

Management in RCA

(Japan Paper)

At the 23rd RCA National Representatives Meeting at Dhaka, Bangladesh in March 2001, the Japanese delegate presented a paper detailing a number of proposed refinements to the implementation of the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules in the areas of Lead Countries, the role of IAEA Technical Officers, the identification of projects and project assessment. In the discussion, it was pointed out that RCA had already considered or put in place guidelines covering some of these issues. However, it was also discussed that there was a further need to delineate the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Countries and Technical Officers as well as further clarify project development and approval and share technical knowledge. To this end, Japan was again requested to draft a new version of proposal for better RCA management for consideration at the 30th RCA General Conference. Australia offered to assist Japan in the revision.

Action Plan for improvement in RCA activities

RCA Member States (MSs) should make the following efforts and request IAEA Secretariat and relevant persons to make RCA activities more effective and more efficient under the concept of Lead Country.

1. Duties and Responsibilities of the Lead Countries

- (1) Regarding the required conditions of the Lead Countries, which are provided in “the Guidelines”*, Annex 1, *Part 1: The Lead Country Concept within the Management of RCA Projects*, 4. *Selection Criteria for Lead Countries*, the Lead Countries should make every effort to the best extent feasible to ensure adequate financial, staff and secretarial support from its own government and nuclear research institutes to implement their missions.
- (2) Regarding “the Guidelines”, Annex 1, Part 1, 6.1 *Prior to a Project Formulation Meeting*, the Lead Countries should make even greater efforts to strengthen “contact with each country’s project coordinators” and “contact with IAEA/RCA Office” in order to further upgrade the activities.

2. Duties and Responsibilities of the IAEA Technical Officers

Regarding “the Guidelines”, 3.1 *Role and Responsibilities of the Agency*, and considering the importance of the role of the IAEA Technical Officers for the smooth promotion of RCA projects, the IAEA Secretariat should make the following efforts:

- (1) To ensure closer cooperation between the IAEA/RCA Office and the IAEA Technical Officers responsible for RCA projects to contribute to the smooth management of RCA activities.

- (2) To ensure that the IAEA Technical Officers communicate as necessary with the Project Coordinators of each country whenever transmitting the project plan or the status of implementation, and whenever publishing meeting reports or technical documents after the completion of projects.
- (3) To ensure that together with the IAEA Technical Officers they should monitor and review the implementation of project activities to further improve the management of projects.
- (4) To ensure the IAEA Technical Officers to transmit the results of training workshops to the Department of Technical Co-operation as well as other relevant departments and divisions.

3. Projects

- (1) Regarding “the Guidelines”, *4.1 Development and Approval of New Co-operative Project Proposals*, and taking into account the model project criteria, identification of the nuclear science and technology needs can be applied for each country should be made. Every RCA project should be designed to address these needs.
- (2) Regarding “the Guidelines”, *6. Funding Arrangements*, in the interest of transparency, the process and result of the fund allocations from the RCA hardcore budget to each project should be explained in more detail.
- (3) RCA projects should be evaluated after completion.

4. Sharing of valuable technical knowledge

- (1) Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that RCA training workshop participants pass on valuable technical knowledge gained in the RCA training workshops to local research communities, and that the diffusion of technical knowledge gained through the RCA training workshops, such as minimizing job transfers of trained participants and other similar significant problems.
- (2) With the cooperation of the IAEA Secretariat, the possibility of establishing a monitoring system should be considered whereby training workshops participants share their acquired knowledge in their own countries.