

SESSION-IX

(March 3, 2000; 09 00 – 13 00 hrs.)

Chairman: Mr. A.K. Anand

Rapporteur: Mr. C.A. Krishnan

13. Regional Resources Units (See item 2.3.4)

The RCA Co-ordinator presented a report on RRUs, including a draft questionnaire to assist in their selection (Annexure-14). The RCA Co-ordinator also circulated a preliminary discussion paper on present Agency thinking on Regional Resource Centers (Annexure-15). Australia advised, that it would not seem appropriate to appoint a committee to decide on the establishment of RRUs.

After detailed discussions in which many MSs participated it was decided that the selection and evaluation of RRUs be left to the project committees based on the suggested criteria on the working paper, and that the questionnaire can already be circulated for use by MS and the self discipline of MSs will ensure that only essential RRUs were proposed.

Regarding the RRUs recognized for the UNDP project, it was requested that the list of present RRUs as in Annexure-24 of the Draft Annual Report-1999 (and which is based on the Annex in the RCA GC Report) be updated. MSs should review the status of their RRUs and inform the RCA chairman with a copy to the RCA office within two weeks. It was agreed that the RRUs presently offered by MSs are endorsed but are subject to the above review.

New Zealand informed that Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences (GNS)

- withdraws as an RRU for sub-project 1.1
- wishes to be recognized as an RRU in ion beam technologies for sub-project 1.3
- continues as an RRU in tracers, sealed sources and nucleonic gauges in industry generally and sub-project 1.4 particularly.

14. Air Transport Survey

The RCA Co-ordinator presented the survey report on refusal by airlines to ship radioactive materials (Annexure-16). After due deliberations, it was decided to

request the IAEA to again take up the issue through the Agency's Transport Safety Unit, with the three¹³ international air transport organizations and International Airport Authorities.

15. Annual Report

Australia appreciated the improvement in the Draft Annual Report but specially noted the need to include some success stories.

Australia suggested that the Annual Report should contain an executive summary highlighting some of the notable achievements and project outcomes in each MS.

The RCA Co-ordinator noted that Part-III could not be drafted due to the receipt of only a few inputs from MSs. The Chairman proposed that comments if any on the Draft Annual Report-1999 should be sent to the RCA Co-ordinator before May 31, 2000 for finalisation before the General Conference. The Chairman also requested MSs who had not provided input to Part III of the Annual report to do so in the appropriate format as soon as possible along with a brief executive summary to highlight success stories as mentioned by Australia.

16. Host Agreement

At the 28th RCA GC Meeting, MS expressed differing opinions on the need of issuing Host Agreements letters.

The RCA office will continue to send host agreement letters to the MS covering all events planned to be hosted by a MS in one host agreement letter¹⁴.

17. Location of Next RCA Meeting of National Representatives

Bangladesh¹⁵ offered to host the next RCA subject to government approval. The RCA Coordinator undertook to contact Pakistan who had offered as an alternate venue for the present Meeting as to her views on hosting future meetings. Korea also offered to host the meeting in 2001 as an alternative venue. Mongolia also offered to host in 2002.

18. Other Business

¹³ These are the ICAO, IATA and IFALPA

¹⁴ Several MS expresses the need for this letter for official purposes such as to request government support and other resources. (One country, JPN, indicated then that there is no need for the exchange of letter).

¹⁵ The government confirmed this on 20 March 2000.

18.1 RCA Mission

Referring to the TC policy and its emphasis on development projects, Indonesia pointed out that research remains a fundamental plank within the RCA Agreement to *"promote and co-ordinate co-operative research, development and training in nuclear science and technology"*.

Dr. Adnan clarified that TC Strategy does not preclude a Research Component but it should be supported by development programme. Research Component could be covered also under CRPs and other regular programmes of the Agency.

Japan proposed that a working group should be set up to investigate future research needs within the RCA programme, and existing mechanisms for supporting research such as CRPs and any new mechanism that might be desirable. The meeting agreed with this proposal and requested a report to be made available by the next General Conference meeting. It was agreed that the working group should comprise Japan, Australia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

18.2 Unallocated Funds

The RCA Co-ordinator sought advice on the application of unallocated funds from a number of member states. The following Member States with extra-budgetary contributions informed their views as follows:

- Australia to inform the RCA office,
- China to allocate to Agriculture, Environment and Health and the amounts to be advised later,
- Indonesia to advise the RCA office,
- Japan to inform the RCA as soon as possible,
- Korea to allocate to RAS/4/016 or RAS/9/024,
- Malaysia will inform the RCA Office later,
- New Zealand for supporting experts under component 1.4.2 of the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project and industry project as necessary,
- Philippines for subproject 1.1 on access to clean drinking water and agrowastes,
- Sri Lanka for access to clean drinking water with no strings attached and Thailand to access to clean drinking water and agrowastes under RAS/8/076.

18.3 Radiation Incident in Thailand

Thailand gave a presentation on the recent radiation incident in their country (Annexure-17). Thailand was thanked for the timely information on the incident.

18.4 Regional Seminar

Dr. Adnan briefed the meeting that a “Regional Seminar on Strategies and Approaches towards Self-reliance and Sustainability of National Institutions”, is proposed for August 22-29, 2000 in Malaysia. Its objective would be to enhance awareness among MSs of the need to be self-reliant in order to sustain the institution to be relevant to national development. The seminar would examine case studies of successful or promising initiatives in the region pertaining to achieving self-reliance and sustainability. He hoped that this seminar would establish close rapport among the top executives of the national nuclear institutions in the region and help in the formation of alliances or partnerships for problem solving. He welcomed the views of the MSs to make this event a success. A prospectus for the proposed seminar is given in Annexure-18.

18.5 Presentation of Meeting Report

The Meeting Report was adopted in principle subject to the various comments noted at the meeting (Annexure-19). The modified draft report would be circulated to all MSs after incorporating further comments to be sent by MSs within 2 weeks. The Chairman thanked all delegates for their help in making the draft report and special thanks were given to New Zealand and Australia for helping the Rapporteur in the preparation of the draft. Australia and Sri Lanka congratulated the Rapporteur for his good work.

19. Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Mr. A.K. Anand, Chairman, thanked Mr. Tan Teng Huat, the outgoing Chairperson and all the delegates for their cooperation in making the meeting a success and wished every one a safe journey home. His special thanks were to Dr. Adnan, Director, TCPA, IAEA, for his guidance from time to time in focusing the attention of the meeting to priority items as per the TC policy.

Dr. Adnan, on behalf of the IAEA thanked and congratulated the host country for the hospitality and efficient organization of the meeting.

Dr. John Rolland, Australia, on behalf of the MSs thanked and appreciated the Session Chairpersons and organizers for their good work.