

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL MEETING
Latin-American and Caribbean Countries
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD RADIATION
"EMF HEALTH EFFECTS, STANDARDS HARMONIZATION AND MITIGATION
MEASURES"
7 - 9 March, 2001

Host: INICTEL

Sponsors

World Health Organization (WHO) / Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), International Commission for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and Peruvian National Institute for Research and Training in Telecommunications (INICTEL)

Purpose:

- Review of the biological and health effects, due to the exposure to electromagnetic fields
- Discussion about health concerns related to EMF in South American, Central American, and Caribbean Countries
- EMF standard harmonization in the region
- Discussion on Peruvian situation with regard to electromagnetic fields
- Discussion on standards and protection measures to be used in Peru
- Standard Application to Telecommunications Services
- Standard Application to Services from other sectors: Electricity, Industry, etc.

Participation:

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
- International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)
- Peruvian National Institute for Research and Training in Telecommunications (INICTEL)
- Pan-American Centre of Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (CEPIS)
- Peruvian Ministry of Transports, Communications, Housing and Construction
- Peruvian Ministry of Energy and Mines
- Peruvian Ministry of Industry and Tourism
- Peruvian Ministry of Health
- Medical College of Peru
- Other International Sponsors
- Other Local Sponsors

Speakers :

Dr. Mike Repacholi: General Coordinator "International Electromagnetic Fields Project"- World Health Organization, Dr. P. Vecchia – Italy, Mg. Victor Cruz – Peru, Dr. R. Owen – USA, Dr. A. Wood – Australia, Dr. Leeka Kheifets – USA, Dr. A. Mckinlay - ICNIRP, UK, Dr. Ken Foster – USA, Ms. J. Basile – USA and Dr. G. Skvarca- Argentina,

Scientific Programme (7-8 March, 2001)

Wednesday 07 March

07.30 - 09.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.30 Opening Ceremony

Eng Pedro Valdivia (INICTEL)

Dr Marie-André Diouf (PAHO)

Dr Mike Repacholi (WHO)

Dr Eduardo Prettel Zárate (Minister of Health)

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 - 11.45 WHO International EMF Project Dr M. Repacholi (WHO)

11.45 - 12.30 Characteristics and exposure to EMF Dr P. Vecchia (Italy)
12.30 - 13.00 Discussion
12.30 - 14.30 Lunch
14.30 - 15.15 Effects found in animals Dr R. Owen (USA)
15.15 - 16.00 Human studies Dr A. Wood (Australia)
16.00 - 16.30 Coffee Break
16.30 - 17.15 Epidemiological studies Dr L. Kheifets (USA)
17.15 - 18.00 Discussion

Thursday 08 March

09:00 - 09:45 Industry response to EMF concerns Ms J. Basile (USA)
09:45 - 10:30 Use of the precautionary principle Dr Ken Foster (USA)
10.30 - 11.00 Coffee Break
11.00 - 11.45 EMF Standards in Latin America Dr G. Skvarca (Argentina)
11.45 - 12.30 Science – The Basis for Exposure Guidelines Dr A. McKinlay (ICNIRP)
12.30 - 13.00 Discussion
13.00 - 14.30 Lunch
14.30 - 15.15 Recommendations on public protection Dr MH Repacholi (WHO)
15.15 - 16.00 EMF measurements Eng Víctor Cruz (INICTEL, Peru)
16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break
16.30 - 17.30 ITU activities according with human safety EMF exposition Eng Gabriel Bernal (ITU)
17.30 Discussion

WHO EMF Standards Harmonization Meeting

Friday 09 March

09.00 - 09.15 Welcome and purpose of meeting Dr MH Repacholi (WHO)
09.15 - 09.45 Standards harmonization project Dr MH Repacholi (WHO)
09.45 - 10.30 Discussion on international and regional standards
10.30 -11.00 Coffee Break
11.00 - 11.45 Presentation of the Minister of Transport and Communications from Perú Dr Rocío Cacho (MTC)
Eng Omar Álvarez (MTC)
11.45 - 12.30 Presentation of the Minister of Health from Perú Eng Jorge Villena (DIGESA)
Dr Sergio Santillana (INEN)
12.30 - 14.00 Lunch
14.00 - 15.00 Panel discussion and formation of working groups
15.00 - 16.00 Working group session to discuss 3 framework topics
16.00 - 17.30 Plenary discussion on results
17.30 Closing Ceremony INICTEL, WHO Eng Luis Ortega Navarrete, Minister of Transport and Communications from Peru

Meeting Development

The meeting was held in Lima, as it was planned, from March 7th to 9th, 2001. There was the participation of 217 Peruvian people and 23 people from the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Puerto Rico, United States of America

Standards Harmonization Working Group

Conclusions

- The standards of the electromagnetic fields exposure limits should be just based on the health effects produce by these fields.
- It's very important to give an adequate legal frame to the EMF exposure limits normative
- The World Health Organization does not work out standards. However, the WHO develops projects and studies to be used as a base by governmental and international organizations like the ICNIRP to develop recommendations and standards, which could be recognized and accepted internationally
- The ICNIRP standards are only based on thermal effects and do not consider possible long term effects.
- It should have two different documents:
- The expositions limits given in terms of magnetic and electric fields; and holded in terms of basic restrictions based on the established health effects.
- The preventive policy where would be defined measures to prevent and/or mitigate EMF exposure in order to achieve the electromagnetic fields MPL compliance
- Governments should look for international consensus on EMF legal frame in order to achieve international credibility.
- Each country must regulate according to its national's issues, however it should be considered international guidelines as non-overtaken reference limit.
- It could be coordinated, if it's necessary, the WHO consultancy.
- Current studies outcoming suggest no changes in nowadays standards, so it could begin prevention and mitigation measures as soon as possible.
- In Perú, it's necessary to establish a close coordination among the whole EMF actors in order to develop standards which could guarantee a sustainable development of all of the involved sectors.