

Report on IYNC 2022 (II)

The International Youth Nuclear Congress (IYNC) is the global network of a new generation of nuclear professionals. Goals of IYNC include, but are not limited to, development of new approaches to communication of benefits of nuclear power, as part of a balanced energy mix; promotion of further peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for the welfare of mankind; transfer of knowledge from the current generation of leading scientists to the next generation and across international boundaries and provision of a platform and creation of an enabling environment to facilitate the building of professional networks that will open up future opportunities. To maximize the effect of its presence on the international nuclear scene, IYNC has organized 11 biannual congresses all over the world since its creation in 2000. The 12th edition of this congress, organized in late November and early December 2022, took place in Koriyama, Fukushima prefecture, Japan.

The topic of this year's event was *You are the core*, providing for a strong and important message that the young generation is the core of further development of nuclear science and technology. The congress itself was tailored in such a way to enable fulfilment of all the goals and ideas IYNC stands for and promotes in the first place. Spanning over a full week, the event itself included a variety of technical, panel and poster sessions, mentoring programme and numerous social events that aimed at creation and reinforcement of intergenerational knowledge and experience exchange and transfer. Taking place in the proximity of one of the most important sites for the nuclear industry, IYNC 2022 featured a technical visit to, among many other places, Fukushima Daiichi and Daini nuclear power plants.

It is my personal opinion that IYNC 2022 was a great success. Having in mind that the organization of this event suffered two major blows, namely COVID-19 and relocation of the congress from Russia to Japan, the amount of effort and time put in the organization of this event by a dedicated team of individuals is to be greatly respected and appreciated. My personal contribution to the event was limited to chairing a couple of technical sessions on Nuclear Physics, Neutronics and Reactor Physics, as well as Nuclear Fuel Cycle, Waste Management and Decommissioning. Additionally, I co-managed a workshop that aimed to facilitate technical imagination of its participants, alongside the networking and collaboration, titled *Designed Your Own Space Reactor*.

Getting a chance to spend a wonderful week with nuclear enthusiasts from all over the world, exchange on and discuss topics that are of interest not only for us, but also for the global community, and visit a beautiful country of culture and heritage that plays an important role in our industry, all contributed to my personal development. And through the participation of many young people from all over Europe, to the development of the nuclear industry of Europe and the world as well. For that, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the European Nuclear Society and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

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