

Working Group on International  
Cooperation in Nuclear Physics

*Chair:* Robert Tribble  
Texas A&M University

*Past-Chair:* Antony W. Thomas  
University of Adelaide

*Secretary:* Willem T.H. van Oers, P. Phys.  
University Distinguished Professor (Emeritus)  
TRIUMF

4004 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC  
CANADA V6T 2A3

Tel: +1.604.222.1047 x6151

Fax: +1.604.222.1074

Email: vanoers@triumf.ca

February 15, 2013

Dr. Steven Chu  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Chu:

We write to you as members of Working Group 9 (WG.9), which was established in 2005 by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics to promote and coordinate international cooperation in Nuclear Physics. WG.9's mandate includes:

- Establishing a mapping of the world's nuclear physics facilities (both existing and under development) onto the important scientific questions of nuclear physics over the next 10-20 years;
- Identifying missing capabilities that would have to be developed to provide an optimized, comprehensive network of international facilities; and
- Exploring mechanisms and opportunities for enhancing international collaboration in nuclear science.

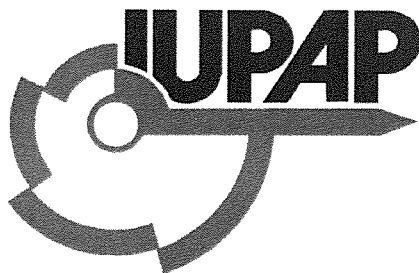
This mandate given to Working Group 9 was endorsed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Global Science Forum in a letter from its Chair in 2008.

The U.S. nuclear science facilities and research programs are major elements in this international landscape, providing unique or world-leading capabilities. Large numbers of international users conduct their research at the U.S. facilities and there are contributions to the construction and operation of experiments at all of these facilities. Travel to and participation in research at U.S. facilities is because of their unique capabilities and their highly talented investigators.

The importance of planning in an international context has been documented in the most recent (2008) OECD Global Science Forum Report on nuclear physics and is evident in the 2012 NRC NP2010 report. Every 3 years WG.9 hosts a symposium to summarize the international plans in which proponents of nuclear science, laboratory directors, and funding agency representatives participate. International planning is based on an orderly progression of complementary capabilities on the worldwide scale. This coordination with the U.S. is well documented in the recent NSAC Subcommittee report. In a sense, the world communities rely on each country playing its part to advance the global nuclear science agenda. As evidenced by recent domestic investments in Korea, Japan, Germany, and Canada, nuclear physics is seen as high priority that requires a combination of domestic capabilities and international access.

**International Union of Pure and Applied Physics**

IUPAP Office *c/o* IOP, 76 Portland Place, London W1B 1NT, UK



The more constrained budget scenarios ("Flat" and "Cost-of-Living adjusted") considered in the NSAC Subcommittee report would seriously disrupt this coordinated international planning and the research programs of many non-U.S. scientists, potentially causing the loss of significant investments already made in anticipation of future research. While we understand the need of each nation to deal with budget realities, we encourage the U.S. Department of Energy to take a measured approach in considering any abrupt change to the status of U.S. nuclear physics facilities and we hope that the consequences for the international nuclear physics and broader international science program will be carefully considered. The U.S. program is considered a vital and dynamic element of the global nuclear science effort and reductions in its efforts will affect the whole worldwide community.

This missive is written on behalf of all members of WG.9 not affiliated with a US institution since endorsement by the latter was considered inappropriate.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A.W. Thomas".

Anthony W. Thomas – Past-Chair of WG.9

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willem T.H. van Oers". To the right of the signature is the date "15/02/2013".

Willem T.H. van Oers – Secretary of WG.9

Addendum: Membership of IUPAP WG.9

cc: Dr. William Brinkman  
Director of the Office of Science  
U.S. Department of Energy

# **IUPAP Working Group 9 International Cooperation in Nuclear Physics**

## **Membership 2012-2014**

**Robert E. Tribble (Texas A&M, USA) Chair**

**Anthony W. Thomas (University of Adelaide, Australia) Past-Chair**

**Willem T.H. van Oers (TRIUMF/University of Manitoba, Canada) Secretary**

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**Dong-Pil Min (Ambassador for Science, Korea)**

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**ALAFNA – Latin-America Association for Nuclear Physics and Applications**

**ANPhA – Asian Nuclear Physics Association**

**NuPECC – Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee**