

Report of the RCA Programme Advisory Committee for 2020/21

The report of the RCA PAC for 2020/21 containing completed and planned activities is herewith submitted to the 49th RCA GCM.

Proposed Action:

The RCA GCM may note the contents of the report and provide a feedback to PAC on the completed and planned activities.

Report of the RCA Programme Advisory Committee to the 49th RCA GCM
on its Activities in 2020-2021

1. Meeting of the RCA PC on February 24-28 at the IAEA, Vienna, Austria
 - a. The Second Round RCA Project Concepts for 2022/23 were reviewed and comments provided to RCA NRs
 - b. Decided to recommend to the 42nd RCA NRM of the need to revise the procedure for RCA procedure for development of TC projects
 - c. Decided on the resource documents to be provided to LCCs on project design
 - d. Decided on the modality and the timeframe for carrying out the Mid-Term Review of the RCA Medium Term Strategy
 - e. Agreed on the Action Plan of PAC for 2020
 - f. Decided to recommend the revision of the Terms of Reference of PAC to 42nd NRM
 - g. Decided to recommend the revision of the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules to the 42nd NRM.
 - h. Decided to recommend new nominees to PAC to fill the vacancies.
2. The PAC reviewed the prioritizations of the Second Round Project Concepts for the RCA TC Programme by the GPs and recommended the projects to be further developed to the 42nd RCA NRM.
3. Background Documents submitted to the 42nd NRM
Background Documents were submitted on the following issues
 - a. RCA TC Programme for 2022/23
 - b. On the need for revision of the procedure for project development
 - c. On the need for the revision of the RCA GOR
 - d. On the modality and timeframe for Mid-Term Review of the RCA MTS
 - e. On the Action Plan of PAC for 2020
 - f. On filling of vacancies in the PAC

The proposals of PAC were approved by the 42nd NRM. Items b) and c) were approved in principle subject to submission of detailed proposals to the 49th GCM.

4. The PAC membership was increased to 8 with the addition of three new members with the approval of the 42nd RCANRM, to fill the vacancies in the PAC.
5. RCA TC Programme for 2022/23

Resource documents required for the design of the RCA TC Projects for 2022/23 were provided to the RCA LCCs along with the details of the Contact Persons appointed by the NRs for the projects they intend to participate in. LCCs were requested to submit the initial designs on or before the 15th of August 2020.

Assistance was provided to the RCA Chair to prepare the RCA Regional Programme Note.

6. Mid –Term Review of the RCA Medium Term Strategy

The PAC carried out the Mid-Term Review of the RCA Medium Term Strategy, against 12 Performance Indicators and 21 Criteria, according to the guidelines prepared by MTSC. Eight recommendations pertaining specifically to MTS and to the RCA programme in general were provided.

7. Virtual Meeting of the PAC on 08-08-2020

The following Background Documents were discussed at the Virtual Meeting of PAC held on 08-08-2020. (The relevant documents were circulated to PAC members in advance)

- a. Revision of the TOR of PAC
- b. Revised Procedure for Project Development
- c. Report on the Mid-Term Review of the RCA MTS
- d. Revised Guidelines for RCA Project Development, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

8. An initial review of 8 RCA Project designs was carried out and feedback provided to LCCs.

Planned Activities

1. September 2020 – Administrative review of the 12 Research Proposals received under the RCA Research Contract Programme. (PAC is functioning as the RCA Research Review Committee)
2. October / November 2020 - Detailed review of the RCA project designs for 2022-23 and finalization through virtual meetings with LCCs and TOs.
3. October 2020 – Conducting a survey for identifying priorities of RCA GPs to obtain information required for development of the RCA Regional Programme Framework
4. December 2020–Virtual meetings for each Thematic Sector to review outcomes of the survey and past RCA Projects to identify priorities for the next 6 years. (Each team will comprise 2-3 experts in the relevant Thematic Sector, a TO of the IAEA and will be headed by an NR.)
5. January 2021 – Develop the first draft of the RCA Regional Programme Framework
6. February 2021 – Finalize the RCA Regional Framework based on the feedback of the RCAGPs
7. February 2021 – Preparation of documentation to assist NRs to select priorities for the next TC cycle at the 43rd RCA NRM
8. February 2021 – Preparation of the Background Documents for the 43rd RCA NRM
9. March 2021 – Submission of the RCA Regional Programme Framework to the 43rd RCA NRM for approval.