

# The RCA Agreement and the Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR)

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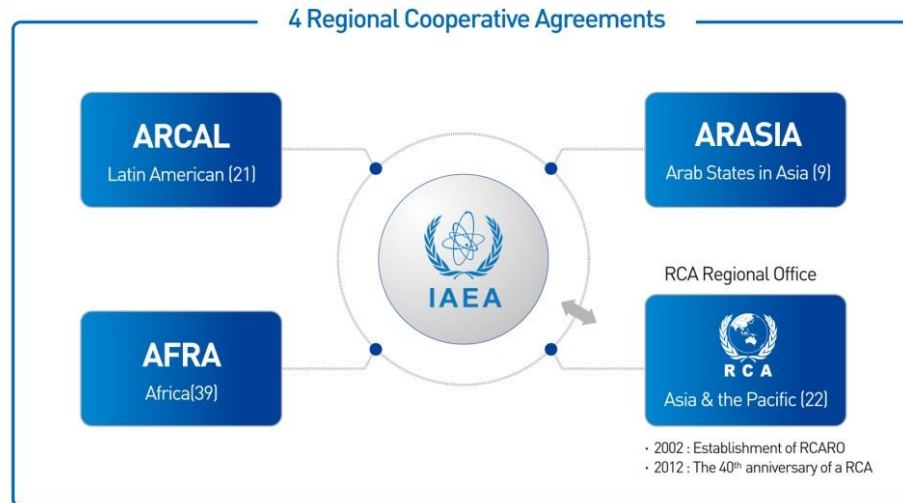
# The Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA)



# Technical Cooperation Program (TCP)



Cooperation Agreements have been set up to provide a framework for collaboration amongst regional states:



**RCA: Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology**

# Regional Cooperative Agreement - History

Date	Milestone
June 1972	Establishment of RCA. First Regional Cooperative Agreement under aegis of the IAEA.
Sept 1973	First RCA Meeting at IAEA headquarters, Vienna – 6 countries participated.
Nov 1973	First Regional Cooperative Project starts.
Oct 1979	First Working Group Meeting in Tokyo – 9 countries participated.
1987	Administered by IAEA's Technical Cooperation Dept. <b>First revision of RCA Agreement.</b>
1992	1987 RCA Agreement extended.
Oct 1997	Ownership by Member States. RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules adopted. RCA Agreement extended.
Mar 2002	RCA Regional Office (RCARO) established in Daejeon, ROK. RCA Agreement extended.
June 2002	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RCA.
2005	Director of RCARO appointed by 27 <sup>th</sup> National Representatives Meeting (NRM).
2007	RCA Agreement extended.
2012	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA. 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RCARO. RCA Agreement extended.
2016	<b>Second revision of RCA Agreement.</b> Agreement of unlimited duration.

# RCA Government Parties (GPs)



# **The Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training (RCA)**

- An intergovernmental agreement established under the auspices of IAEA.
- Open to participation of any Member State of the IAEA in South Asia, South East Asia, the Pacific or the Far East.
- From June 2017, new members will require agreement of existing members.
- The text of the RCA provides the fundamental framework and guidance for regional cooperation.
- It is the source document for any guidelines, operating rules and procedures needed to govern regional cooperation.

# History of Joining the RCA

Govt Party	Year Joined	Coordinating National Agency
India	1972	Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)
Indonesia	1972	National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN)
Philippines	1972	Philippine Nuclear Research Institute ( PNRI)
Singapore	1972	National Environment Agency (NEA), Ministry of Environment (ENV)
Thailand	1972	Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP)
Viet Nam	1972	Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC)
Bangladesh	1974	Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC)
Rep of Korea	1974	Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
Pakistan	1974	Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC)
Malaysia	1975	Malaysian Institute for Nuclear Technology Research (MINT)
Sri Lanka	1976	Atomic Energy Authority (AEA)
Australia	1977	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO)
China	1977	China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA)
Japan	1982	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
Mongolia	1992	Nuclear Energy Commission (MNEC)
New Zealand	1994	Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS)
Myanmar	1997	Dept. of Atomic Energy (DAE), MOST
Nepal	2012	Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
Palau	2013	Ministry of State
Cambodia	2014	Ministry of Mines and Energy
Laos	2015	Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
Fiji	2015	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

## **RCA Vision:**

To be recognised as an effective partner in providing nuclear technologies that address socio-economic needs and contribute to sustainable development in the region.

## **RCA Mission:**

- To develop regional networks for exchange of technologies, training and equipment.
- To identify and implement nuclear technologies for regional needs.
- To encourage sustainability of nuclear technology capacities in RCA member countries.
- To coordinate cooperative research in nuclear science and technology.
- To promote the benefits of nuclear technologies and identify funding mechanisms.

# **RCA Stakeholders**

- National RCA Representatives - appointed by Government's of the GPs - responsible for all policy matters related to RCA.
- Project Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs) – provide technical leadership for each project.
- National Project Coordinators (NPCs) – Coordinate implementation of the project in participating GPs.
- National Project Teams – implement the respective projects under the leadership of the NPCs.
- IAEA – functions as the RCA Secretariat, providing technical backstopping and financial support.
- RCARO - contributes to increasing RCA visibility and RCA effectiveness through specific roles and responsibilities.



# The RCA Agreement



# Regional Cooperative Agreement 2017 (1)

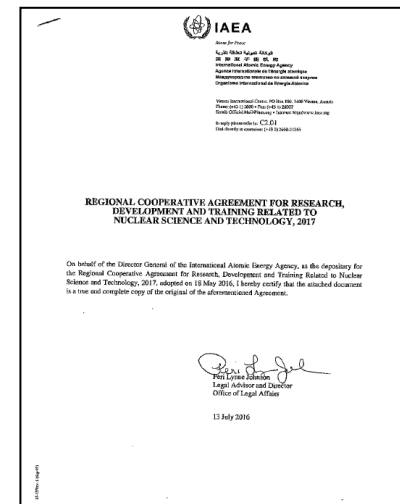
Article	Focus
I	Commitment of GPs to the aims of the Agreement.
II	Meeting of National Representatives – purpose and outline of authority.
III	GPs proposing a cooperative project.
IV	GPs joining a proposed project.
V	GPs' responsibilities in participating in projects.
VI	Makeup and function of project teams.
VII	IAEA's responsibilities in supporting the implementation and reporting of projects.
VIII	Participation of external organisations in cooperative projects and activities.

# Regional Cooperative Agreement 2017 (2)

Article	Focus
IX	Adherence to IAEA safety and security guidelines whilst participating in projects.
X	Cooperative arrangements with external bodies to assist in promotion, funding and development of projects.
XI	Settling of disputes between parties through a consultative approach.
XII	Formality of a prospective GP joining the RCA.
XIII	Date of entry into force of the Agreement.
XIV	Proposed amendments to the RCA.
XV	Denouncement of the Agreement by a GP.

# Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology, 2017

- Revision adopted 18 May 2016 at the 38<sup>th</sup> RCA National Representatives Meeting, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Certified by the IAEA's Office of Legal Affairs, 13 July 2016.
- No need for further extensions – of unlimited duration.
- Will come into effect on receipt by the Director General of the IAEA of acceptance by at least two Government Parties and on the expiry of the current 1987 RCA Agreement.

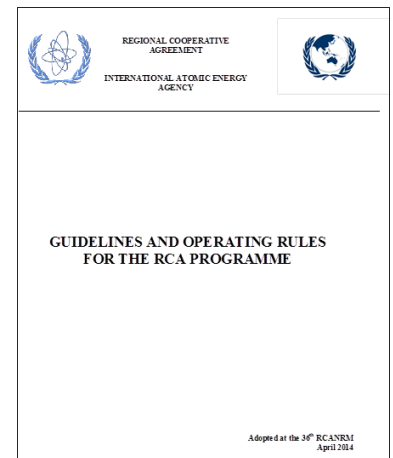


## **Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR)**



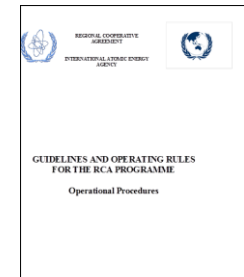
# Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR)

- Original GOR collated by the RCA Secretariat.
- Current version developed by a Working Group under Chris Daughney's chairmanship.
- Based on the decisions made by the National RCA Representatives at Policy Level Meetings.
- Contain information relevant to all aspects of the RCA programme as a reference manual.
- For use by the National RCA Representatives and other RCA stakeholders.



# Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR)

- October 1997 - RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules first adopted.
- GOR revised 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2014 at the respective National Representatives Meetings.
- At the last revision (2014), a simplified version of the GOR containing only the operational details of the RCA Programme was developed.
- Current version of the GOR contains elements of the Medium Term Strategy for 2012-17.



# Guidelines and Operating Rules – breakdown (1)

Section	Focus
1	RCA vision; basic principles; core values; programme objectives.
2	Projects – development; participation; criteria; implementation, monitoring and reporting.
3	Project coordinators – appointment, roles and responsibilities.
4	Roles and responsibilities of Government Parties and policy-related stakeholders (NRs; RCA Chair; Committee of the RCA Chairs; RCARO Director; SAC).
5	Policy-related meetings – National Representatives Meeting; General Conference Meeting.
6	IAEA – overall role and responsibilities; duties and remit of the RCA Focal Person.
7	Preparation of the RCA Annual Report.
8	Funding arrangements – allocation of TC funds; extrabudgetary funding; funding priorities.
9	Enhancing TCDC in the RCA Programme – 11 recommendations outlined.

# Guidelines and Operating Rules – breakdown (2)

Section	Focus
Annex 1	Strategic priorities 2012-17 – Agriculture; Environment; Human Health; Industry.
Annex 2	Procedure for developing projects supported by the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).
Annex 3	Procedure for projects developed by Director of RCARO.
Annex 4	Procedure for projects developed by other agencies.

# Summary

- Since the establishment of RCA in 1972, RCA has expanded its membership from 6 to 22 Government Parties.
- The RCA is a model regional Agreement, unique amongst other IAEA regional agreements in that it is a mix of developing and developed countries.
- The recent revision of the Agreement ensures that it is meeting member countries' needs and aspirations.
- The GOR is a useful source of information and a procedural manual to all Government Parties and their stakeholders.
- The GOR is a 'living' document requiring periodic updating according to the needs of the RCA Government Parties.



*Thank you for your attention.*