

SESSION-V & SESSION VI

(March 1, 2000; 09 00 – 13 00 hrs & 14 00-18 00 hrs, respectively)

Chairman: Dr. S. Gangadharan

Rapporteur: Mr. C.A. Krishnan

7.0 Project Proposals for 2001/2002

India projected a summary sheet to highlight the requirements of the “Model Project Criteria” as explained by Dr. Adnan Shihab-Eldin, Director, TCPA (Annexure-9). The members were requested to keep these guidelines as backdrops while formulating the proposals.

India requested the Director, TCPA, to indicate an approximate range of probable funding to enable a suitable prioritization of activities / projects. Dr. Adnan Shihab-Eldin, Director, TCPA, said that projecting from recent trends it is possible to expect TC support to the RCA programme to be in the same region as for 1999, that is, about US\$ 2.7 million \pm 10%.

The Meeting considered that, in future, project proposals and the overall programme should keep in mind the funding that was likely to be available from the Agency, the Member States and other sources. The percentage funding allocated to each thematic programme should also be taken into account so that the Meeting of national representatives could make overall adjustments to the balance of the RCA thematic programmes.

7.1 Radiation Protection

The Chairman informed the meeting that the topic Radiation Protection, which is a fully developed one, would be first taken up for discussion. Australia presented the report on Enhancement & Harmonization of Radiation Protection that encompassed all aspects of the project. Taking account of the results of a questionnaire on country needs and a logical framework matrix, aspects of legal frameworks and safety regulations were discussed in detail including related projects in the Agency’s regional programme.

The scope and modalities of the proposed missions to countries were also reviewed. It was noted that full budgetary details for the forward activities were not available at this stage.

Mr. M.N. Razley briefed the meeting about the regulatory aspects not covered by RCA and the three series of workshops on Physical Protection, Safeguards and Transport of Radioactive Materials. The Meeting noted the need to further harmonise the activities and avoid duplication.

The Meeting noted that all RCA MSs have continuing need in the area of radiation protection and commit substantial resources to meet this need. It noted the comprehensive Mid-Term Review conducted in Bali, 14-18 February, 2000, and urged that efforts be continued to make the project complementary to other Agency activities, such as RAS/9/023, Legislation for safe and peaceful nuclear applications.

The Meeting endorsed the project proposal under RAS/9/018 for 2001-2002, subject to reformatting of the document incorporating the additional observations in the meeting and submit the document to RCA Secretariat within two weeks.

7.2 Agriculture: The RCA Co-ordinator referred to the revised list of seven Agricultural-related projects submitted for endorsement (Annexure-10). The lead country, China, submitted projects arising from the AGM in Beijing in July 1999. Three other projects were submitted subsequently.

At the outset, the meeting re-affirmed the importance of agriculture sector for this region. New Zealand requested an indication of the budget required for each project. Estimates were provided by the RCA Co-ordinator based on the proposals that revealed requirements substantially greater than the amount likely to be available.

Malaysia and several MSs noted that a wide range of capabilities existed already in the region related to several of the projects. For example, mutation breeding was well established and the proposal was for an extension of the technology to different crops. Food irradiation was already well understood technically and the requirement was for commercial and public acceptance. The minor involvement of nuclear technology in the overall activities within some projects was also noted.

The Meeting had extensive discussions on budgetary aspects and the ability of the proposals to have a real impact on the agricultural development of the region. The meeting decided it was essential to trim and prioritize the projects. China indicated that in its opinion as Lead Country, the three top priorities were Mutation Breeding, Soil Fertility Restoration and Food Irradiation.

Indonesia noted that despite earlier recommendations, the proposals did not include any projects on livestock development. Mr. Razley informed the Meeting that there were on-going projects⁸ on livestock development.

After detailed discussions, the Lead Country, China, agreed to do the above exercise and resubmit the seven proposals to RCA office within two weeks in coordination with other partners.

7.3 Energy & Research Reactor: The Lead Country, Korea, presented the details of three projects,

- a) Improvement of research reactor operation and utilization: The members agreed that the research reactor is an important technological tool and it is essential to upkeep and upgrade its availability and reliability. Aspects like ageing and production of radioisotopes are all important components.

The meeting endorsed the proposal in principle.

- b) Role of Nuclear Power and Other Energy Options in Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The Meeting noted the project proposed by Korea. India gave some background regarding a CDM-related case study initiated by the Agency and four selected countries, viz., China, India, Pakistan and Vietnam. The reports of the various case studies would be consolidated and forwarded to MSs for comments. The four countries would also present their findings to the UNFCCC COP-6⁹ in The Hague in their own national capacity. If the concept was accepted by Parties to the UNFCCC, the project could then be pursued.

Singapore noted that the project proposed by Korea would address awareness of the CDM process and hence participation should be open to all RCA MSs.

In view of the importance of this topic which relates environment and energy, the Meeting endorsed the project proposal by Korea subject to acceptance by Parties to the UNFCCC and agreed that participation should be open to all RCA MSs

Korea would revise its project proposal incorporating comments given by the MSs.

⁸ RAS/5/035, an extension of the project that has been proposed.

⁹ UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; COP-6: Conference of the Parties – 6.

- c) Promotion of Nuclear Power Generation: The lead country Korea mentioned that the proposal had not been received by them and is not fully developed. Many other members also said they had not seen the proposal. After discussions it was decided to defer this project at this meeting.
- d) Research Reactor School: It was agreed that the concept of a research reactor school needs further development and this will be further discussed at a project review meeting to be held in Mumbai in December 2000.

7.4 Industry and Environment: The committee reviewed seven projects which were presented by India, Japan and the Philippines.

Japan summarized the status of its participation in the seven proposed sub-projects as follows. Due to financial constraints, Japan can contribute only to sub-project No.3 “Upgrading Natural Polymers and Environment Conservation using Radiation Processing”, and possibly to sub-project No.2 “Optimisation of Mineral Resources Recovery using Low Radioactivity and Portable Nucleonic Gauges” with scientific and technological resources as well as possible funding, although the funding is not yet definite at this stage.

After due discussions, the following decisions were confirmed:

- a) Process Diagnostics and Optimization in Petroleum/Chemical Industry using NDT, Radiotracers and Sealed Sources: The proposal was accepted. Australia highlighted the technology transfer component to the region.
- b) Optimisation of Mineral Resources Recovery using Low Radioactivity and Portable Nucleonic gauges: The proposal was accepted, with possible financial support from Japan.
- c) Upgrading natural polymers and Environment Conservation by using Radiation processing: The project was endorsed subject to incorporating Malaysian suggestions on the project framework matrix.
- d) Demonstration of Disposal of Hospital Waste: The proposal was withdrawn and India would circulate a questionnaire on present practices to MSs.
- e) Development of Polymers based Dosimeters for Electron Beam Radiation Processing: This proposal was withdrawn for TC funding but considered suitable for CRP.
- f) Uses of Isotopes in Dam Safety: In view of the importance of this program, the Meeting proposal was endorsed. The committee noted that this project has been included in Tripartite Forum.

- g) Impacts on the Environment and Water Resources in Geothermal Areas through Isotopic and Geochemical Methodologies: (Annexure-10) The meeting endorsed this proposal. This project was also noted to be at the last Tripartite Forum of the activities for joint activity of AFRA and ARCAL (Annexure-7a).

7.5 UNDP Project: The RCA Co-ordinator presented the status of joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA Project (RAS/97/030) detailing the duration and funding status of the different sub-projects and related projects falling under these sub-project (Annexure-11).

Singapore indicated that it would prepare a proposal in the required format within 2 weeks for the extension to 2001/02 of the sub-projects on Air Pollution and its Trends.

7.6 Health Care Programme: The projects were introduced by the Lead Country, Indonesia.

- a) **Distance Learning in the Applied Sciences of Oncology:** The Meeting noted that this project is well designed towards the needs of the region. The Project has already been approved as a *footnote a/* project. The joint development of the learning modules under this project has been included in Technology to share under the Tripartite Forum (AFRA, ARCAL and RCA)
The meeting endorsed this proposal. It was clarified that the title “Applied Science of Oncology” encompasses many sub-fields of the overall project.
- b) **Radiation Sterilization of Tissue Grafts:** The Meeting noted that extension of the project (RAS/7/008) for another two years was already endorsed at the 28th RCA GC Meeting.
- c) **LDR and HDR Brachytherapy in the Treatment of Cervical Cancer.** This proposal which is related to RAS/6/027, has been identified as a high priority area by MSs and was endorsed as an extension of RAS/6/027 to the end of 2002.
- d) **Other Projects:**
- Upgrading Immunoassay Capabilities.

- Development of Therapeutic Radiopharmaceuticals for Bone Pain Palliation and Radio-synvectomy¹⁰

The meeting reviewed the above projects and considered that they were not developed properly as required. In view of the situation explained by Indonesia, and while appreciating these proposals in principle, it was decided to organize an AGM to review the entire Health Programme and prepare a comprehensive report on the status of projects in health sector. Australia requested that the report of the Sydney EAGM meeting in May 1999 should be considered as a starting point of the EAGM, since many of the projects were developed at this meeting.

Japan expressed its concern that the current "Health" program as a whole appears to lack a comprehensive and systematic approach. In this regard, Japan emphasized the importance of coming AGM scheduled for April 2000¹¹ that is expected to reconstruct the whole program in order to identify the actual needs of MSs and the region and to formulate the program to be implemented in the most efficient manner. Indonesia was requested to do the needful in the ensuing AGM.

¹⁰ Another project, Combined Treatment of Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy on Nasopharyngeal Cancer was also submitted.

¹¹ Now in May 2000