

# **Report of the Expert Group Meeting on RCA Medium Term Strategy and Strategic Priorities**

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Presented at 37<sup>th</sup> NR Meeting, Islamabad,  
Pakistan, 16-19 March 2015

# Outline

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Results of Survey Form
- ❖ Expert Group Meeting
  - Objective
  - Participants
  - Papers presented
  - Conclusions and Recommendations

# WG Task in Three Phases

- **Phase 1:** Development of the Concept Paper on RCA MTS and Strategic priorities for 2018-2023 to be submitted and approved by the 36<sup>th</sup> NRM in April 2014
- **Phase 2:** Identification of Strategic Priorities
- **Phase 3:** Formulation of documents (RCA MTS, Strategic Priorities, Implementation Plan) to be submitted and approved by the 49thGCM in September 2015

# Identification of Strategic Priorities (Phase 2)

## ➤ WG activities:

- Engage consultant to prepare a regional technical profile (January - March 2014) **Done**
- Conduct a survey among NRs of their needs and priorities (until February 2015) **Done**
- Request the Secretariat to convene an expert group on the RCA MTS and Strategic Priorities (February 2015 ) **Done**
- Conduct of Expert Group Meeting on RCA MTS and Strategic priorities (16-20 February 2015) **Done**

# Phase 3

- Preparation of the following draft documents:
  - MTS (May 2014-August 2015)
  - WG Meeting (June 2015)
  - Strategic Priorities (March – August 2015)
  - Action Plan for implementation of the MTS (July – August 2015)
- Submit the final draft documents to the 49th GCM for review and approval in Sept 2015

# Results of RCA MTS Survey

- GPs that submitted the survey form:  
12/22

Australia, Bangladesh, China, Japan,  
Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar,  
New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines,  
Sri Lanka, Vietnam

# Priorities in Current Thematic Areas

- Food and Agriculture: Mutation breeding, pest control, food irradiation, fertilizer, erosion
- Environment: marine, water, air
- Health: radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, medical physics
- Industry: radiation processing, NDT, radiotracer, sealed sources

# Proposed New Areas of Regional Cooperation

Combined thematic areas, responding to climate change, RR, education and training in molecular imaging and diagnosis, upscaling of radiation processed grafted materials, tropical disease (dengue), biodosimetry, internal dosimetry, nanotechnology, nuclear instrumentation, risk communication, conjunctive management of land and freshwater, value-added products from bio-industries



# Need to appoint long-term RCA Chair

- **Yes** - Australia, Bangladesh, Pakistan (3)
- **No** - Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand (proposes Alternatives 2a and 2b), Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam (7)
- **Not decided** – China
- **No preference** – Republic of Korea

# Cooperative Research in RCA Programme

- Yes – Australia, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand , Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka (11)
- No - Vietnam

# Expert Group Meeting

- 16-20 February 2015, Vienna
- Participants:
  - Mr. Anhar , INS
  - Mr. Nahrul, MAL
  - Mr. M. Maksoudi, Tunisia
  - Mr. T. Nakano, JPN
  - Mr. T. Pascual, IAEA
  - Mr. Pil-soo Han, IAEA
  - Ms. Marta Ferrari, IAEA
  - Mr. Sinh Van Hoang, RCA FP, IAEA

# Expert Group Meeting

- Participants:
  - Mr. C. Daughney, Past RCA Chair
  - Mr. Kun-mo Choi, DIR, RCARO
  - Mr. J. Easey, RCA Consultant and WG member
  - Ms. A. Dela Rosa, WG Chair
  - Ms. Noriah Bt.Jamal, Member
  - Mr. Md. Monirul Islam, Member
  - Mr. Zhixuan Zhi, Member

# Main Objectives of Meeting

- Review and assess the implementation of the current RCA Medium-Term Strategy 2012-2017 and RCA programme management;
- Discuss and identify strategic directions and priorities for 2018-2023 RCA programme development and management;

# Topics Tackled

- Session I – General issues
- Session II – Strategic directions in the agriculture and health sectors
- Session III- Strategic directions in industry and the environment
- Session IV – Strategic directions in nuclear power and radiation protection

# Session I: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Discussion papers presented:** a) Overview of RCA Programme Management, RCA Chair ; b) Overview of the Current RCA MTS and Perspectives of new RCA MTS, WG Chair ; c) RCA Regional Profile, John Easey ; d) Results of RCA MTS survey, WG Chair , and e) Activities of the RCARO, DIR RCARO .

# Session I: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations

- Perspective for the new MTS – cross cutting issues/linkages
  - RCA related: enhance RCA governance structure and management to facilitate implementation of RCA strategy and improve operational effectiveness and efficiency
  - GPs related: enhance sustainable institutions through commercialization of products; establish diffusion centers for outreach of technologies

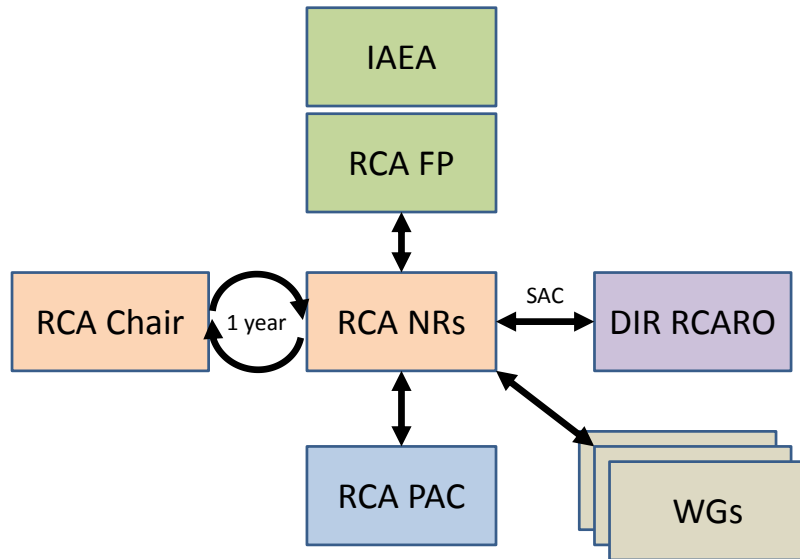


# Session I: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations

- RCA programme related:

- Increase the alignment of the RCA programme with other programs in the region particularly the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Asia and the Pacific;
- Incorporate the needs and priorities of the newly joining GPs;
- Promote TCDC modalities including the use of regional expertise and facilities

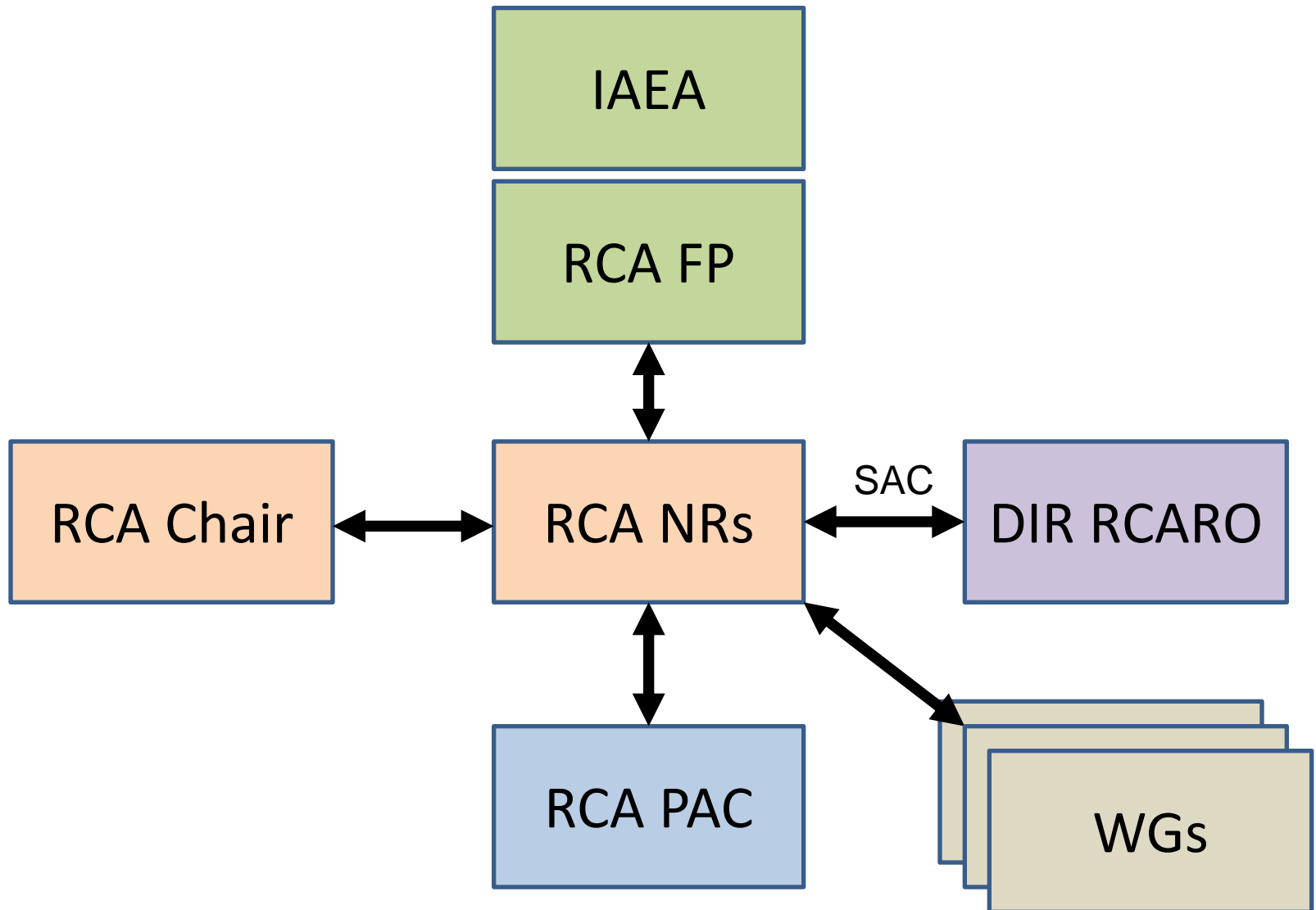
# RCA Chair: RCA Governance – Present Issues



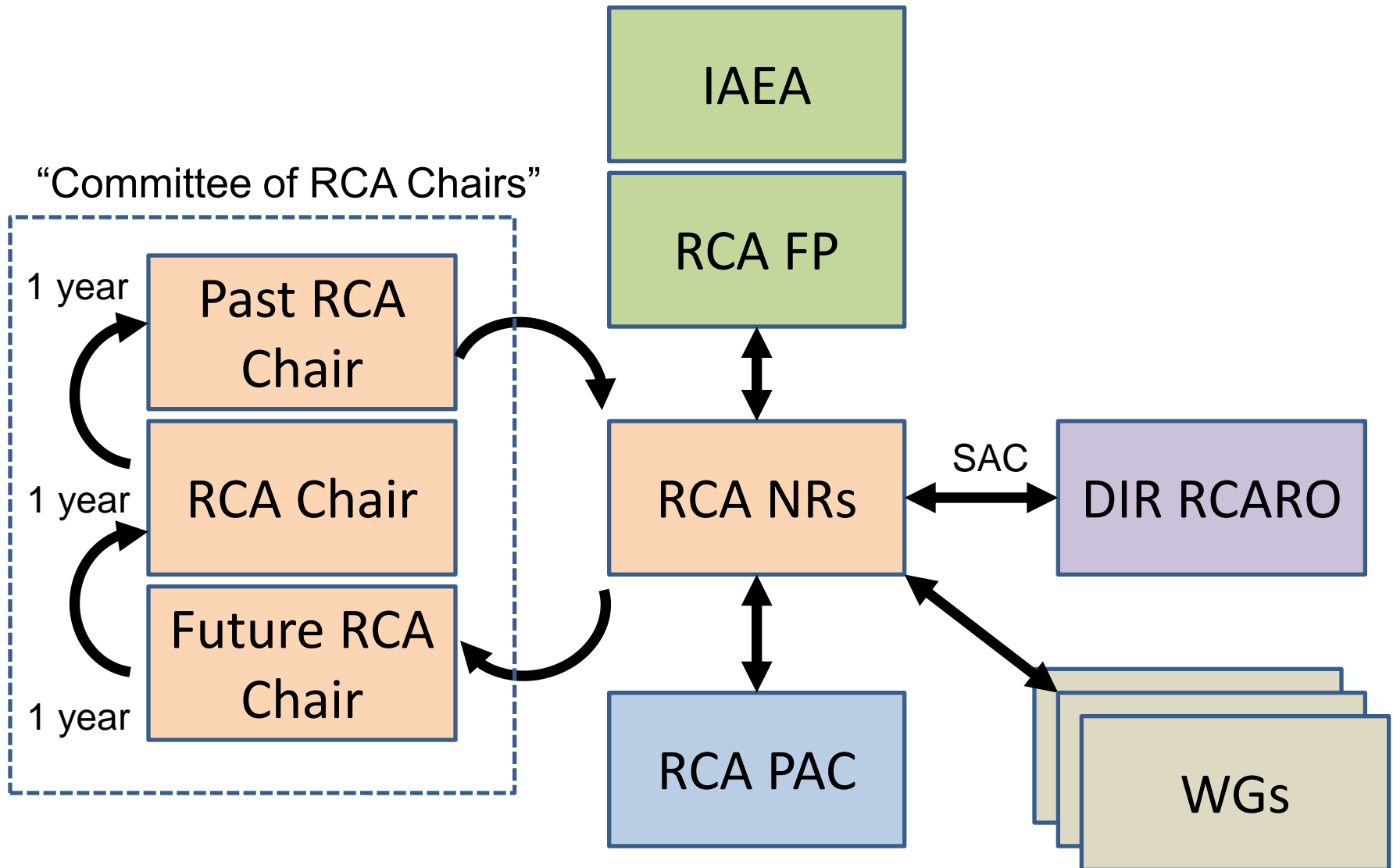
**Previous discussions among NRs have identified issues with current governance**

- X** Inefficient spreading of secretariat duties among IAEA, RCARO, Chair
- X** Chair is not selected based on his/her experience, diligence, etc.
- X** GOR does not mandate RCA Chair to undertake strategic initiatives
  - Fund-raising
  - Promotion
  - Implementation of MTS
- X** Short-term Chair position precludes such strategic initiatives

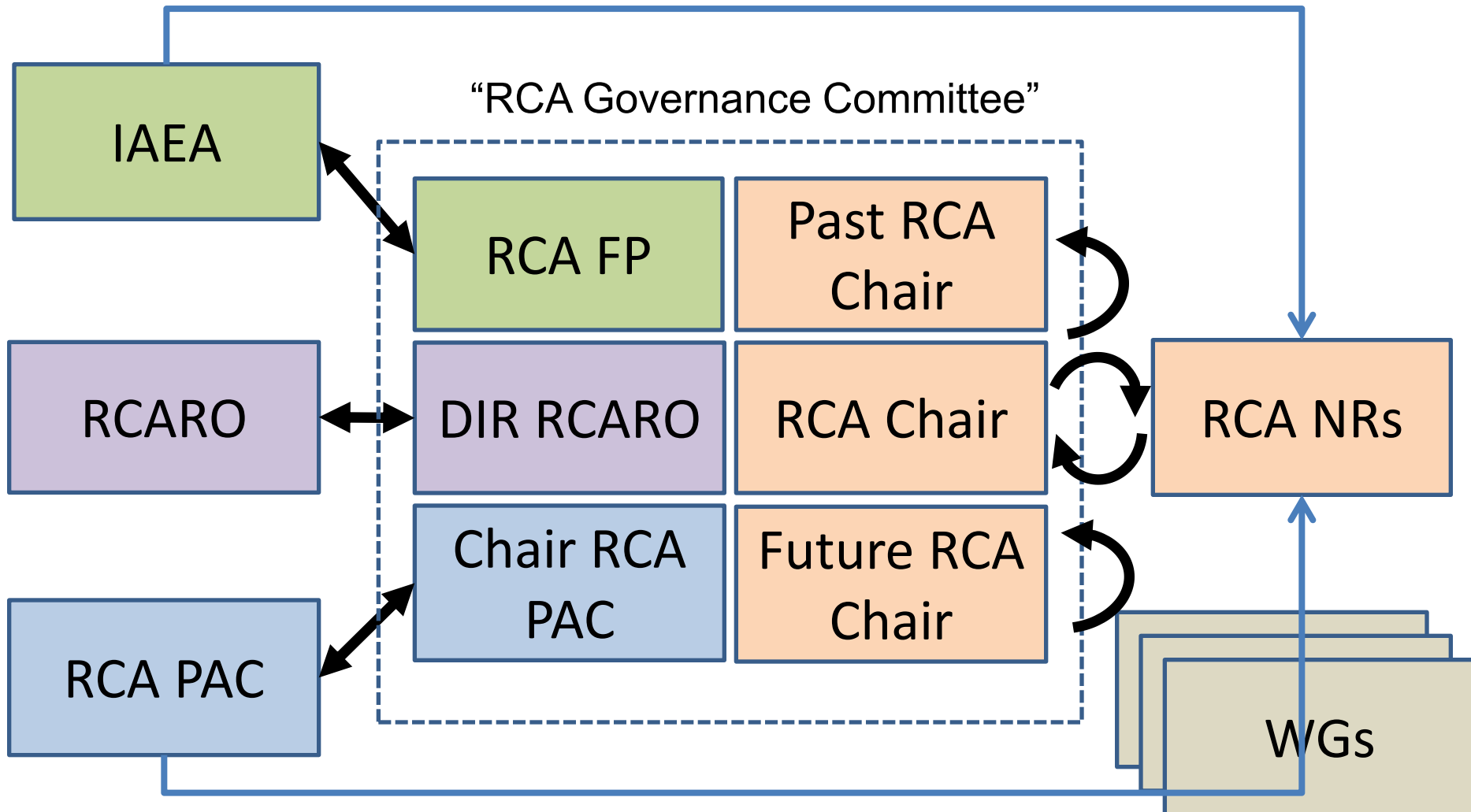
# RCA Governance – Alternative 1



# RCA Governance – Alternative 2a



# RCA Governance – Alternative 2b



# Session II-IV: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Discussion papers:** a) Nuclear Applications in Agriculture, M. Maksoudi ; b) Nuclear Applications in Health by Dr. T. Nakano and Dr.T. Pascual ; c) Nuclear Applications in Industry by Mr. Nahrul d) Nuclear Applications in the Environment Sector by Mr. Anhar ; e) Nuclear Power by Ms. Marta Ferrari , and f) Nuclear/Radiation Safety by Mr. Pil-soo Han .

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# Session II-IV: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations

- The SDGs for Asia-Pacific comprises the following priorities, among others: eradicating poverty; pursuing sustained and inclusive economic growth; building resilience to climate change and natural disasters; enhancing resource efficiency and natural resource management .
- By aligning its strategic priorities with the region's priorities, the RCA can emerge as an important actor in the development arena of Asia and the Pacific .
- Such alignment will result in added credibility, relevance and visibility for RCA in addition to building profitable partnership with other players in the region (EU, ADB, ESCAP, and the UN System).

## **Session II-IV: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations**

- **The new RCA MTS should build on the solid achievements under the current MTS on human and physical infrastructure as well as on management systems and project outputs and outcomes.**
- **The Meeting agreed to formulate strategic priorities from a needs-driven approach, rather than a technology-driven approach.**



# Session II-IV: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations

- Priorities in Food and Agriculture: increase agricultural productivity and quality of plant and animal origin through sustainable use of resources; work towards better adaptation to climate change, etc.
- Priorities in human health: strengthen cancer management activities incl. training of radiation oncologists and medical physicists; simplify and harmonize protocols on diagnostic imaging and for treatment planning and radiotherapy treatment, etc.

# Session II-IV: Discussion/Conclusions and Recommendations

- Priorities in Industry: increase value from sustainable use of natural resources to produce viable commercial products ; improve safety and efficiency of industrial processes; utilize nuclear S&T to support new high value industries, etc.
- Priorities in Environment: enhance the capabilities in application of nuclear and isotope techniques to assess the impact of climate change to marine and coastal ecosystems; strengthen the capacity on the use of isotopes for water resources management; strengthen capacity to trace the source, transport, and fate of various pollutants, etc.

# Section V: Nuclear/radiation safety

- Radiation/ nuclear safety and security are priority areas for the RCA.
- The Agency has several current and planned non-Agreement radiation and nuclear safety and security projects operating at the regional and national level in Asia Pacific. These projects are projected to continue until ca. 2019 and cover the priorities of RCA GPs.
- Under the principle of non-duplication of cooperative activities/projects, it is not foreseen for the RCA to implement its own projects in radiation and nuclear safety and security prior to ca. 2019.
- However, prior to 2019, the RCA should dialogue with the Agency and other stakeholders so that projects on radiation and nuclear safety and security can be considered for re-introduction into the RCA programme from ca. 2019 onwards.
- Aside from these future RCA projects, the RCA should consider supporting cooperative activities, such as ad hoc training, to address specific regional needs in radiation and nuclear safety and security as they might arise.

# Section V: Nuclear Power

- Energy plays an indisputable role as the driving engine for growth and development in the Asia Pacific region, which is experiencing very high levels of economic growth and activities. The RCA attaches high priority to activities and projects related to energy in its SP.
- Several GPs have their own national projects in nuclear power in addition to their participation in the regional projects outside the Agreements. These GPs are at various stages of the Milestones for introducing nuclear power in national energy mix.

# Section V: Nuclear Power

- In the period of this MTS 2018-2023 there is little commonality between the various areas and stages at which these GPs are in their programs and it is difficult to form their requirements into a regional project.
- Notwithstanding the above, a similar stance as per the radiation and nuclear safety and security, will be adopted for the period of this MTS.

# Action Plan and Future Activities of the WG

Date	Activity
17 March 2015	WG Chair presents Report of the Expert Group Meeting to the 37 <sup>th</sup> NRM
20 March –May 30 2015	WG prepares draft document on RCA MTS 2018-2023
8-12 June 2015	WG convenes in Vienna to finalize document
13 September 2015	WG Chair presents draft RCA MTS to the 44 <sup>th</sup> RCA GCM

# Proposed NRM Action

- It is recommended that the NRM consider and approve these strategic priorities

**THANK YOU!**