

2015 Science Teachers' Workshop (March 13, 2015)

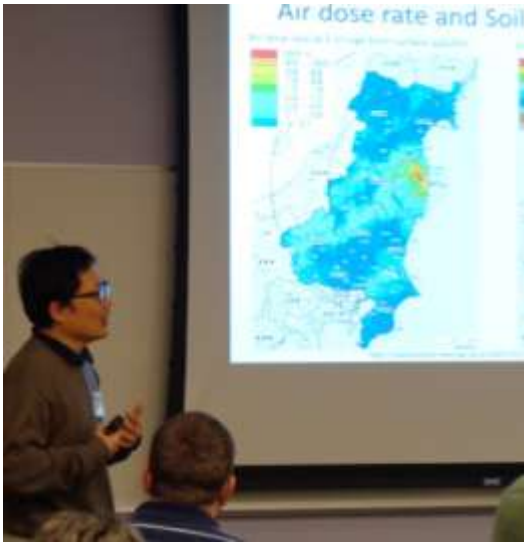
The 2015 workshop for science teachers was once again co-sponsored by the NCCHPS and the Northern California Section of the American Nuclear Society. The UC Berkeley Nuclear Engineering Department hosted the event, which was attended by nearly 40 educators from all over California and as far as Corvallis, Oregon.



The packed schedule included talks in the basics of nuclear radiation, given by Brooke Buddemeier (LLNL) and UC Berkeley Professor Rick Norman. The teachers also participated in hands-on activities with cloud chambers and Civil Defense Geiger counters, led by Soheil Damavandi (Stanford), workshop coordinator Jo Ressler (LLNL), and Brooke Buddemeier.



There was even a lecture during lunch, an update in the environmental remediation and waste treatment activities at Fukushima, given by Professor Joonhong Ahn.



New to this year's workshop was a talk given by Professor Kai Vetter about the Berkeley RadWatch program (which you also had the opportunity to hear, if you attended the January 2015 meeting!). Also new this year was a half-life demonstration using a Cs-137/Ba-137m isotope generator led by Ph.D. student Perry Chodash. The teachers were particularly interested in this demonstration, since it's a suitable hands-on experiment for high school students and a great live demonstration of the 2.6-minute half-life of Ba-137m.



The afternoon included a tour of the nuclear engineering laboratories in the basement of Etcheverry Hall, with a quick visit to the rooftop air monitors installed as part of the Berkeley RadWatch program. Each teacher left the workshop with a Geiger counter, a cloud chamber kit, and a CD of additional resources.