

First Announcement and Call for Papers



VALDOR 2006

May 14–18, 2006 • Stockholm, Sweden

www.congrex.com/valdor2006

VALues in Decisions On Risk

Dear Colleague,

The next VALDOR Symposium will take place in Stockholm on May 14–18, 2006. The VALDOR Symposia are arranged to support the further development of transparent risk management.

VALDOR, meaning VALues in Decisions On Risk, is a much appreciated forum for the discussion on values involved in complex and controversial matters. We take a holistic and democratic approach to societal decision-making in complex issues which almost always include risk related matters. The VALDOR arena thus becomes cross-disciplinary and includes aspects of social and natural sciences as well as policy analysis. We strongly believe that risk management must take an integrated approach using not only technical risk assessment but also learning from sociology, ethics and political science. All these disciplines are needed in order to avoid narrow framing and fragmentation of the decision-making basis.

VALDOR addresses theory and overall approaches as well as practical case studies. We expect that the Symposium will highlight problems and ways forward in the areas in focus as well as give examples of good practice from case studies. Different areas that at first glance may look quite different share many problems and may benefit from exchange of experiences and comparison of approaches. In 2006 we will focus on nuclear waste management, electromagnetic fields, cleaning-up and remediation of sites contaminated with chemicals and certain topics in biotechnology. There are certainly issues of generic relevance for all these fields such as the role of expertise, various models for public participation, local fairness and responsibility as well as the use of the precautionary principle.

The 2006 VALDOR will deal with practical experiences from example areas and cross-cutting themes of general importance in societal problems dealing with risk. Abstracts can now be submitted to the conference secretariat and we hope you will participate. We look forward to welcoming you to Stockholm in May 2006!

Magnus Westerlind
Programme Committee Chair
Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate

Kjell Andersson
Scientific Secretary
Karita Research

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- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- Swedish Geotechnical Institute
- Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning
- UK Nirex Ltd
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Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (URMPM)

The second European Congress of the Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (URMPM) will be held jointly with VALDOR 2006. Kjell Andersson is the President for the URMPM conference. The web site for URMPM is: <http://urmpm.org/>

Invited Speakers

The following persons have been invited and accepted to take part as invited speakers. They are all presented at the conference web site.

Rob Hagendijk, University of Amsterdam

Risk, uncertainty and the development of biotechnology

Rob Hagendijk is the Dean of the International School for Humanities and Social Sciences of the Universiteit van Amsterdam and associate professor of the political science department.

Ortwin Renn, DIALOGIK and the State University in Stuttgart

Risk Governance: An application of analytic-deliberative policy making

Ortwin Renn is Director of the non-profit company DIALOGIK, a research institute for the investigation of communication and participation processes in environmental policy making, and full professor and chair of environmental sociology of the State University in Stuttgart.

Nick Pidgeon, University of East Anglia

Opportunities and Uncertainties: The British Nanotechnologies Report and the case for upstream societal dialogue

Nick Pidgeon, professor in psychology, is currently Director of the Centre for Environmental Risk at the University of East Anglia.

René von Schomberg, European Commission

How are public policy deliberations guided by the Precautionary Principle?

René von Schomberg serves at the European Commission, DG Research, Ethics and Science department. He is an agricultural scientist and philosopher.

Elizabeth Atherton, UK Nirex Ltd

Social aspects of radioactive waste management

Elizabeth Atherton works for UK Nirex Limited, the radioactive waste management organization in the UK.

James C. Lin, University of Illinois-Chicago

The establishment and promulgation of radio-frequency exposure guidelines for health protection

James C. Lin, Professor of bioengineering, electrical engineering, physiology and biophysics at the University of Illinois-Chicago, is a recipient of the d'Arsonval Medal Award and a past president of the Bioelectromagnetics Society.

Eilen Arctander Vik, Aquateam – Norwegian Water Technology Centre

Environmental risk assessment and risk management of chemical contamination.

Can harmonisation of guidelines and better expertise lead to better clarification of the role of values versus facts?

Eilen Arctander Vik is assistant manager of Aquateam, a consulting company specialized in risk assessment and remediation of chemicals in soil, sediments and water. She is responsible for Aquateam's activities on risk assessment related to contaminated soil and water and industrial discharges.

Areas in Focus

The Symposium will address theory and overall approaches as well as practical case studies. It will give insight into the problem of transparency in risk assessment and how procedures can be established to clarify the role of values versus facts, and to build trust. The Symposium will consist of a combination of invited speeches and contributions resulting from the open call for papers. Papers addressing various areas of risk management are welcome. However, the organizers have chosen to focus the call for abstracts on four areas. These AREAS IN FOCUS are introduced below.

■ Risk assessment of mobile telephone systems

Mobile telephones are an essential component of modern technology and communication. To have a good mobile phone system is seen necessary for any country that wants to be a high tech society. The development has, however, caused opposition and controversy in many countries. There are concerns over radiation risk from the phones themselves, base stations

and masts, although international organizations and national authorities assure that there are no such risks. There is clearly a need for more dialogue and more transparency in order to increase awareness in this area. The intention is that VALDOR will make a substantial contribution to the needed dialogue.



**Dariusz Leszczynski, Professor,
STUK-Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority of Finland**

“The question whether electromagnetic radiation, like this emitted e.g. by mobile phones or power lines, exerts any detrimental health effects still remains to be convincingly answered. Many studies have shown that this radiation induces biological effects. However, we are still missing sufficiently robust evidence that would show the impact of these changes on human physiology. We need more specifically targeted research that would examine effects of the electromagnetic radiation on human physiology (provocation studies) and on human cells (molecular mechanisms).”

■ Cleaning-up and remediation of contaminated sites

As the awareness about the existence of waste landfills, contaminated sites and contaminated sediments, and their risks for humans and the environment, has gradually increased world-wide – so has the need for assessing and managing them in the best possible way. The technical complexity, the potentially high costs associated with remediation projects and their impact on the local area require efficient, reasonable and democratic risk reduction policies and strategies.



**Bo Lind, Research Director,
Swedish Geotechnical Institute, SGI**

“The management of millions of contaminated sites around the world should be integrated into the physical planning process and the possible decision options must be analysed with regard to land use, acceptable environmental and health risks and acceptable costs.”

Areas
in Focus

■ Nuclear waste management

This is undoubtedly a very controversial area. Failures in the siting of nuclear waste repositories have caused waste management organizations to change their attitudes and approaches to risk communication. As a consequence, new approaches to participation and transparency have emerged in this sector that are now being disseminated to other fields. At the same time, several countries still face problems to find a way forward and to reach solutions with public support.



John Dalton, UK Nirex Limited

“Our experience at Nirex of dealing with the long-term management of radioactive waste has shown that this controversial issue is not only a scientific and technical one, but has social and ethical aspects as well. The VALDOR Symposium provides an excellent opportunity to discuss how the social and ethical dimensions of societal problems are being dealt with in different countries.”

■ Issues in biotechnology and food safety

The term “biotechnology” covers a very wide range of areas with intimate links to academic research, health care, food supply, industrial development etc. It also contains a wide range of controversial ethical and political issues that require transparency and understanding of the stakeholder views. The conference organizers especially encourage contributions about issues related to agriculture such as genetically modified animal feed, food marking and genetically modified tree plantations. Papers about genetic testing and genetic data banks – issues that include aspects of human health, societal security and individual integrity – are also much welcomed.



**Kristina Glimelius, Professor and vice-rector,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**

“The on-going controversy in Europe about genetically modified maize demonstrates the need for bridging the gap between science and society. We need a better dialogue on possibilities, risks and ethics with biotechnologies.”

Themes

The societal management of the areas in focus and other risk related areas means taking into account scientific investigations, local perspectives, societal values and various risk management principles. In order to give some clues to abstract submitters and to the structure to the Symposium we have indicated the following CROSS CUTTING THEMES that papers may address:

■ The interface between risk assessment and risk management – the role of expertise

Risk assessments deal with science and technical methods are being used. However, in political and societal risk management, the results of risk assessments are only one part of all the aspects that have to be taken into account. Expertise often plays a key role in political and societal decisions. The question then is: what are the boundaries of expert responsibility?

■ The role of risk perception and value judgement in risk management

From a societal perspective, the management of risk includes taking not only the technical risk assessment but also the perceptions of various risks and citizen values into account. The Symposium will explore various ways to do this.

■ Risk management and democracy – the role of public participation

Public participation is widely seen as a means to take into account the different aspects of risk in the decision making processes. However, there are many models for public participation. Furthermore, different ideas for participation correlate with different models of democracy. VALDOR will put the democratic aspects of risk management on the agenda.

Themes

■ The precautionary principle

The precautionary principle exists in many versions as a method for risk management. One version, adopted in the Rio Declaration, is that when there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. The conference organizers want to evaluate the use of the precautionary principle by raising issues of practical, philosophical and legal nature.

■ Community environmental justice in risk management

Risk management, whether related to controversial facilities or the quotidian planning and response to disasters, involves a policy development and decision-making process that affects and is influenced by locally bounded communities (e.g. municipalities) as well as communities of interest (e.g. the business community and the anti-nuclear community). Environmental justice is only possible when all community perspectives are valued and incorporated into the risk management decision-making process. This raises issues of fairness such providing adequate resources for communities and ensuring equitable and fair socio-economic and political contexts.

Programme Committee

Magnus Westerlind, Chairman, Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate
Kjell Andersson, Scientific Secretary, Karita Research, Sweden
Gustaf Brunius, Swedish Gene Technology Advisory Board
John Dalton, UK Nirex Limited
Kristina Glimelius, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Bertil Grundfelt, Kemakta Konsult, Sweden
Britt-Marie Drottz-Sjöberg, Norwegian University of Science
Helena Helgesson, Swedish Geotechnical Institute
Stephan Morgenthaler, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; and URMPM
Claudio Pescatore, OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency
Ryoji Sakai, Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (URMRM)
Dariusz Leszczynski, STUK-Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority of Finland
Brenda Murphy, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada
Daniel Metlay, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

Important Addresses

Scientific Secretary

Communications regarding the objectives and contents of the Symposium should be sent to Kjell Andersson at the following address:

Kjell Andersson	Karita Research
Phone + 46 8 510 147 55	Box 6048
E-mail: kjell.andersson@karita.se	SE-187 06 TÄBY
Web site: www.karita.se	Sweden

Communication

All questions regarding the arrangements, as well as abstracts and papers should be sent to:

Congrex Sweden AB

Attn. VALDOR 2006
P. O. Box 5619
SE-114 86 Stockholm
Sweden
Phone: +46 8 459 66 00
Fax: +46 8 661 91 25

General questions:

valdor2006@congrex.se

Abstracts:

valdor2006.abstract@congrex.se

Registration and hotels:

valdor2006.registration@congrex.se

Courier address: Karlavägen 108, SE-115 26 Stockholm, Sweden



Congrex Sweden AB has been appointed the official conference organiser for this event. The Congrex Group works internationally with subsidiaries in the Netherlands, the United States and Sweden as well as licensed partners throughout Europe and Latin America.

Communications regarding the objectives and contents of the Symposium should be sent to the Scientific Secretary.

Lectures and Posters

Depending on the number of contributions, either all papers or a selection will be presented orally. In the latter case there will also be poster presentations. Furthermore, we will have invited speakers addressing key topics.

Abstracts and Proceedings

Abstracts should be submitted to Congrex no later than **October 20, 2005**, on the Symposium web site: www.congrex.com/valdor2006

Abstract contributors will be notified regarding acceptance and place in the programme. They will be requested to submit a full paper (instructions for papers will be sent together with notification of acceptance). Proceedings containing all papers presented orally or as posters will be available at the start of the Symposium.

The abstract must include:

- Title of contribution
- Name(s) of author(s) and their affiliation
- For corresponding author: full address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address
- A text of 300–500 words / 1 500–2 500 characters including spaces (excluding the title and the authors).

Language

Abstracts

The Symposium language is English.

Venue

The Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.
Address: Grev Turegatan 16.

Internet

For all further and future information please visit the Symposia website on www.congrex.com/valdor2006

The website is updated on a regular basis.

Registration and Accommodation

On line registration and the possibility to book accommodation will be available on the Symposia website from October 6, 2005 on www.congrex.com/valdor2006

Important Dates

- Deadline for Abstracts: October 20, 2005
- Notification of acceptance: December 15, 2005
- Deadline for full papers: January 31, 2006
- On line registration and accommodation: From October 6, 2005
- Symposium: May 14–18, 2006

Proceedings will be available when the Symposium opens.

Cooperating Organization

Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (URMRM)

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Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning

