Overview of the Implementation of Regional Events in 2020
Observation and Proposal to Enhance the Implementation of
RCA Projects in 2020, 2021 and Beyond

The COVID-19 pandemic is far beyond a health crisis. It causes a global social and economic crisis that is terribly affecting societies and economies at their core. The crisis requires all of us to seriously review and adjust the way we live and work, and the RCA is not an exception.

Because of travel restrictions by the COVID-19 pandemic, the RCA programme has not been implemented as initially planned. Almost all the RCA regional events (meetings/workshops and regional training courses) scheduled in 2020 have to be postponed or cancelled.

In response to the crisis, LCCs, TOs and RCA FP have worked closely together, reviewed and adjusted the workplans of the RCA on-going projects, and agreed on activities that can be implemented in 2020 virtually in place of face-to-face.

A new list of the adjusted regional events in 2020 is shown in Annex 1. The events are mainly carried out using videoconferencing in September, October and November 2020.

Furthermore, due to dramatical changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, regional events under the RCA programme in 2021 cannot be planned at this time. They can only be identified and arranged after the 49th RCA GCM.

Observation and Proposal:

1. For ongoing projects:

As per normal practice, there is no or very little procurement in the workplans of RCA on-going projects. The budget for RCA programme is basically allocated for conducting meetings/workshops and training courses. Now, many meetings/workshops and training courses can be implemented using IT platforms in place of face-to-face, which results in a huge saving of the allocated funds. In 2020 only, the unspent amount of funds allocated for RCA projects is estimated about 1.2 mil. Euro from TCF. It is also anticipated that an equivalent amount of funds would be unspent in 2021.

In order to be able to effectively utilize the unspent TCF in 2020 and 2021, it is requested that NRs consider and agree on the use of the unspent funds for the following:

1) Procuring equipment needed by RCA Regional Resource Units (RCA RRUs) to provide services to other RCA GPs;

2) Procuring spare parts for maintaining equipment used by RCA GPs for implementing RCA projects;

3) If 1) and 2) are agreed, NRs are requested to submit to the IAEA their request for equipment needed for upgrading RRUs, and for spare parts for maintenance of equipment by 15 October 2020 at the latest (Request Template will be sent to NRs shortly). The RCA FP will discuss with LCCs and TOs and provide feedback to requested NRs to ensure the procurement is implemented transparently and properly; and

4) Recruiting experts to develop training materials for planned RTCs.

2. For new project designs for 2022-2023 and beyond:

Considering that the effectiveness and efficiency of the application of IT platforms to organize virtual events in place of face-to-face, in project design for 2022-2023, it is necessary to:

1) Specify regional events (meetings/workshops and training courses) that can be implemented virtually, and that need be done face-to-face for allocating funds appropriately;

2) Define and include equipment procurement needed by RRUs to provide services to other GPs and procurement of spare parts for maintaining equipment used by GPs for implementing projects; and

3) Develop online training materials.

Annex 1

List of Adjusted Regional Events in 2020

Project Code	MT/WS: Meeting/ Workshops RTC: Regional Training Course	Title of Event	City, Country	Date	Remarks by Proposed Country
RAS0086	WS	7th Meeting of the MTSC WG	Vienna, Austria	17-21 Feb.	Implemented
RAS0086	WS	RCA PAC Meeting	Vienna, Austria	24-28 Feb.	Implemented
RAS7028	WS	WS on radiological dose assessment and communication	Manila, Philippines	24-28 Feb.	Implemented
RAS0086	MT	42nd RCA NRM	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	23 Apr.	Implemented
#	MT	PAC Meeting	Virtually	8 Aug.	Implemented
#	MT	STF Meeting	Virtually	13 Aug.	Implemented
#	MT	Consultancy Meeting on the composition of a new WG on development of RCA MTS 2024-2030	Virtually	18 Aug.	Implemented

RAS5087	MT	First project coordination meeting	Vienna, Austria	3-4 Sep. (Preparatory Meeting: 1 Sep.)	Implemented
RAS7037	MT	First project coordination meeting	Vienna, Austria	8-9 Sep. (Preparatory Meeting: 7 Sep.)	Implemented
RAS6097	MT	First project coordination meeting	Vienna, Austria	10-11 Sep. (Preparatory Meeting: 7 Sep.)	Implemented
RAS7035	MT	First project coordination meeting	Vienna, Austria	10-11 Sep. (Preparatory Meeting: 4 Sep.)	Implemented
RAS6096	MT	First project coordination meeting	Vienna, Austria	15-16 Sep. (Preparatory Meeting: 9 Sep.)	Implemented
RAS0086	MT	RCA Chairs Meeting RCARO SAC Meeting	Vienna, Austria	17 Sep.	Implemented
RAS0086	MT	49th RCA GCM	Vienna, Austria	18 Sep.	On-going
RAS5077	MT	Project Review Meeting	Vienna, Austria	8-9 Oct. (Preparatory Meeting: 5 Oct.)	In preparation
RAS7031	MT	Project Review Meeting	Vienna, Austria	8-9 Oct. (Preparatory Meeting: 5 Oct.)	In preparation

RAS5084	MT	Project Review Meeting	Vienna, Austria	28-29 Oct. (Preparatory Meeting: 21 Nov.)	In preparation
RAS9092	MT	First Coordination Meeting	Vienna, Austria	29-30 Oct. (Preparatory Meeting: 27 Oct.)	In preparation
RAS6093	MT	Project Review Meeting	Vienna, Austria	5-6 Nov. (Preparatory Meeting: 2 Nov.)	In preparation
RAS7028	MT	Project Review Meeting	Vienna, Austria	12-13 Nov. (Preparatory Meeting: 9 Nov.)	In preparation
RAS6087	MT	Project Review Meeting	Vienna, Austria	17-18 Nov. (Preparatory Meeting: 16 Nov.)	In preparation
RAS6086	MT	Project Review Meeting	Vienna, Austria	26-27 Nov. (Preparatory Meeting: 23 Nov.)	In preparation