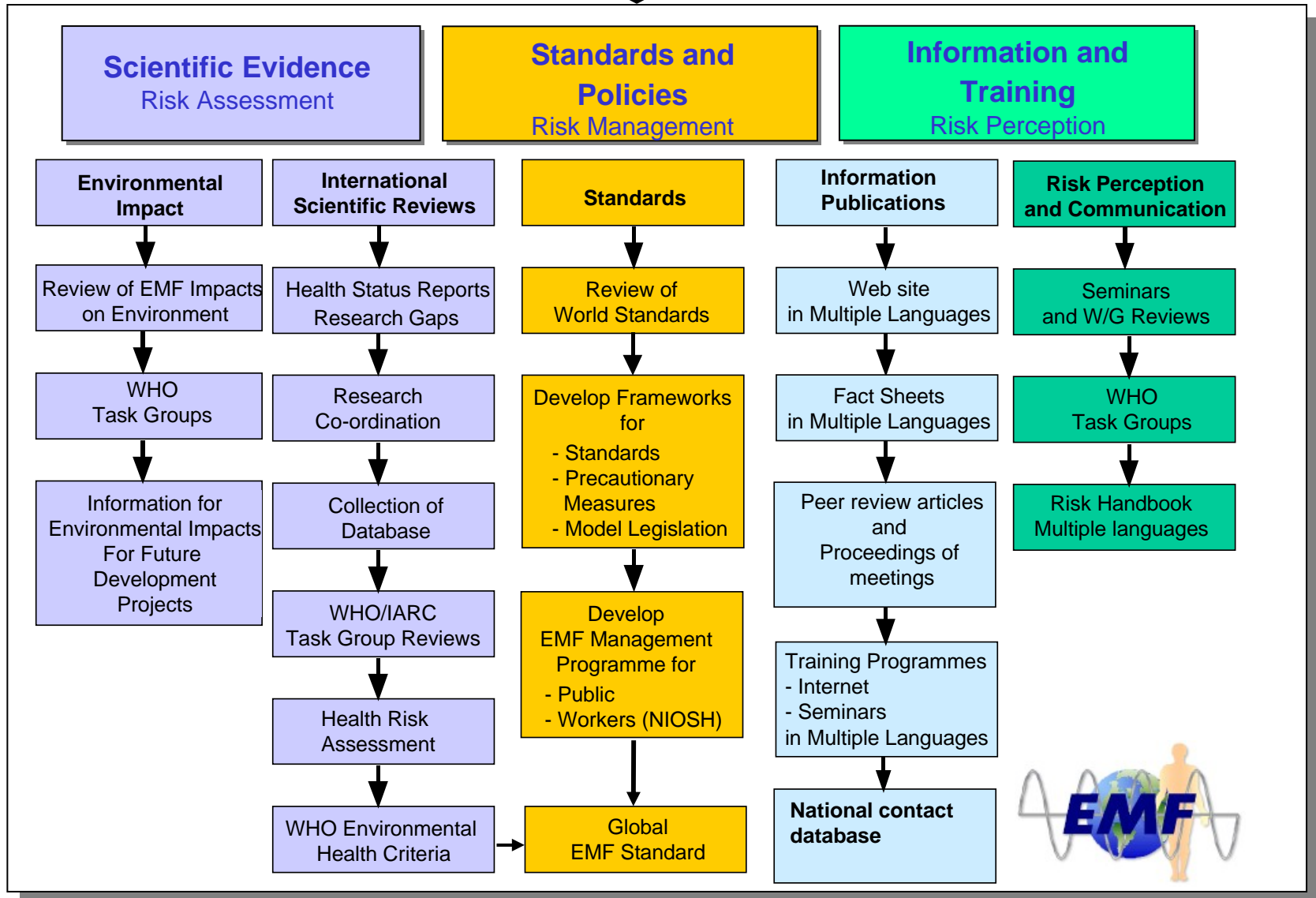
*International
EMF Project*



Structure



WHO EMF Project



National EMF Authorities and Public

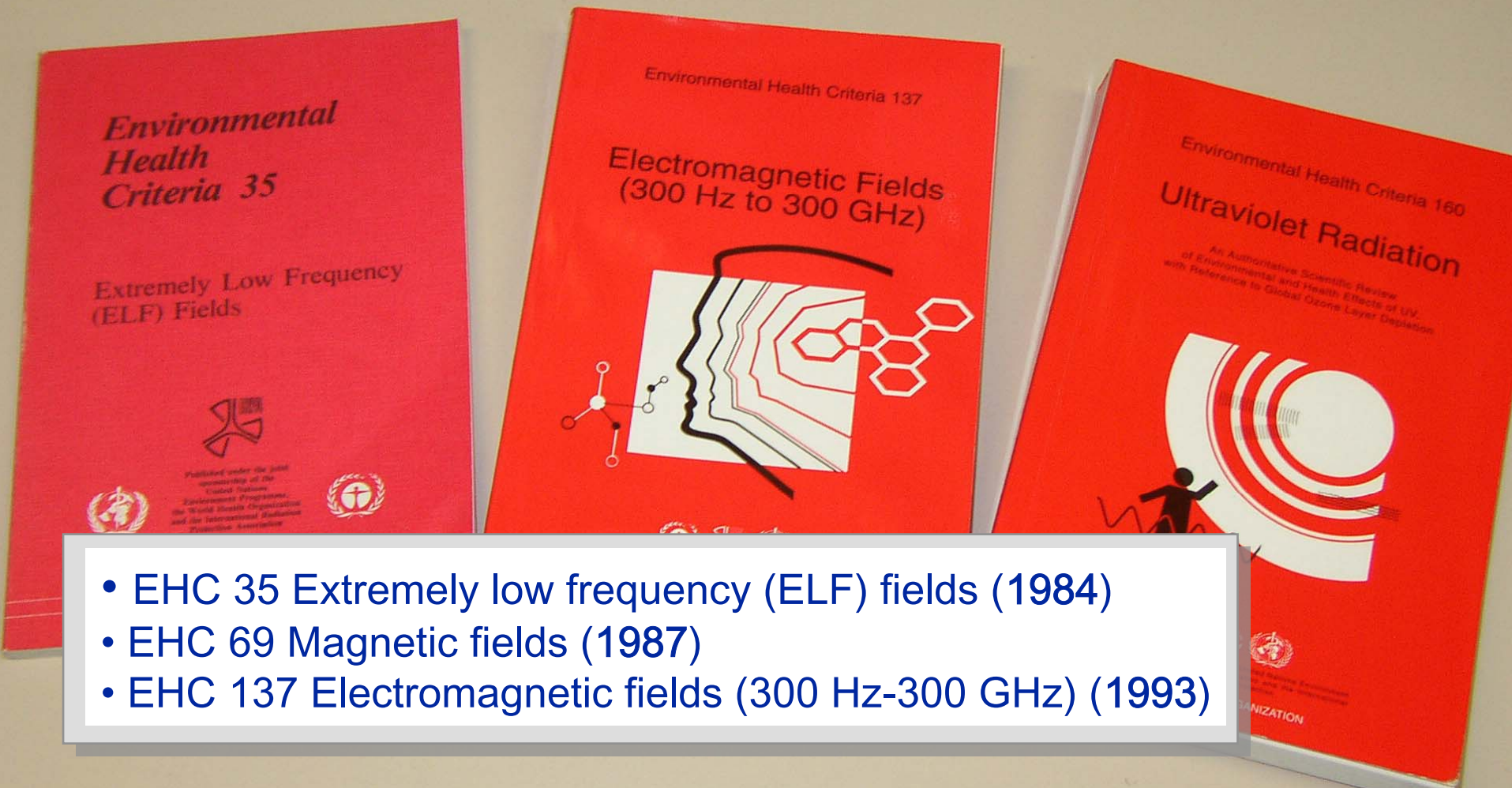


Highlights for the year

- Workshops for input to the EHC and research agenda: weak electric fields, static magnetic fields, children and hypersensitivity
- Almost completed the first draft on ELF fields
- Completed first draft on Model Act and Model Regulations
- Collaborating with NIOSH on Occupational EMF Management program
- Developing concept of internet "distance learning programs" and focusing on educational programs for children
- Updating the International EMF Project pamphlet
- Providing support for national authorities on base stations and power line issues



WHO Health Risk Assessment



- EHC 35 Extremely low frequency (ELF) fields (1984)
- EHC 69 Magnetic fields (1987)
- EHC 137 Electromagnetic fields (300 Hz-300 GHz) (1993)

WHO Health Risk Assessment

Risk assessment
of **all health outcomes**
(*Environmental Health Criteria*)

International
EMF Project

Hazard identification and classification
of possible **carcinogens**
(*Monographs*)

International Agency for
Research on Cancer (IARC)

Centre International de
Recherche sur le Cancer (CIRC)



WHO Health Risk Assessment

Static		ELF		RF	
IARC	2001-2002	IARC	2001-2002	IARC	2005
EHC	2002-2004	EHC	2002-2004	EHC	2006
					



Helping the research community



<http://www.who.int/emf>

*What has
been done?*

*What is
being done?*

*What needs to
be done?*

time

WHO Research
Reviews

WHO Research
Database
Help from COST 281

WHO Research
Agenda and promoting it





World Health Organization

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Electromagnetic fields (EMF)

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Location: [WHO](#) > [WHO sites](#) > [EMF Home](#) > Research

Research



RELATED STORIES

- [Radio frequencies research agenda 2003](#)
- [EMF research database](#)
- [Health risk assessment](#)
- [Research agenda](#)
- [Scientific reviews](#)

Extensive research has been conducted into possible health effects of exposure to many parts of the frequency spectrum. All reviews conducted so far have indicated that exposures below the limits recommended in the ICNIRP (1998) EMF guidelines, covering the full frequency range from 0-300 GHz, do not produce any known adverse health effect. However, there are gaps in knowledge still needing to be

WHAT'S NEW!

Sensitivity of children to EMF exposure, June '04

This WHO Workshop is being arranged in collaboration with the Medical Faculty of Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey, and will take place from Wednesday 9 June to Thursday 10 June 2004.

[Abstracts deadline 30 April 2004, more information](#)

Public information brochure used in Malaysia

[Information brochure for distribution to the public on health effects of EMF \[PDF 1047KB\]](#)

[New RF research agenda - July 2003](#)
[More information](#)

[Recent Powerpoint](#)

- Home
- Countries
- Health topics
- Publications
- Research tools
- WHO sites
- EMF Home
- About electromagnetic fields
- EMF Project
- Research
- Standards
- EMF publications & information resources
- Meetings

EMF Risk management Programs

- **Occupational in collaboration with NIOSH, ILO**
- **General public...could collaborate with a partner? Any takers?**
 - **Would include Precautionary framework**
 - **Model legislation**



Precautionary Framework

- Draft have been undergoing review...another opportunity this meeting
- Want to have final framework used by WHO as a general policy for "protecting public health in areas when scientific uncertainty exists" ...not just for EMF, but for all physical, chemical and biological agents
- Obtaining input from precautionary legislation or recommendations used in NZ, Canada, EC etc
- Working on case studies to test framework. Have ELF, working on RF, and shortly expand to include: food safety, chemicals (pesticides?) and biologicals (mad cow, SARs...?)
- Want to have completed next year



Risk Perception and Communication

- **EMF Dialogue book published:**
 - **Electronic versions:**
 - **English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Japanese (Dutch being prepared)**
 - **Published or soon to be published:**
 - **English, French, Spanish and Russian**
- **3,000 English published and most distributed free**
- **50,000 Italian published and distributed over Italy**
- **Any country wanting to translate to their language should contact WHO**



Standards framework

- **Purpose:** To reach international agreement on a framework for developing guidelines on protection of the public and workers from exposure to EMF
- Framework has resulted from meetings in all 6 WHO regions where scientists have had input. Additional effort made to assist scientists in Russia and China
- Text completed and now to receive final review by IAC prior to publication



Administration

- **Role of WHO:** to facilitate implementation of the EMF Project, and act as secretariat
- **Staff:** Mike Repacholi, Emilie Vandeventer, Rick Saunders, Sarah Bullock and Leeka Kheifets (under contract from UCLA)
- **Help:** With the huge task at hand we are seeking the assistance of our partners to complete the work. **We want our partners to tell us what they can do for the Project. WHO becoming strict on CCs.**



Funding

- Project can receive funding from any source through Royal Adelaide Hospital; an agency established through WHO Legal Department agreement to collect funds for the project
- Declining funding from national governments (see overhead...)...need to see more government support
- COST 281 and EMF-NET are assisting with funding for specialized workshops and meeting



Project resources

- **Web site updated and kept up-to-date**
 - National contact database to be added with IAC meeting summaries...in form of world map
 - In discussions with WHO IT staff to see how we can better use the web site and measure impact of activities and outputs
 - Distance training courses...study design and quality to be useful for health risk assessments
 - Educational web site and TV programs for children being considered... can anyone help?
- **Want to re-commence publication of fact and information sheets (those that WHO will not publish as fact sheets)**
 - Microwave ovens
 - Intermediate frequencies
 - Environmental impact of EMF
 - Medical response to RF over-exposure
 - Children and EMF
 - Hypersensitivity
 - Mobile phone base stations and wireless networks
 - Others?
- **Brochures....EURO version under review for update**
- **EMF Project pamphlet to be published this year**



Meetings

Meetings increasingly held to support national authorities with key issues of concern such as base stations, power lines, precautionary measures.
Unfortunately WHO cannot respond to all requests, but we try to help where possible.

June 2003 Rome Health Aspects of EMF

July 2003 London LINK Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Program

September 2003 Paris WHO Meeting on Precautionary Policies and Health

October 2003 Guilin, Discuss draft Chinese RF standard with the Chinese Standards Committee

October 2003 Kuala Lumpur assist Malaysian Government develop EMF protection strategy.

November 2003 Tokyo ELF & health effects-How to deal with PP

November 2003 Sofia mobile phones

November 2003 Budapest 6th EBEA Congress

December 2003 Paris Update on RF biological effects

Jan 2004 Bangkok, EMF health effects and standards Pacific rim

Jan 2004 Brussels, Risk commun. in the EU

March 2004 Lima, Base stations

March 2004 Asuncion, Paraguay Power lines

March 2004 Ottawa, Power lines

April 2004 Erice Course: methodology in exper. investigations

April 2004 Dublin Perceived risks of EMF

April 2004 Madrid Base stations

May 2004 Seville ICNIRP WHO NIR Workshop

May 2004 Zaragoza Base stations

May 2004 Madrid

IRPA Congress NIR Workshop



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