

## The INMM's First Twenty-Five Years

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Having jettisoned my INMM journals and proceedings while making eight moves in the twenty-five years since my 1982-1983 term as INMM president, I necessarily relied primarily on my long-term memory in preparing these remarks. My perspective is restricted to the first half of the organization's fifty year history—the era in which I was the most active as a contributing member.

The INMM as an organization was preceded by an AEC sponsored annual conference on the accountability of nuclear materials. The attendees were accountability specialists from government facilities which were managed by private companies as contractors, and their government counterparts. I worked for General Electric (GE) at Hanford at the time and attended the conferences of 1955 and 1957, giving presentations of a statistical nature at each. Oddly, what I recall most clearly about the 1955 meeting is that one of the Hanford AEC attendees managed to stay in a downtown Washington hotel for \$6 a night.

Until the late 1960s, my involvement in what we today call nuclear materials safeguards was rather limited in my work as a statistician at Hanford and later at the GE Vallecitos Atomic Laboratory. With the passage of time, and especially after joining Jersey Nuclear (later to become Exxon Nuclear) in 1970, my involvement in nuclear materials accountability became much more than incidental as did my participation in INMM activities.

Early on, the INMM was a rather informal organization. A highlight of a typical annual business meeting was the selection of the host city for the following year's annual meeting, an activity somewhat resembling today's political caucus in the emotions it generated among attendees. In the early 1970s annual meetings and other INMM activities had grown to the point where the need for professional management was recognized. Further, the *Journal of Nuclear Materials Management* was evolving from a newsletter to a technical publication while continuing to report on INMM activities.

The *Journal* editor at the time, whose name escapes me, would often contact me two or three weeks before each deadline and request that I submit a paper. I suspected that potential contributors were saving possible submissions for the Annual Meeting so their management would permit them to attend. I could usually prepare an article on some relevant subject because my work assignments were often in this area. The first paper, published in 1972, was titled "A New Approach to Calculating LE-MUF." Between 1972 and 1984 I contributed twenty articles. Presumably, receiving a sufficient number of contributions to the *Journal* is no longer a problem today.

As an organization, the INMM continued to grow and develop in enhancing nuclear materials management. In the beginning, the focus was on domestic safeguards and methods of control that included accountancy, weighing and destructive chemical measurements and statistics. By the mid 1980s it had expanded to embrace international safeguards, non-destructive analysis (NDA), physical security, and waste management. It had also developed and implemented a Certified Safeguards Specialist program, contributed many ANSI standards, and sponsored training courses.

I was privileged to serve as INMM chair in 1982 and in the silver anniversary year, 1983. The meeting venues were Vail, Colorado, and Columbus, Ohio, respectively. In contrast to the usual hot, muggy summer venues (chosen to minimize costs,) the pleasant weather and mountain location made the meeting at Vail especially noteworthy.

After my final remarks as chair, I handed over the gavel to my successor, Yvonne Ferris, noting that for the first time in its twenty-five year history the gavel was being transferred from one statistician to another. Finally, the important role played by statisticians was being fully acknowledged by the membership.

The INMM was recognized as the leading organization in enhancing nuclear materials safeguards when it was asked in 1983 to form a team of experts to tour Chinese nuclear facilities on a People-to-People mission. Sites in and near Beijing, Chengdu, and Shanghai were visited. The team was led by E.R. Johnson and was mostly comprised of INMM members. Lectures were given on various aspects of nuclear materials control and follow-up discussions were conducted. A panel discussion on the Chinese Mission was included as part of the 1984 INMM Annual Meeting.

The last annual meeting I attended was in Albuquerque in 1988. I did, however, keep informed of INMM activities through the *Journal* and by participating in meetings of the Vienna Chapter until my retirement in the mid-1990s. Although I was active in other professional societies during my career, I regard my involvement in the INMM as the most rewarding.