

Opening Address

*Klaus Boening**
IGORR Chairman

Welcome to the 9th Meeting of the International Group on Research Reactors IGORR.

I am very happy and appreciate very much that the IGORR group has been invited by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO) to have this IGORR9 Meeting held here in Australia. Not only is Sydney one of the most attractive cities in the world to host such a meeting, but there is also a very interesting project of a new Replacement Research Reactor being realized in this country - not far from Sydney so that we will have the opportunity to visit the site.

The charter of IGORR and its objectives are reproduced below. - You all know that we have this traditional scheme of rotation of the IGORR meetings around America, Europe, and Asia, with time intervals of about one-and-a-half years. Since the last two meetings, IGORR7 and IGORR8, have been held in Argentina and Germany, respectively, this meeting IGORR9 should be organized in the eastern hemisphere of the world and, as I said already, we are happy now to be here in Australia.

We are looking forward to a promising program. There are quite a number of fascinating new research reactor projects in the world: in France, Germany, Russia, Canada, China, Thailand, and here in Australia. Representatives of many of these projects will be at this meeting to give presentations – but there are also some who could not make it because of budgetary constraints in the present difficult economic situation worldwide. But in addition to the session about New Facilities we will have interesting sessions on the Upgrades and on the Optimization of Operation and Utilization of existing research reactors, on Secondary Neutron Sources, on Neutron Scattering applications, and on the aspects of Safety, Licensing and Decommissioning. Let me briefly mention two particular projects of new research reactors: one of them, the TRR-II project in Taiwan, has unfortunately been terminated last year because of a change to anti-nuclear of the ruling parties in the government - and the other one, the new FRM-II in Munich, Germany, will hopefully survive such a political change and receive its green light for nuclear start up in the very near future.

Another topic which we have to discuss at this meeting is that of the Chairman of IGORR. You probably know that I have been serving as your Chairman for about 7 years – same time as my predecessor and first IGORR Chairman Colin West. But next year I am definitely going to retire being 65 years old, then – so it is high time to look for a successor. I have announced all this to the members of the IGORR Steering Committee and in the recent IGORR Newsletter, asking for suggestions and applications. We will have a business meeting during this conference where I hope that we can discuss this question and come to a final agreement.

I should not end without thanking – on behalf of IGORR - all those who have contributed to making this meeting possible: ANSTO as the hosting institution with Professor Helen M Garnett as the Chief Executive, and the members of the IGORR9 Organizing Committee who did all the work and a good job, indeed.

Klaus Boening

IGORR Charter and Objectives:

The International Group on Research Reactors IGORR was formed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience among those institutions and individuals who are actively working to design, build, and promote new research reactors or to make significant upgrades to existing facilities. The main IGORR objectives are to promote contacts between its members, to identify and discuss problems of common interest, to distribute newsletters about once or twice every year and to organize meetings about once every one-and-a-half years. You may find more information about IGORR on the web page www.igorr.com.

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