

SESSION-VII

(March 2, 2000; 09 00 – 13 00 hrs.)

Chairman: Dr. S.M. Rao

Rapporteur: Mr. C.A. Krishnan

8.0 General

TCDC activities, participated in interregional project and linkage with international organizations were discussed.

8.1 TCDC Activities

The RCA coordinator informed the Meeting that the level of TCDC in the region is steadily increasing and gave examples of expert missions from the developing countries within the region as well as outside the region. The expert mission in Singapore by two Malaysian experts in the Tissue Bank activity is an important success story. The column scanning teams from Thailand and Australia are doing valuable services in the region and are highly sought.

Australia drew attention to the increase in regional expertise for expert mission. In 1998, RCA Annual Report indicated 55% of mission were carried out by regional experts, whereas the 1999 Annual Report showed an increase to 66%. The meeting welcomed this trend as appropriate recognition of the quality and standard of available regional resources, and supported a target of 80% of the total project mission time from experts from the RCA region.

8.2 Interregional Project Participation

The RCA Co-ordinator reviewed the outcomes of the Tripartite Meeting held on 30 September 1999 and the six projects, which were agreed to form part of the 2000 TCDC Tripartite Programme. These were:

- distance learning in nuclear medicine (RCA)
- safety guides (ARCAL)
- dam safety teams (AFRA)
- harmonisation of protocol for quarantine treatment (AFRA)
- distance learning on radiation oncology (RCA)
- geothermics (ARCAL)

Australia drew attention to the agenda items for the next Tripartite Meeting to be held in September 2000.

Malaysia presented a working paper prepared with the Philippines outlining a proposed basis for representation at future Tripartite meeting as follows:

- Current RCA Chairman.
- Immediate Past Chairman.
- TCDC Lead / Contact Country
- Selected Representative
- Selected Representative

It was agreed to identify the “selected representatives” based on the issues to be discussed at the Tripartite meeting and a proper balance, taking into account of TCDC / ECDC considerations.

The RCA Co-ordinator advised that ARCAL had proposed the establishment of quality systems in laboratories used for eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) as a project for sharing with the other regions. The Meeting expressed interest in participation in this project.

Malaysia and the Philippines were requested to prepare a short working paper setting down the criteria for the type of projects to be offered and received by the RCA within the Tripartite forum. Following circulation of this paper, the Lead Country Coordinators should advise Malaysia as the TCDC contact point of proposed technologies that the RCA should share with AFRA and ARCAL.

It was agreed that two experts from the RCA should be identified through the normal IAEA procedures to participate in interregional meetings on Dam Safety being arranged by AFRA. Indonesia and Philippines were suggested as possible participants for a project on geothermal development to be organized by ARCAL. It was agreed that the above RCA representatives should prepare a report to the RCA on the outcomes of these meetings.

8.3 Linkages with Regional Organisations

The RCA Co-ordinators advised that the planned consultative meeting to be held in Mumbai during March 6-8, 2000, had been postponed to June-July 2000¹² due to the unavailability of some participants from key organizations. The RCA Co-ordinator reported on links that had been established with ASEAN, and discussions had also been held with ADB and UNDP/GEF/IMO in the Philippines.

¹² Deferred further to 2001

Indonesia advised on the outcome of the recent meeting between the IAEA DG and the ASEAN Secretariat. Indonesia advised that BATAN was in the process of making further contact with the ASEAN Secretariat seeking further discussions on linkages with the RCA. Indonesia will follow this up with a letter and proposed that the RCA Co-ordinator should also follow this up formally with ASEAN. Myanmar added that they had drawn the attention of the ASEAN Science and Technology Department to RCA activities in May 1999 and encouraged Thailand to also pursue the matter in the forthcoming meeting in May 2000

Australia drew attention to the need to raise the profile of the RCA as a key player in science and technology with relevant regional and multilateral organizations. He proposed that it was up to each Member State to take opportunities to strengthen linkages and for the Agency to arrange for a keynote address on the RCA achievements to be presented at key regional development meetings.

SESSION-VIII

(March 2, 2000; 14 00 – 18 00 hrs.)

Chairman: Mr. A.K. Anand

Rapporteur: Mr. C.A. Krishnan

9.0 Overview of Different Sessions

This session discussed the follow-up activities from the earlier sessions, including the deferred items from the 28th RCA GC Meeting, results of Air Transport Survey, Criteria for Selecting RRU's, Preparation of 1999 RCA Annual Report, hosting of next meeting and host country agreements.

9.1 Follow-up items for 28th RCA GC

Referring to her Country Statement (Annexure-12), Australia reviewed the role of a Lead Country and National Project Committees in accordance with the Guidelines and Operating Rules of the RCA. This portion of the Guidelines on Lead Countries was already endorsed by the MSs at the 28th RCA GC. The list of National Project Co-ordinators as circulated by the RCA Co-ordinator was very useful. Australia suggested that the Agency should arrange a mission to Lead Countries to assist them in fully implementing the Lead Country Concept. It could coincide with the first Lead Country meeting to be organized for the Mid-Term UNDP Project review.

The Chairman thanked Australia for the excellent work done in this regard. He added that the Lead Country is like a captain of the team who can steer the program. He indicated that now the projects for 2001/2002 have been endorsed, it is timely to commence consideration of 2003/2004 cycle, preparation which has to start seriously from the beginning of next year itself. He presented a work plan schedule that is required to be adhered for the 2003/2004 cycle (Annexure-13), and suggested that the Lead Country Coordinators and National Project Coordinators should interact with the RCA Co-ordinator in this regard.

Comments on their experience as a Lead Country for a thematic area were provided by several Lead Countries as follows.

9.1.1 China

China as Lead Country on agriculture has submitted the proposals on time for all MSs comments.

At the same time, China proposed to review the four proposals once again for further improvement. China was pleased to take all the comments during the meeting and would attempt to complete the proposals within four (4) weeks. The Chairman complimented the positive work done by China, as a Lead Country in the agriculture sector

9.1.2 Indonesia

Indonesia remarked that the situation in the health sector was not satisfactory. The projects should be suitably evolved to conform to the present needs and situations, with high technical quality. He assured the meeting that the national project coordinators will effectively interact and prepare a structured program at the AGM to be held in Indonesia in May 2000.

9.1.3 India

India had been nominated as the overall coordinator for the thematic program in Industry and explained about the outcomes of the AGM in Mumbai. A number of projects had been developed with positive outcomes. Japan noted with appreciation and gratitude the initiative and good work undertaken by India. The Chairman pointed that India could do this because this event was organized in India. Hence he suggested that MSs organize more events to get experience on infrastructure management. It was noted that the Ministry of Industry as well as representatives from private sector were involved in the meeting.

9.1.4 Korea

Korea noted that only 11 MSs are participating in the Reactor Research Utilization project and requested other member states currently operating or planning to introduce research reactors to participate in this project. Korea mentioned that another event on Ageing Management is going to be held in India. The meeting noted that radioisotope production could be one of the components of the Research Reactor Utilization project.

10. Regional RCA Office

Korea expressed its support for establishing an RCA office in the region and that Korea will provide all possible logistical support if located in their country. Korea will formally write to the RCA office confirming this offer.

11. UNDP Project Lead Countries

Malaysia LC for subproject on Electronic Networking and Outreach, thanked India and China for their help. New Zealand LC for subproject on Clear and Energy Effective Production Process, thanked India for accepting the role of Lead Country for the Thematic Area of Industry.

12. Operating Rules and Guidelines

No specific changes to the Operating Rules and Guidelines were suggested at this stage. However, Indonesia asked about the role of AGMs in the guidelines. Australia replied that it is not mentioned explicitly but is included in the role of project committee meetings as defined in the guidelines. Australia undertook to determine whether any further clarification was required.