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DRAFT REPORT

24th RCA MEETING OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

25-29 MARCH 2002

SEOUL & DAEJEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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ACRONYMS

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Advancement of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
DDG	Deputy Director General
ECDC	Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FNCA	Forum for Nuclear Co-operation in Asia
GCM	General Conference Meeting
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IMO	International Maritime Organization
LDR/HDR	Low Dose Rate/High Dose Rate
MS	Member State
NDT	Non-Destructive Testing
PRM	Project Review Meeting
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RRU	Regional Resource Unit
TC	Technical Cooperation
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCAPS	East Asia and the Pacific Section
TCPA	Division for Africa and East Asia and the Pacific
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UMMB	Urea Molasses Multinutrient Block

Opening Ceremony of 24th RCA Meeting of National Representatives and 30th Anniversary Celebration

1. Opening Declaration

The 24th RCA Meeting of National Representatives was held at the Palace Hotel in Seoul and at Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute in Daejeon, Korea from 25 to 29 March 2002. Dr. Chung-Won Cho, Director General, Atomic Energy Bureau, Ministry of Science and Technology, Korea, declared the meeting open.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by all 17 Member States except Myanmar and the Philippines.

2. Welcoming Remarks

H.E. Dr. Young-Bok Chae, Minister of Science and Technology, Korea, welcomed the delegates to the 24th RCA National Representatives' Meeting and expressed his sincere gratitude to the Director General of IAEA and Deputy Director General, Department of Technical Cooperation (DDG-TC) for their support. He emphasized the importance of Member States' cooperation to face new challenges for RCA. He noted that the establishment of the RCA Regional Office in Korea was timely, expecting that it could become the cornerstone for the future development of the RCA. He gave assurances of support and commitment from the Korean Government to the RCA. (Annex 2)

3. Congratulatory Remarks on behalf of the IAEA

A message from Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei, the Director General of IAEA was delivered by Mr. Qian Jihui, DDG-TC. In his congratulatory remarks, Mr. ElBaradei welcomed the delegates on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the RCA. He highlighted the progress the RCA had made in promoting tangible socio-economic impacts in the region through the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology.

He also detailed examples of the achievements of the RCA regional activities in food irradiation, industrial applications and human health, all of which had contributed to the success of RCA projects in the region. He congratulated Member States on the establishment of an RCA Regional Office in Korea and the holding of the Scientific Forum to celebrate the 30th anniversary. He concluded his remarks with the assurance that the Agency's close cooperation with the RCA Member States would bring continued benefits to the entire region. (Annex 3)

24th RCA Meeting of National Representatives

4. Session I

The meeting was attended by 36 participants from the RCA Member States (MSs) including 17 National Representatives (Annex 1). The IAEA was represented by Mr. Qian Jihui, Deputy Director General, Department of Technical Cooperation (DDG-TC), Mr. M.N. Razley, Head, East Asia and the Pacific Section (SH-TCAPS) and Mr. C.R. Aleta, RCA Coordinator, East Asia and the Pacific Section.

4.1 Statement of the Outgoing Chairperson

The outgoing Chairman, Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury of Bangladesh, welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He thanked the Republic of Korea for hosting this meeting and also thanked IAEA for its support. He opined that the RCA was a classic example of TCDC. He reviewed his past experience as the RCA Chairman and noted that the focus of the RCA was moving from capacity building to problem solving. He also observed that part of the RCA role should be to promote nuclear science and technology for peaceful means. He concluded by thanking all the Member States for their active cooperation.

4.2 Election of the Chairperson and Appointment of Rapporteurs

Dr. Chung-Won Cho, Director General, Atomic Energy Bureau, Ministry of Science and Technology, Korea, was proposed as meeting Chairman by Pakistan. This was seconded by India and supported by all Member States. Dr. Cho was therefore duly elected Chairman.

Dr. Kun-Woo Cho, Head, Radiation Protection Department, Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety and Ms. Nara Yoon, Ministry of Gender Equality, were appointed rapporteurs.

4.3 Statement of the Incoming Chairperson

The incoming Chairman, Dr. Chung-Won Cho, conveyed his thanks and gratitude to the proposer, seconder and all the participants for their whole-hearted support. He thanked the outgoing Chairman, Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury of Bangladesh, for his leadership and excellent performance in running the affairs of the RCA during his tenure. He also thanked Mr. Qian for delivering the message from the IAEA. He sought the cooperation of the National Representatives in carrying out his Chairman responsibilities smoothly. Dr. Cho also urged Member States to work for common prosperity in a collaborative manner.

4.4 Adoption of Agenda

The Chairman noted that the provisional agenda had been prepared with the cooperation of the IAEA and the host country. The provisional agenda was adopted as tabled. (Annex 4)

4.5 Matters arising from the 30th RCA General Conference Meeting

Mr. Aleta, RCA Coordinator, introduced the agenda item on “Matters arising from the 30th RCA General Conference Meeting” (Annex 5) and mentioned that some items had already been dealt with and others would be covered during the course of the 24th RCA

Meeting of National Representatives. These items remaining included: RCA Annual Report under item 6.1; discussions on the Regional RCA Office under item 7.1; extension of the RCA Agreement under item 7.2; and, management of the RCA and role of research under items 7.3 and 7.4. On the follow-up item on the designation of a national focal person in radiation protection, he said that Member States would be consulted at this meeting to confirm the names and/or designate the person.

4.6 Adoption of the 30th RCA GCM Report

The report was adopted as prepared.

4.7 IAEA TC Program

Mr. Qian Jihui, Deputy Director General, Department of Technical Cooperation, made a presentation under the title of “Maintaining Relevance and Viability in Maturity” (Annex 6). He highlighted successful projects and past RCA project experiences. He noted that great efforts had been made in enhancing Member States’ ownership of the programme through the establishment of Regional Resource Units (RRUs) and the Lead Country concept as well as the opening of the Regional Office.

He urged Member States to avoid duplicating past IAEA efforts and to try to find unique ways to add value in RCA projects. He stressed that the IAEA wanted to be a partner in the RCA activities, pursuing the Agency’s goal of supporting development. He emphasized that the Agency would need to apply the “central criterion” to RCA project proposals. He suggested that there were many partners such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, etc who could be in a position to help fund RCA projects. He also suggested that the Regional Office could undertake tasks such as informing partners about the benefits of nuclear science and technology as well as its potential to assist in poverty reduction in the region. He stressed that the RCA should actively disseminate information on the existing know-how it had produced such as: petroleum tank leakage detection; radiation vulcanization of rubber; and, detection of

leakage in dikes and dams. He concluded by emphasizing that TCDC should be leading to ECDC.

Australia expressed appreciation of the issues raised by Mr. Qian, especially the importance of poverty reduction in the context of development priorities. From Australian experience, it was also noted that the alignment of the Member States' project goals with those of the Agency was important. Australia questioned whether Member States would identify regional priorities in the same way as they did their national ones. This could produce difficulties in assessing compliance with the "central criterion" as a basis for the Agency's assessment of the appropriateness of projects. Australia suggested that the Agency should consider some fine-tuning of the "central criterion" to apply to regional projects.

Thailand noted Mr. Qian's emphasis on TCDC and ECDC and suggested that ECDC could be viewed as an impact arising from TCDC. Thailand National Representative further added that RCA projects undertaken by the Agency had made identifiable social impacts and brought economic opportunities to the region.

China stressed the importance of both "ownership" and "partnership" in the RCA and the need to set TCDC as a priority in implementation of the project activities. This proposal was supported by a number of Member States.

4.8 TC Appraisal Process

During this presentation (Annex 7), Mr. Razley, SH-TCAPS, pointed out important principles taken into considerations during TC appraisal process such as: resource allocation; "central criterion"; and, demand driven programmes. He explained that the primary considerations for approving projects was that the quality of the projects with the potential to make impacts and meeting the "central criterion". In conclusion, he stressed that the TC resources were limited and the competition for project funding was strong. The Agency had established criteria for approving projects and all RCA

National Representatives should ensure that the RCA project proposals submitted for Agency funding met these, especially the “central criterion”. Member States took note of the information on the TC appraisal process.

5. The RCA Scientific Forum:

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of RCA Establishment

The RCA Scientific Forum was held in the afternoon of Monday 25 March and involved several invited speakers. A summary of this Forum is given in Annex 8.

24th RCA Meeting of National Representatives (continued)

6. Session II

6.1 Presentation of draft 2001 RCA Annual Report

Mr. Aleta briefly presented the draft 2001 RCA Annual Report, which included RCA highlights (Part 1), individual progress of the projects (Part 2) and details of countries’ involvement (Part 3). He informed the Meeting that he expected the draft report to be finalized with the help of Korean Government before the RCA General Conference Meeting in September in Vienna. Member States were requested to send inputs and comments to the Agency by the end of April 2002.

After his presentation, some suggestions were made concerning the need for guidelines on the definition of “highlights”. It was agreed that this would be further discussed under “Future Issues”, agenda item 10.1.

6.2 Major Activities in the RCA Programme in 2001

Mr. Aleta briefly introduced the agenda item on “Major Activities in the RCA Programme in 2001” (Annex 9). The major activities included the RCA policy level

meetings; the consultative meeting with other regional organizations in March 2001; and, the evaluation activity on training events under the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project. The documents were accepted as presented.

6.3 RCA Programme for 2002

Mr. Aleta introduced the agenda item on “RCA Programme for 2002” (Annex 10), which covered the issues of: projects and budget; the upcoming 31st RCA GC Meeting in September 2002; the Tripartite AFRA/ARCAL/RCA Meeting; Lead Country(ies) Meeting; briefing of mission representatives of the RCA MSs; and, regional events. He proposed that the RCA General Conference Meeting would be held on the Wednesday morning during the week of the IAEA General Conference and last half a day. The meeting discussed this extensively and there was a general feeling that it would not be possible to deal with all the matters in the allocated time during the forthcoming IAEA General Conference. The meeting recognized that future General Conference Meetings would be scheduled for a half-day and held the view that the matters covered by the future March National Representative Meeting should be more substantive to enable all the RCA matters to be adequately considered. He also informed Member States that, with their agreement, the RCA would propose the health sector as the topic of focus for the Tripartite AFRA/ARCAL/RCA meeting. This was agreed.

After his presentation, some comments and discussions were made concerning the timing interval for the project committee meetings was sometimes greater than the annual basis referred to in the Articles of the Agreement and on the desirability of having meeting reports available on the RCA Web site. There was also discussion on the suggestion by several Member States that projects should be evaluated by outside experts or the Agency’s project technical officer in addition to any self-evaluation. The IAEA’s budgetary constraint on such measures was noted and Member States were advised to ensure that such evaluations were covered in the project budgets.

6.4 East Asia Pacific Programme for 2002 and 2003/2004

RCA Programme for 2003/2004

Mr. Razley presented on the “East Asia Pacific Programme for 2002 and 2003/2004” (Annex 11). He stressed the importance of quality in the programme and outlined the East Asia programme. He commented on the challenges ahead for the RCA and suggested that there should be a focus on meeting the central criterion, reducing the number of projects and guaranteeing the quality of project delivery.

Some comments and suggestions were made by the National Representatives on: the need for the RCA to carry out a range of projects from nuclear power to radiation applications; the rationale behind the demarcation between the RCA projects and non-RCA projects; and, the roles and functions of the Regional Office and the RCA Coordinator’s office.

Mr. Qian added that, from his experience, most important TC modality was national projects. Latin American countries had been suggesting that more attention should be paid to national projects since they contended that regional projects tended not to solve national problems directly. The effectiveness of national projects was related to the “central criterion” which was a measure of support by each government. Project selection should be based on a competitive basis, with those successful having greater effectiveness and better design. He noted that regional projects were more efficient in dealing with common problems in the region. (e.g. transboundary issues)

Mr. Aleta briefly introduced the “RCA Programme for 2003/2004” (Annex 12). He informed the meeting that, with the exception of proposals in the health sector, the other sectoral proposals were not changed from the previous list distributed at the 30th General Conference Meeting. It was reaffirmed that the allocation of the budget for the thematic sectors in the RCA programme would be that agreed at the Dhaka National Representative Meeting in March 2001. However, if the budget for all the projects proposed for any one sector did not reach the allocated percentage, the Meeting agreed

that the “surplus” funds could also be considered for redistribution to the other sectors if warranted.

The Health Care sector Lead Country Coordinator (Dr. Kunto Wiharto) made a presentation on the project proposals for 2003/2004 (Annex 13) and proposed the package of proposals previously presented at the RCA General Conference Meeting be withdrawn.

After some discussions, the meeting endorsed the new package of project proposal for 2003/2004 and agreed that they should replace those agreed by the RCA General Conference Meeting and detailed in the list circulated by Mr. Aleta but with the condition that further consultations should be made with cooperating partners such as Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Singapore. A few Member States requested time to consult with their experts. All Member States were recommended to consult with their experts and send comments to Indonesia as well as the RCA Coordinator before 19 April 2002.

Japan proposed to extend the project on “LDR/HDR Brachytherapy for Treating Cervical Cancer” (RAS/6/035) using Japan’s extrabudgetary contributions. The meeting accepted the proposal to include this project in the health care sector programme.

The Chairman noted that two proposals had been submitted by the Philippines recently, after the deadline. One was on the disposal of non-power radioactive waste and the other on proficiency testing of reference materials for certification of laboratories. He suggested that the Philippines and the Lead Country, Korea should discuss further the proposal on the disposal of non-power radioactive waste and report to the next RCA General Conference meeting in September in Vienna.

7. Session III

7.1 Regional RCA Office: progress; programme for inauguration; issues

remaining

Mr. John Chung, Korea, introduced the agenda item (Annex 14). There was extensive discussion on the composition of an Interim Advisory Committee.

The meeting agreed that the representation on the Interim Advisory Committee for next two years would be Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Korea and RCA Coordinator. The RCA Coordinator would not have any voting rights. Japan reminded the meeting that all Member States were able to present their views to the Interim Advisory Committee.

India suggested that “Establishment of RCA Regional Office” could be viewed as yet another step towards ownership of the RCA. The funding for this could be considered as extrabudgetary support or cost-free office. This approach might avoid any need for action on legal issues, immunity, etc. Australia mentioned that in the past a regional office had been established in Indonesia and operated for more than ten years without requiring the setting up any legal arrangements. A similar approach with the new Regional Office was seen to be preferable. Mr. Razley explained that the Office established in Indonesia was part of operation of an UNDP/RCA/IAEA project. Therefore, the Office was operated as part of UNDP project.

7.2 Extension of the RCA Agreement: status

Mr. Aleta introduced the agenda item on “Extension of the RCA Agreement: status” (Annex 15). He informed the meeting that while legally the agreement extension would take effect on 12 June 2002, six Member States had already notified their consent to extend the Agreement. He requested the remaining Member States to notify their acceptance of the extension of the Agreement as soon as possible.

7.3 Management in RCA

7.4 Role of Research in RCA

Japan presented these two agenda items together and suggested an action plan for fine-tuning the RCA activities with regard to: the duties and responsibilities of the Lead Countries; the duties and responsibilities of the IAEA technical officers; projects and the sharing of valuable technical knowledge.

The meeting noted its appreciation of the efforts made by Japan and adopted the two papers (Annex 16 and 17) with the comment of “assisting lead countries” had also the same level of duties as described in the documents.

It was also noted that, in the process of implementing elements in the two papers, Member States should play their roles during the IAEA Regular Budget process, specially on the research programmes, to ensure their interests and priorities were taken into account.

7.5 Criteria for Hosting Regional Events outside the RCA

Mr. Aleta introduced the paper entitled “Revised Criteria for Holding RCA Events outside the RCA Region” (Annex 18). The set of criteria provided the basis whereby events could be hosted outside the RCA Member States. The meeting adopted the recommendations with the amendment that both new and old paragraphs of the first criterion should be retained and only the new paragraph for the second criteria should be kept. (Note: The revised version is in Annex 18a.)

8. Session IV

8.1 Implementation issues (host agreements; local operating costs; others)

Mr. Aleta introduced the paper entitled “Implementation Issues” (Annex 19). The issues included local operating costs, communication issues, lead times and reporting requirements.

Discussions focused on matters such as: priority of email as a communication tool; local operating costs; ready access to contact information about all the national project coordinators as well as the National Representatives; lead times related to implementation of activities; and, the strengthening of long-term fellowships for young people. The meeting noted the document.

The meeting agreed that only email message received from National Representatives or delegated alternates be recognized as official correspondence. Member States were reminded to duly complete application forms for insurance coverage of participants. The age limit for participants in training events as well as for long term fellowships was also discussed. Member States were asked to take note of the lead times required by the Agency for implementation of activities.

Mr. Aleta informed the meeting that the list of National RCA Representatives and National Project Coordinator would be placed on the RCA Homepage.

8.2 Regional Resource Units (RRUs) – developments

Mr. Aleta introduced the paper entitled “Developments on Regional Resource Units (RRUs)” (Annex 20) and Mr. Anand presented the paper entitled “Study on RRUs” (Annex 21). Member States were requested to update the information on the RRUs.

Some comments were made on the issue of utilization of RRUs in relation to project evaluation. There were suggestions and agreed concerning the review of RRUs by the project committee on an annual basis and that the project committee should include project evaluation as a standing agenda item as specified in the Articles of the Agreement. The meeting noted the two papers and Member States were requested to send feedback to the RCA Coordinator by the end of April 2002.

8.3 Lead Countries – developments

Mr. Aleta introduced the paper entitled “Lead Country” (Annex 22) containing a list of projects with and without Lead Country Coordinators. Member States were asked to confirm the accuracy of information on Lead Country Coordinators and to designate Lead Countries on new projects.

Some comments were made on the procedures leading up to the designation of Lead Country status. Concerning the Lead Country for the health sector; Japan emphasized its intention to support the health sector projects with sufficient human resources and expressed willingness to cooperate with Indonesia, the current lead country. Australia offered its continuing support as assisting Lead Country. It was announced that Indonesia would continue to be Lead Country for the health sector for implementation of 2002 and finalizing 2003-04. Japan offered to be an assisting Lead Country for thematic health sector during the period with the view to be the lead country for implementation of 2003-2004. Japan also offered to be the Lead Country for the health sector when the formulation of the 2005-06 programme commenced.

There was a proposal that the industry and environment sector should be split into two separate industry and environment thematic sectors with separate Lead Countries. This was agreed.

It was agreed that India would continue to be the Lead Country for the industry and environment sector for 2001-02. New Zealand, Pakistan and the Philippines offered to be the Lead Country for the environment sector from 2003.

Thailand commented that the title ‘Construction and Maintenance of Web site on Radiation Sterilization in Tissue Banking’ was to be removed from the Table of project proposals for 2003/2004 in the TCDC sector, because the intention of the RRU in Thailand was to host the Web site under the interregional project on the subject.

Japan announced that it had withdrawn as Lead Country for NDT and India offered to

be the Lead Country. The meeting determined that it was the responsibility of the NDT Project Committee Meeting to make decisions on approving a Lead Country.

It was noted that the UNDP/RCA/IAEA project (RAS/97/030) was designed to last 5 years and would continue until the end of this year. UNDP had only funded the first 3 years. No further funds were expected from the UNDP. It was also suggested that extension of subprojects could be continued for 2003-04 with a possible new title and be assigned to the appropriate sector.

The meeting noted the paper and Member States were requested to send information and comments to the RCA Coordinator.

8.4 Outsourcing – developments

Mr. Aleta introduced the paper entitled “Outsourcing” (Annex 23). He noted that the Agency was keen for Member States to do outsourcing, especially for events that would take place from June to the end of this year. A questionnaire was circulated for completion by interested countries and it was to be returned to the Agency for evaluation.

The Chairman noted that outsourcing could be an efficient implementation option. Suggestions were made on the possibility of the RCA Regional Office carrying out outsourcing tasks. It was observed that spin-off benefits could be achieved from undertaking outsourcing tasks. In discussions it was agreed that the “in-kind contributions” from Member States hosting of events would not be affected if they were also involved in outsourcing.

The meeting noted the paper and Member States were requested to send their responses to the RCA Coordinator as soon as possible, especially for those who would be proposing to host events beginning in June 2002.

8.5 Report on Participatory Evaluation of RCA Training Events

Mr. Aleta introduced the paper entitled “Self-Evaluation” (Annex 24) and Mr. Awais, Pakistan introduced the paper entitled “Report on Participatory Evaluation of RCA Training Events” (Annex 25).

Member States voiced their appreciation of the presentation made by Mr. Awais and the evaluation done by nine participating countries. The Meeting noted the conclusions and recommendations on the need to focus on practical training and to enhance the performance of training. It was also noted that this was the first formal evaluation of training events by Member States and was a learning process for all participants. More progress and insight would be expected in future evaluations. It was noted that Australia, Japan and New Zealand were not involved in the current evaluation process, even though they provided resource personnel for training events. There was a request that they should also be included in the future evaluation process. The meeting felt there was no need for further training on the subject.

The Chairman expressed the hope that the comments and suggestions would be reflected in the next evaluation process. The meeting noted the paper and encouraged all Member States to undertake self-evaluation based on the experiences noted in this report.

8.6 Adoption of Information Flow Chart (From Recommendations of the Electronic Networking and Outreach (ENO) Counterparts Meeting)

Malaysia presented the paper entitled “Information Flow” (Annex 26) and emphasized that it was the key to a coordinated approach to the website and information flow. They stated that this was currently a very important element in pursuing regional cooperation.

Member States noted with appreciation the effort made by Malaysia. The Meeting encouraged Member States to adapt the flow chart to fit in their own country

coordination. The flow chart might be further reviewed in the light of establishment of the RCA Regional Office. It was suggested that during the forthcoming Lead Country meeting to be held in Vienna, this issue could be further discussed.

9. Session V

9.1 Regional Cooperation

Under this item, cooperation with FNCA and with other regional organizations was discussed.

FNCA

Dr. Machi on behalf of the FNCA presented a paper on the activities under FNCA(Annex 27) and highlighted that nuclear technology and applications developed by FNCA should be disseminated to RCA Member States to the extent possible. He anticipated that the FNCA would have synergy effect and be complimentary to other regional cooperation bodies, especially RCA. He also noted that FNCA was representing the field of nuclear science and technology in Japan and was expected to cooperate with other regional cooperation mechanisms.

The Meeting appreciated the FNCA's efforts to be complimentary with the RCA and also the readiness of the Japanese Government to expect the FNCA to make an intellectual contribution to the RCA, while also anticipating that there would be a synergetic relationship between these two mechanisms. In response to concerns expressed by India that, in the process of cooperation, RCA priorities should not be diluted or lost, Dr. Machi assured that there would not be any duplication and the FNCA would share its expertise with the RCA in areas such as ^{99m}Tc generators, treatment of cervic cancer, etc.

Tripartite AFRA/ARCAL/RCA

Regarding the Tripartite AFRA/ARCAL/RCA meeting, there would be presentations on

the progress of the technologies agreed to be transferred among the regional agreements and the exchange of information on success stories in the health sector thematic area.

Other Regional Organizations

On the follow up on action items on the consultative meeting held with other regional organizations, Mr. Aleta presented the requests made by other organizations such as IMO, UNICEF. Concerning the ESCAP, it was noted that they had submitted a paper on a regional action plan which mentioned ongoing projects of the RCA, e.g. air pollution, etc. Member States were requested to submit more information to the RCA Office on these activities for forwarding to ESCAP.

Dr. Easey detailed initiatives by Australia and Malaysia to have nuclear science and technology as part of the agenda of APEC's industrial science and technology programme. Dr. Easey said he would be contacting individual National Representatives with a view to making a further approach at an appropriate APEC meeting.

The meeting noted the progress made and reconfirmed that more cooperation with other regional organizations was appropriate and would be sought.

10. Session VI

10.1 Future Issues for RCA

Under this item, the following future issues were collected. In view of limited of time, the issues were not discussed but agreed to deliberate in future meetings.

- i) The RCA Regional Office, with the advice of Interim Advisory Committee, would start to study issues and report to next RCA Meeting of National Representatives;
- ii) project evaluation using electronic means;
- iii) increasing project ownership & partnership;
- iv) the interrelation between the RCA radiation protection project and the non-RCA

- regional model project;
- v) the importance of water resources and the use of isotope hydrology as a unique and efficient tool to assist in water resource studies;
 - vi) the paper by Prof. Djaloeis, Indonesia, entitled “RCA in the 21st Century: Enterprising, Meeting Challenges and Capturing Opportunities” (Annex 28) was distributed but because of a shortage of time was not discussed;
 - vii) RCA representation at the 4th Summit Prepcom for the Johannesburg Summit 2002 scheduled to be held in Bali, 27 May to 7 June. It was pointed out by several delegations that it would be difficult for the RCA to be involved at such a late stage in the preparations;
 - viii) follow up with other regional organizations.

The Australian proposal for a project on improving regional capabilities for assessment, planning and response to environmental and radiological emergencies was reviewed. It was noted that this proposal had previously been discussed and supported at the RCA PRM for radiation protection held in Dhaka in February 2002. The meeting expressed its support for the proposal.

Japan suggested that the next RCA Meeting of National Representative should consider how the RCA might respond to the new priorities and needs concerned with the threat of nuclear terrorism and related issues that had arisen since the events of September 11.

10.2 25th Meeting of RCA National Representatives

The National Representative of Pakistan, Mr. Awais proposed to host the next RCA National Representatives Meeting in Pakistan and also its willingness to celebrate the 25th National Representative Meeting, possibly in March 2003. The meeting welcomed the proposal made by Pakistan. The National Representative of Sri Lanka, Mr. Jayasinghe offered Sri Lanka to be the alternate host country.

11. Opening of the RCA Regional Office

Opening Ceremony of the RCA Regional Office was held on 27 March 2002 at Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, Daejeon, Korea.

A progress report on the establishment of the RCA Regional Office was made by the interim regional representative of the Office, Mr. Jin-Kyung Kim and congratulatory remarks on behalf of the host government were given by Dr. Hee-Yol Yu, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, Korea. Mr. Qian Jihui, Deputy Director General, TC, on behalf of the IAEA and Prof. Dr. Choudhury on behalf of the RCA Member States also addressed the Opening Ceremony.

24th RCA Meeting of National Representatives (continued)

12. Wrap-up and Closing Session

12.1 Review of Meeting Report

The draft meeting report was presented and discussed at length. It was adopted in principle subject to the incorporation of the various agreed amendments.

12.2 Closing

Member States expressed their thanks to the organizers of the meeting and especially for the fine organization and arrangements made by the Chairman and his staff.

Mr. Razley on behalf of the IAEA expressed thanks to the government of the Republic of Korea and to the meeting organizers. He noted with pleasure that the meeting had dealt most effectively with the many issues in front of it and made significant progress.

Annex 8. The RCA Scientific Forum: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of RCA Establishment

In his opening remarks, Dr. Chung-Won Cho expressed the hope that the speakers would give guidance on the further development of the RCA to tackle the new challenges that would be faced in the future.

Mr. Qian Jihui emphasized the progress that RCA Member States had made since the regional agreement started. He noted the RCA's efforts to meet the challenges the region was facing using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. He also mentioned that the alleviation of poverty through sustainable development was a concern of the international community, including IAEA. He encouraged the RCA, in the future, to find ways to give added value to their projects based on past experiences. In concluding his remarks, he said he was certain of optimistic prospects for future cooperation among the RCA Member States.

5.1 'The Legend of the RCA' by Mr. A.K. Anand

Mr. Anand presented a history of the RCA technical cooperation programme over the past 30 years, dividing it into three stages. The experience and achievements from implementing the RCA activities had been well recognized by the Agency. During the first 25 years of the RCA, about 275 meetings were organized and about 65 projects undertaken. He observed that there were no research reactors related projects until 1996.

He presented statistics showing the increase in the RCA activities. He gave examples in the different areas: Agriculture, Health, Industry, Environment, Energy/Research Reactor/Waste Management, Radiation Protection and General TCDC. He cited examples of projects using nuclear applications in agriculture in China and India where population is huge and their dependency on agriculture is high. The impact of UMMBs in Asian countries was analyzed. (Annex 29).

5.2 'Serving for Human Needs' by Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury

Prof. Choudhury made a presentation entitled "Nuclear Technology for Clean Drinking Water". He said that the supply of fresh water could not meet the needs of growing population especially in developing countries. He described the situation in Bangladesh as alarming and added that, to make things worse, the presence of arsenic in drinking water posed even greater threats to health. To meet such threats, he noted that isotope techniques had been successfully used for groundwater assessment, monitoring of water flow, and evaluation of the contamination of water resources.

He informed the meeting that Bangladesh was initiating water projects with the help of World Bank and IAEA. He cited the importance of fresh water placed by the Rio Conference on Environment and Development, which had put emphasis on the protection of the quality and the supply of clean water. Before concluding his presentation, he highlighted the importance of clean water supply in connection with sustainable development and poverty reduction. (Annex 30)

5.3 'New Challenges with Nuclear Techniques' by Dr. Suelo Machi

Dr. Machi detailed examples of radiation technology being used in environmental protection and in nuclear applications in agriculture with reference to projects in Japan, Malaysia and Viet Nam. He also discussed radiation therapy techniques for the treatment of cancer. In conclusion, he emphasized that new nuclear technologies would contribute to sustainable development. (Annex 31)

5.4 'For a better Partnership' by Dr. John Easey

Dr. Easey proposed that a strategic approach was needed to handle major issues in the future for RCA. Since funding resources were expected to be limited, finding the most effective means to achieve the RCA programme goals was needed. He suggested that a

paradigm shift was necessary to change the image from the IAEA's RCA to Member States' RCA. Possible funding options for the RCA programme were presented. He proposed that carefully focused awareness campaigns on the RCA could be a means to expand the RCA's activities. He concluded that RCA's future lay in the strength of the Regional Cooperation. (Annex 32)

5.5. Wrap-up: 'Toward a Viable Economic Development' by Prof. Byong-Whi Lee

Prof. Lee noted that, based on his experience from the evaluation of IAEA/RCA/UNDP, the issues to improve the benefits from radioisotope and radiation applications for viable economic development were project design, project management and project operation. He also stressed that future strategies for improving these benefits should focus on giving assistance to small and medium size industries in improving their productivity and product quality, giving priority to tackle environmental problems and addressing the need to upgrade transport infrastructure of the region. (Annex 33)

After presentation, the following comments were made;

Dr. Easey mentioned that both the Member States and the Agency had a responsibility to improve the RCA programme and gave examples of problems observed in the training area. He also suggested that the region needed more experience in the technical management of projects.

Dr. Machi urged those involved in the use of application of nuclear energy or nuclear power to communicate more with others and do it more effectively. He criticized the Agency for not providing a high level of information on the advantages of nuclear energy.

Mr. Razley admitted that the Agency was not doing very well to communicate the benefits of nuclear energy. He related the recent Agency's experience with CNN and BBC as examples of communicating with the media.

On the paper of Prof. Lee, Mr. Aleta, RCA Coordinator commented that the Agency had gradually been improving the project design through the application of model project criteria.

Prof. Choudhury recalled that there has been a change in the policies of the Agency regarding project design, project management monitoring and evaluation. A manual had been developed for TC project Planning and Design in collaboration with US Argonne Laboratory and it included the use of a logical framework matrix. He agreed that all projects had to fulfill the project criteria in order to be approved. He noted that training policy has also changed recently and that the selection of trainees was more rigorous than in the past.

Prof. Lee commented that a current major challenge was how to harness new nuclear technology for sustainable development. He said he was worried that the UNDP funding was not available now. He agreed that projects should be mission oriented and suggested that the Agency should seek additional funding and also assist in the sustainable supply of qualified manpower. He said it was most important for RCA activities to be sustainable.

Dr. Easey mentioned that funding from donors had essentially plateaued and that the staffing level in international agencies was also static. The RCA had valuable skills, skilled manpower and active regional and national networks should be able to go out and exploit this situation and through it earn money which could be used to fund other RCA projects or priorities.