

CHORNOBYL: THE NEXT GENERATION

COMMEMORATIVE SYMPOSIUM

PRESS RELEASE

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CHICAGO CONFERENCE MARKS 20th ANNIVERSARY OF CHORNOBYL DISASTER

A coalition of professional, educational and community organizations in Chicago is hosting a conference, "Chornobyl: The Next Generation," at the University of Illinois in Chicago coinciding with the 20th anniversary in April of the world's worst nuclear plant disaster, which occurred on April 26, 1986 in Ukraine.

The conference will examine the ongoing health, political, social and economic effects of the disaster on Ukraine and Belarus, as well as the international efforts to address the damage. Participants will provide the latest information on consequences that continue to have an impact on the population.

The conference was organized through the joint efforts of the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America-Illinois Chapter, the Ukrainian Engineers' Society, Chicago Chapter, and the Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health, University of Illinois at Chicago.

"Twenty years--the life span of a generation--is the right moment to review our knowledge of the serious aspects of the accident's impact, to take stock of the information accumulated, and to assess the degree to which national authorities and experts have learned the numerous lessons that the Chornobyl accident has taught us," says Anna Mostovych, president of the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago.

Among the presenters are David Marples, professor of history, University of Alberta, Edmonton, and the author of "The Social Impact of the Chornobyl Disaster," Dr. Ihor Masnyk, Chornobyl Research Project, U.S. National Cancer Institute, Dr. A.E. Okeanov, International Sakharov Environmental University, Belarus, and Dr. Pavlo V. Zamostyan, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy,

Kyiv, manager of the UN Chernobyl Recovery and Development Program and Dr. Daniel Hryhorczuk and Dr. Irina Dardynskaia of the Great Lakes Centers.

Also on the agenda is a discussion of the sarcophagus and international relief efforts, as well as issues of nuclear energy safety, with presentations by Dr. Andrew Sowder, U.S. Dept. of State, and Daria Hirniak-Khan and Karim Khan of the Shelter Implementation Plan, and George Fowler, NRC, Washington, DC. The perspective of non-government organizations will be presented by Alex Kuzma of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, Kyiv.

The conference will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois in Chicago, 1603 W. Taylor St. It will be preceded by an evening reception on Friday, April 28, at the Ukrainian National Museum, which is hosting a special Chernobyl exhibit. A hierarchical liturgy and requiem are scheduled for Sunday, April 30 at St. Nicholas Cathedral.

Pre-registration by April 26 is required. The registration fee is \$35. Register and pay by credit card at (312) 996-6904 or online at <http://128.248.232.70/glakes/ce/register.asp?gid=369>. Registrations may also be mailed to Chernobyl Conference Committee, P.O. Box 46333, Chicago, IL 60646.

The Chicago Chernobyl Conference is made possible through the generous support of the Heritage Foundation and Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union.

For more information, please visit us at <http://uic.edu.sph/glakes/chornobyl>.

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**Sponsored by the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America—
Illinois Chapter, Ukrainian Engineers' Society—Chicago Chapter, School of Public Health-University of Illinois at Chicago,
Ukrainian National Museum**