



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF
THE 48th RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

Meeting Room M4
IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

13 September 2019
09:00 – 18:00

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| DDG-TC | Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation Department |
| DDG-NA | Deputy Director General, Nuclear Sciences and Applications Department |
| DIR-TCAP | Director for Asia and the Pacific Division |
| GCM | General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives |
| GP | Government Party |
| NPC | National Project Coordinator |
| NR(s) | National RCA Representative(s) |
| NRM | National RCA Representatives Regional Meeting |
| LCC | Lead Country Coordinator |
| PPAR | Project Progress Assessment Report |
| RCA | Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology |
| RCA GOR | RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules |
| RCA MTS | RCA Medium-Term Strategy |
| RCA MTSC | RCA Medium-Term Strategy Coordination |
| RCA PAC | RCA Programme Advisory Committee |
| RCARO | RCA Regional Office |
| RCARO SAC | RCARO Standing Advisory Committee |
| RCA-FP | RCA Focal Person |
| SH-TCAP | Section Head of Asia and the Pacific Division |
| STF | Special Task Force |
| TC | Technical Cooperation Programme |
| WG | Working Group |
| TCAP | Division for Asia and the Pacific |

Introduction

The 48th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) was held at the IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria, on 13 September 2019. There were 37 participants from 17 RCA Government Parties, Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), China (CPR), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Republic of Korea (ROK), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), New Zealand (NZE), Pakistan (PAK), Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA) and Vietnam (VIE). Five representatives of the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) also attended the Meeting.

Mr Dazhu Yang (DDG-TC), Ms Najat Moktar (DDG-NA), Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya (DIR-TCAP), Mr Gashaw G. Wolde (SH-TCAP1), Ms Marina Binti Mishar (SH-TCAP2) and Mr Sinh Van Hoang (RCA-FP) represented the IAEA. Other IAEA staff also attended selected sessions of the Meeting.

The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

Opening

a. Opening of the Meeting by the RCA Chair

The RCA Chair officially opened the 48th RCA GCM.

b. Introductory remarks by DDG-TC and DDG-NA

The Chair invited DDG-TC to deliver his message. The DDG-TC's message is reproduced in Annex 2.

The Chair invited DDG-NA to deliver her message. The DDG-NA's message is reproduced in Annex 3.

c. Group Photo

A group photo of all meeting participants was taken.

d. Adoption of the Agenda – RCAGCM(48)/1

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda with no amendment (Annex 4).

The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda with no amendment.

e. Appointment of Rapporteurs

The Chair called for nominations for rapporteurs of the meeting. MAL and RCARO were appointed as rapporteurs.

MAL and RCARO were appointed as rapporteurs of the Meeting.

I. Report on the follow-up actions of the 41st NRM – RCAGCM(48)/2

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided a summary of the most important follow-up actions arising from the 41st NRM (Annex 5).

The Meeting took note of the Report and thanked the Secretariat for the effective implementation of Follow-up Actions from the 41st NRM.

II. Report on the implementation of regional events in 2019, update of the RCA programme for 2020-2021 and tentative arrangements of regional events for 2020 – RCAGCM(48)/3

The RCA-FP presented a summary of the implementation of regional events in 2019, an update of the RCA programme for 2020-2021 and tentative arrangements of regional events for 2020 (Annex 6).

The Meeting noted that the current RCA Programme consists of thirteen (13) projects, with an implementation rate of approximately 60% for the current year to date, and that all projects are progressing well and in accordance with work plans.

The Meeting agreed that NRs will review arrangements for planned regional events for 2020 and confirm with the RCA-FP by 5 October 2019.

The Meeting agreed that NRs will remind NPCs to prepare and submit project implementation reports for 2019 to LCCs by 15 December 2019 so that LCCs can consolidate and submit PPARs by 10 January 2020.

III. Report of the RCA PAC on the preparation of the RCA programme for 2022-2023 – RCAGCM(48)/4

On behalf of the Chair of RCA PAC, the RCA Chair presented the report on the preparation of the RCA programme for 2022-2023 (Annex 7).

The Meeting took note of the report of the RCA PAC and appreciated the comprehensive work done by the RCA PAC.

The Meeting agreed to develop a total of 17 project concept proposals, after merging of relevant pre-concepts based on the PAC's recommendations for the 2022-2023 TC cycle.

The Meeting agreed to comply with the project development timeline proposed by the RCA PAC as below;

| Dates | Actions to be required |
|----------------------|---|
| 13 Sep 2019 | At the 48th RCA GCM, NRs will select those Pre-Concepts to be developed further as 1st Round Concept Proposals |
| 20 Sep 2019 ~ | Preparation of 1st Round Concept Proposals by NRs |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 14 Nov 2019 | |
| 15 Nov 2019 | Deadline for receipt by Chair RCA PAC of 1st Round Concept Proposals from the NRs |
| 16 Nov 2019 ~ 30 Nov 2019 | RCA PAC Members review 1st Round Concept Proposals and send to Chair RCA PAC by 30 Nov deadline |
| 1 Dec 2019 ~ 3 Dec 2019 | Chair RCA PAC consolidates the RCA PAC reviews and provides feedback to submitting NRs |
| 4 Dec 2019 ~ 15 Jan 2020 | NRs prepare 2nd Round Concept Proposals |
| 16 Jan 2020 | NRs submit 2nd Round Concept Proposals to Chair RCA PAC |
| One week in Jan or Feb 2020 | RCA PAC Meeting to review 2nd Round Concept Proposals and prepare report to the 42nd RCA NRM |
| April or May 2020 | Chair RCA PAC presents the Concept Review Report at the 42nd RCA NRM NRs will prioritize and select 2nd Round Concepts to be developed further as draft Project Designs and assigns LCCs |

IV. Report of the RCA PAC on the review and recommendation on the In-kind contributions – RCAGCM(48)/5

On behalf of the Chair of RCA PAC, the RCA Chair presented the report on the review and recommendation on the In-kind contributions (Annex 8).

The Meeting took note of the report by the RCA PAC and endorsed the recommendations of the RCA PAC as follows;

- **calculation of the in-kind contributions in two stages; the first stage on the RCARO's calculation of the regional contributions based on the Agency's record and the second stage for the NRs to report national contributions at the NRMs, using the provided template**
- **levels of € values**
- **reporting on in-kind contribution as a Performance Indicator**

The Meeting took note of the recommendations of the RCA PAC on other issues as follows;

- **surveys on RCA matters**
- **high turnover of NRs**
- **50th anniversary of the RCA**

In addition, the meeting also noted the revised texts on the procedure for RCA project development supported by the technical cooperation programme of the IAEA, and recommended to update the relevant section of the RCA GOR (Annex 8) as proposed by the RCA PAC.

Considering the condition of the RCA PAC Chair, the Meeting recommended Mr Prinath Dias to continue as an interim Chair until the status of the current Chair can be confirmed.

V. Report of the WG on the RCA MTS 2018/23 Coordination – RCAGCM(48)/6

The Chair of WG on the RCA MTSC, NR of AUL, presented on the report of the WG on RCA MTS 2018/23 Coordination (Annex 9).

The Meeting appreciated the contribution of the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination and agreed to endorse all the recommendations.

The Meeting agreed to discuss the formation of a Working Group for MTS 2024-2029 under a specific Agenda item at the 42nd NRM in 2020.

The Meeting requested RCA PAC to present result of the mid-term review of the MTS 2018-2023 by the 49th GCM, subject to the workload and schedule of the RCA PAC.

VI. Report of the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) – RCAGCM(48)/7

The Director of the RCARO reported on RCARO's programme of work and actions carried out in 2019 (Annex 10).

The Meeting took note of report delivered by the Director of the RCARO and expressed appreciation for the work carried out by RCARO.

VII. Report of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) – RCAGCM(48)/8

The RCARO SAC Chair presented the report of the RCARO SAC (Annex 11).

The Meeting took note of the Report of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee and endorsed its recommendations.

VIII. Plan to conduct social and economic impact assessment of RCA programme – RCAGCM(48)/9

The RCA-FP presented on the plan to conduct social and economic impact assessment of RCA programme (Annex 12).

The Meeting welcomed the IAEA's initiative on conducting a social and economic impact assessment of RCA Programme and endorsed the recommendations and work plan on the initiative.

IX. Discussion on plan for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA in 2022 – RCAGCM(48)/10

The RCA Chair presented a proposal for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RCA in 2022 (Annex 13).

The Meeting took note of the proposal for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA presented by the RCA Chair.

The Meeting acknowledged the value of establishing a Special Task Force, consists of the NR of MAL (the next RCA Chair in 2020), NR of THA (the RCA Chair in 2021), NR of VIE (the RCA Chair in 2022), NR of AUL (the RCA Chair in 2023), and representatives of CPR, JPN, ROK, IAEA and RCARO.

The Meeting recommended GPs to express any intention for nominating additional members of the STF to the RCA-FP by 30 September 2019.

The Meeting requested the STF to develop and propose a detailed work plan for preparation of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA at the 42nd NRM for NRs' consideration. The IAEA agreed to arrange a kick-off meeting of the STF in January 2020 in MAL subject to confirmation of MAL.

X. Update on the acceptance of the 2017 RCA – RCAGCM(48)/11

The RCA-FP provided an update on the acceptance of the 2017 RCA, noting that 18 GPs had deposited instruments of acceptance (Annex 14).

The Meeting welcomed the advice that eighteen (18) GPs have indicated their acceptance of the 2017 RCA.

The Meeting looked forward to the remaining GPs depositing their instruments of acceptance as soon as possible.

XI. Update on the holding of the 42nd Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Malaysia, 2020 and the 43rd Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Thailand, 2021

MAL confirmed that the 42nd NRM will take place in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 24-29 March 2020.

THA advised that the arrangements for the 43rd NRM will be announced at the 42nd NRM.

The Meeting noted that the 42nd NRM will take place in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 24-27 March 2020.

The Meeting noted that arrangements for the 43rd NRM, to be held in Thailand, will be announced at the 42nd NRM.

XII. Any Other Business

The Meeting agreed with the proposal of the DIR-TCAP to develop a RCA flagship project on a common topic of the region and requested the RCA-FP to update the progress under a specific agenda item at the 42nd NRM for NRs' review and discussion.

XIII. Closing

The RCA Chair thanked all participants for their active participation and valuable contributions, and declared the meeting adjourned.