



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

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**REPORT**

**38<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE NATIONAL RCA REPRESENTATIVES**

**17–20 May 2016**

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

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## **Acronyms**

BoG	Board of Governors
DIR-TCAP	Director for Asia and the Pacific Division
DIR-RCARO	Director of RCA Regional Office
FNCA	Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia
GCM	General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
GOR	Guidelines and Operating Rules
GP	Government Party to the RCA Agreement
NR(s)	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	National RCA Representatives Regional Meeting
LC	Lead Country
LCC	Lead Country Coordinator
PCMF	TC Programme Cycle Management Framework
PMO(s)	Programme Management Officer
PPAR	Project Progress Assessment Report
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RCAPAC	RCA Programme Advisory Committee
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RCA-FP	RCA Focal Person
TC	Technical Cooperation Programme
TCAP	Division for Asia and the Pacific
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
TO(s)	Technical Officers
WG(s)	Working Group(s)

## **Introduction**

The 38th National RCA Representatives Meeting (NRM) was held at Tuushin Best Western Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17 to 20 May 2016.

The Meeting was attended by forty four (44) participants from twenty (20) RCA Government Parties; Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), Cambodia (KAM), China (CPR), Fiji (FIJ), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Republic of Korea (ROK), Laos (LAO), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), Nepal (NEP), New Zealand (NZE), Pakistan (PAK), Palau (PLW), the Philippines (PHI), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA) and Vietnam (VIE). Four representatives of the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) as well as two members of the RCA Programme Advisory Committee (RCAPAC) attended the Meeting.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was represented by Mr Dazhu Yang, Deputy Director General of Department of Technical Cooperation, Ms Najat Mokhtar, Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific (DIR-TCAP), and Mr Sinh Van Hoang, RCA Focal Person (RCA-FP).

The list of participants is given in **Annex 1**.

## **Opening Ceremony**

### **Statement by the Representative of the Host Country**

Mr Batbaatar Bat (Advisor to the Prime Minister of Mongolia), on behalf of Mr Saikhanbileg Chimed (Prime Minister of Mongolia), greeted participants and warmly welcomed them to Mongolia. He noted the importance of nuclear science and technology in Mongolia and highlighted the significant contribution of the RCA to Mongolia and the region in terms of training and development in nuclear science and technology. Mr Bat stated that the RCA will play an important role in achievement of sustainable development goals in relation to climate change, environmental degradation, food supply, energy, economic development and health for the region. Mr Bat concluded by emphasising Mongolia's commitment to supporting peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology worldwide.

Mr Bat's full address is provided in **Annex 2**.

### **Statement by the Representative of the IAEA**

Mr Dazhu Yang, Deputy Director General of the Department of Technical Cooperation, IAEA, delivered the opening statement on behalf of the IAEA. He thanked Mongolia and the Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia for hosting the Meeting. He encouraged RCA GPs to work together to enhance the leadership and partnership of the RCA. He wished fruitful meeting and pleasant stay in Mongolia.

Mr Yang's full address is given in **Annex 3**.

## **1. Welcome Remarks of the Current RCA Chair**

Mr Ahmed Imtiaz, Director General, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and NR **PAK**, delivered welcoming remarks as the outgoing Chair of the RCA. He thanked NRs, the IAEA

and RCARO for active participation and excellent cooperation and assistance during his tenure as RCA Chair, and he thanked Mongolia for arrangements and hosting the NRM. Mr Imtiaz noted the important role played by nuclear science and technology for development for the region, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry, human health and environment. He highlighted that the RCA has provided a helpful vehicle for facilitating the role of nuclear science and technology in regional development, for example for growing transfer of knowledge and expertise from established GPs to developing GPs. He concluded by wishing the new RCA Chair every success.

### **Designation of the new RCA Chairperson/Rapporteurs**

The RCA Chair called for nominations for the new Chair of the RCA. PAK nominated the NR of the host country, Mr Mavag Chadraabal, NR of MON and Head of Department of Nuclear Technology, Mongolia Nuclear Energy Commission, to be the new Chair of the RCA. Mr Chadraabal was unanimously elected.

The Chair called for nominations for rapporteurs of the Meeting. NZE and PHI indicated willingness to fulfil this role, with the support of RCARO. Participants supported the proposal and NZE and PHI with the support of RCARO agreed to be rapporteurs for the meeting.

**Mr Mavag Chadraabal, NR of MON, was unanimously elected as the new RCA Chair.**

**NZE and PHI were appointed as Rapporteurs for the Meeting, with assistance provided by RCARO.**

### **Remarks of the New RCA Chair**

The new RCA Chair Mr Chadraabal thanked Mr Ahmed Imtiaz for his contribution as the RCA Chair in the previous year. He also thanked the IAEA and RCARO for their continuous support. With the support of all participants, he looked forward to a successful Meeting.

## **2. Adoption of the Agenda – RCANRM(38)/1**

The meeting adopted the agenda as proposed (Annex 4) with the following three items to be discussed under AOB:

- 60th anniversary of IAEA
- Regional programme framework
- Coordination across the four Regional/Cooperation Agreements

**The Meeting adopted the agenda with the following three items to be discussed under Any Other Business:**

- **60th anniversary of IAEA;**
- **Regional programme framework; and**
- **Coordination across the four Regional/Cooperation Agreements.**

### **3. Reports on follow up actions of the 44th GCM – RCANRM(38)/2**

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided a summary of the major follow-up actions arising from the 44<sup>th</sup> GCM meeting report (**Annex 5**). The RCA-FP noted that all but one of the planned activities has been implemented as scheduled, and he thanked the NRs, WGs and the DIR-TCAP for their strong collaboration and support. The only outstanding overdue item is for NRs to provide the names of NPCs and Alternate NPCs for each of the new projects that they will participate in for the 16/17 cycle. **NZE** thanked the RCA-FP for delivering the report and suggested that the meeting should request all NRs to provide the names of the NPCs and Alternate NPCs to the RCA-FP within two weeks of the conclusion of the NRM.

**The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCA-FP and acknowledged the strong support of the Agency in implementing the follow-up actions from the 44th GCM.**

**The Meeting agreed that, for each of the new projects that they will participate in for the 16-17 TC cycle, any NRs that have not yet sent the names of their NPCs and Alternate NPCs to the RCA-FP are requested to do so within two weeks of the conclusion of the NRM.**

### **4. RCA Annual Report for 2015 – RCANRM(38)/3**

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to provide a brief summary of the Draft RCA Annual Report 2015 which had been circulated to NRs (**Annex 6**). After his summary, participants thanked the RCA-FP for the draft report.

**PHI** suggested that the Annual Report should contain a summary of the projects completed in 2015. The RCA-FP recommended that the NRs make comments and recommendations on the RCA Annual Report 2015 to be compiled in the final version of the report.

**The Meeting took note of the draft RCA Annual Report 2015. The meeting agreed that any comments on the draft RCA Annual Report 2015 (RCANRM(38)/3) should be provided by NRs to the RCA-FP and the RCA Chair using track changes by 8 June 2016, with the final version of the report to be circulated by the RCA-FP to NRs by 15 June, 2016.**

### **5. Implementation of the RCA Programme**

#### **a. Review of the implementation of the RCA Programme in 2015 – RCANRM(38)/4**

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided a review of key issues regarding implementation of the RCA programme in 2015. A paper had been circulated to participants (**Annex 7**). The RCA-FP raised three issues, namely submission of nominations, submission of progress assessment reports, and distribution of GOR to LCCs and NPCs. He encouraged the NRs to work closely with the LCCs and NPCs for the submission of nominations and progress assessment reports of projects in a timely manner. Furthermore he requested the NRs to distribute the GOR to LCCs and NPCs for them to undertake their roles and responsibilities properly.



MYA raised the issue of difficult communications and relationships between the NRs and LCCs and NPCs. It was recommended that the Agency circulate the GOR to all LCCs and NPCs for them to take the roles and responsibilities seriously.

AUL noted that it is not possible for donor countries to use the In-Touch platform, and indicated that this issue has been raised several times previously. Clarification from the Agency was requested whether this problem could actually be fixed. The DIR-TCAP indicated that the Agency is working on giving non-recipient GPs access to use the In-Touch platform. The RCA-FP agreed to progress this effort with the Agency's IT department.

DIR-TCAP commented that the nomination forms and the PPARs are important for the operation of the RCA Programme, and so the meeting should consider mechanisms for their effective implementation. The DIR-TCAP suggested that the requirement for submission of PPARs should be included in the project work plan. The RCA-FP also suggested that NRs could consider and decide whether the PPARs should be submitted annually rather than 6-monthly, noting the importance of having NPCs provide the required input to the LCC on time and in sufficient detail.

AUL, PAK, THA, MAL, PHI and NZE supported the suggestion that the PPARs do not need to be submitted six-monthly but instead should be submitted annually by the LCCs in mid-January of each year so that the information can be included in the RCA Annual Report. PHI further supported the suggestion of the DIR-TCAP that the submission of PPARs should be included in the project plans.

PLW and NEP raised the issue of the complex domestic process for the nomination which need some lead time. In response, the DIR-TCAP pointed out the importance of the submission of nominations and reports on time for the TCAP to carry out the annual schedule on time. Taking into account the role of NRs as an interface between the Agency and LCCs, it was requested that the NRs closely coordinate with LCCs and NPCs for submissions. It was also noted that the nominations can be made not only through InTouch but also through mail or E-mail, according to the timeline.

**The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCA-FP. The Meeting agreed that NRs should work closely with LCCs and NPCs to ensure that appropriate nominations and complete reports are submitted to the Agency by the agreed deadlines.**

**The Meeting agreed that Project Progress Assessment Reports would be submitted annually by LCCs to the Agency by 15 Jan of each year, with a copy to the respective NR. NRs are encouraged to assist LCCs and NPCs to meet this deadline.**

#### **b. Planned Arrangements of Regional Events in 2016 by the RCA FP – RCANRM(38)/5**

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to present the arrangements for management of the RCA projects as well as a plan for implementation of the RCA events in 2016.

The RCA-FP presented a list of planned regional events for the remainder of 2016 (**Annex 8**). He asked that NRs review and confirm their agreement to host the planned regional events. The DIR-TCAP suggested that, since the events and dates are now known, NRs could begin the process of identifying suitable nominees to ensure that nominations are submitted to the Agency within the stipulated deadlines.

The RCA-FP explained that the management of TCAP will now require that all events (regional training courses, meetings, workshops) be submitted by PMOs to the DIR-TCAP in early October of the year prior to their occurrence to ensure that a concrete plan is set for events in each year or each project. The meeting did not raise any concerns with this new modality.

AUL requested for clarification on the timeline to notify the Agency on the host of regional events. In response the IAEA commented that at least 6 months are needed for the process of confirmation between the Agency and GPs but it would be preferable for the GPs to follow the new guideline on the submission of the plan in early October of previous year.

**The Meeting noted the forward work programme for the remainder of 2016, and requested NRs to advise the RCA-FP, within two weeks of the conclusion of the Meeting, of their confirmation to host the events to which they have been assigned.**

**The Meeting also agreed that NRs will assist LCCs to develop a concrete annual plan for regional events, to be confirmed with and communicated to the PMOs and the RCA-FP by early October of each year for all events to take place in the following year.**

## **6. Review of the Progress of the RCA Projects by the National Representatives of the Project Lead Countries – RCANRM(38)/6**

The RCA Chair noted that a Background Document had been circulated (Annex 9). Progress on the implementation of each RCA project was presented by the Lead Country responsible. The presentations are Annexes 10 to 24. The specific projects presented and discussed were:

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>LCC</b>	<b>Annex</b>
RAS5055	AUL	10
RAS6077	AUL	11
RAS7021	AUL	12
RAS6053	JPN	13
RAS6062	JPN	14
RAS6072	JPN	15
RAS5056	CPR	16
RAS1020	IND	17*
RAS6071	IND	18*
RAS6065	ROK	19
RAS6076	ROK	20
RAS5071	PHI	21
RAS6063	PHI	22
RAS7024	PHI	23
RAS5070	INS	24
RAS1014	MAL	25
RAS7023	NZE	26
RAS7022	PAK	27

\* IND was not present at the Meeting so these projects were not discussed, but the relevant presentations had been circulated with the Meeting Background Papers.

INS and PHI highlighted the public biases and perceptions associated with the words ‘nuclear’ and ‘radiation’. The RCA Chair suggested that each GP should decide its own stance with regard to use or otherwise of the word ‘nuclear’ with respect to RCA projects and activities. The RCA-FP noted that the IAEA and RCARO can play a role to give GPs a collective voice to explain nuclear science and technology and their societal benefits to the public. PHI noted that JPN has had success in public engagement. RCARO indicated willingness to promote the benefits of nuclear science and technology on behalf of GPs. AUL further noted that FNCA is active in public engagement with regard to nuclear science and technology.

**The Meeting took note of the reports by RCA Projects and encouraged the on-going efforts within RCA projects to engage with end users and strengthen partnerships and collaborations.**

## **7. Preparation of the RCA Programme for 2018-2019 by the RCA PAC Chair and RCA FP – RCANRM(38)/7**

On behalf of the Chair of RCA PAC, Ms Soldedad Castaneda, a member of RCA PAC, gave a presentation on the preparation of the RCA programme for 2018-2019 (Annex 28). She presented summary of its evaluation and review of the project concepts through two rounds of reviews and the RCA PAC Meeting held in February 2016.

The Meeting discussed the RCA PAC recommendation pertaining to the role of NRs in screening Project Concepts. NZE and PAK supported the RCA PAC’s recommendation. The Meeting agreed that, for future TC cycles, NRs will screen all Project Concepts and ensure that all those submitted to the RCA PAC meet the basic RCA criteria and that no two concepts address essentially similar focus in any technological area.

The Meeting discussed the RCA PAC recommendation pertaining to baseline information of relevance to each project. PHI noted that a baseline assessment is important and should include evaluation of resources and infrastructure. This suggestion was supported by AUL, PLW and NZE. PAK suggested that the baseline evaluation should be performed at the Project Concept stage rather than in the first Project Meeting. The RCA-FP indicated that the required information should be available from the Agency to allow its consideration during development of the Project Concepts. The Meeting agreed that, for future TC cycles, a detailed baseline of the capacity and competence of each participating GP in a project should be included in each Project Concept document, and that this information should be made available to RCA GPs during the evaluation of the Project Concepts.

The Meeting discussed the role of NRs during the development of Project Designs for the 2018/19 Cycle. To the extent possible and appropriate, the Meeting agreed that Project Designs for the 2018/19 Cycle and Project Concepts/Designs for future TC Cycles should:

- provide evidence of specific partnerships or sponsorship arrangements within each GP that intends to participate in the project, and
- incorporate the agreed recommendations on TCDC as set out in the GOR

The Meeting discussed the RCA PAC recommendation pertaining to alternation of the LC role for on-going or related projects. There was general support for rotation of the LC role, provided another suitably qualified and willing LC can be identified. PAK suggested that an Alternative LCC should be appointed for each Project to facilitate the transfer of leadership to

another GP. For continuation projects, PHI suggested that change of LC should be considered and decided by GPs at the Final Project Review Meeting of each Project. PAK and AUL supported this suggestion. JPN and INS noted that there may be issues with this approach if NPCs change between sequential, related projects. PLW suggested that GPs could be invited to express interest in the LC role during the Project Concept stage. The Meeting agreed that NRs will endeavour to implement the decision of the 41st GCM that no GP should act as LC for any sequence of related projects for more than two TC Cycles, provided another suitably qualified and willing LC can be identified.

The Meeting discussed the RCA PAC recommendation that key reference documentation on the past RCA programme and the past projects approved for the Asia Pacific regional TC programme be displayed on the RCARO website. The RCARO indicated willingness to perform this role but noted that it would require some redesign of the RCARO website. Mr Tomoaki Tamaki, speaking on behalf of the RCA PAC, noted that the required key documents for preparation of Project Concepts have not yet been identified but could include the MTS, a list of fields of activities, a list of past projects, an explanation of what TCDC implies, etc. The RCA-FP offered to provide information on the past RCA Projects approved by the Board of Governors. PHI further suggested that published papers from past projects should also be made available on the RCARO website. The Meeting requested the RCARO to liaise with the RCA-FP and the RCA PAC to identify key documents that will assist the GPs and RCA PAC in formulation and evaluation of Project Concepts and Designs, then make these documents available in a central location on the RCA website.

Finally, the Meeting discussed the selection of Project Concepts that should be developed into Project Designs. The RCA PAC initially received 52 draft Project Concepts and provided its feedback to the GPs. After the review of the RCA PAC, 35 Project Concepts were considered for prioritisation by the GPs. Finally, the following top-ranked 15 Project Concepts were discussed to determine which should be developed into Project Designs.

Project Concept(s)	Proposing GP	Rank
RAS2016008	NZE	1
RAS2016009	JPN	2
RAS2016010	AUL	3
RAS2016025	AUL	4
RAS2016023	ROK	5
RAS2016011	AUL	6
RAS2016012	PAK	7
RAS2016017	IND	8
RAS2016013	MAL	9
RAS2016014	MAL	10
RAS2016015	PAK	11
RAS2016024	VIE	12
RAS2016018	IND	13
RAS2016022	PHI	14
RAS2016016	PAK	15

The Meeting agreed that the following seven Project Designs will be developed by the respective LCs indicated in the table below. The designated LCs are asked to liaise with GPs that proposed similar Project Concepts as shown in the table below, for the purpose of developing the best possible Project Design that incorporates all related elements. The LCs are

strongly encouraged to secure extra-budgetary funding and develop strong partnerships with regional stakeholders.

Topic	Lead Country	Project Concept(s)	Project Concept Ranking(s)
Food authentication	NZE	RAS2016008 NZE	1
Radiation oncology	JPN	RAS2016009 JPN RAS2016022 PHI	2 14
Soils/agriculture	AUL	RAS2016010 AUL RAS2016013 MAL	3 9
Medical physics	AUL	RAS2016025 AUL	4
Nuclear medicine	ROK	RAS2016023 ROK RAS2016012 PAK RAS2016024 VIE RAS2016017 IND <i>Including paediatrics if possible</i>	5 7 12 8
Coastal erosion	AUL	RAS2016011 AUL	6
NDT/E	MAL	RAS2016014 MAL	10

The Meeting agreed that the following Project Designs may be developed, at the discretion of the LCs, with the understanding that they will need to be supported entirely by extra-budgetary contributions:

Topic	Lead Country	Project Concept(s)	Project Concept Ranking(s)
Radiotracers	PAK	RAS2016015 PAK	11
Energy systems	PAK	RAS2016016 PAK	15

The Meeting agreed that the Project Concept on mutation breeding (RAS2016018) would not be invited to prepare a Project Design because it involves significant overlap with the on-going project RAS5070. However, the Meeting invited IND to liaise with the LCC to identify any possible elements of the Project Concept RAS2016018 that could be added to Project RAS5070.

NRs of the respective LCs agreed to send the draft Project Designs to the RCA Chair by 9 August 2016, with a copy RCA FP and Chair RCA PAC. Thereafter the Meeting agreed to adopt the “Extended Draft Timetable for Actions Related to the Development of RCA Projects for the 2018/2019 TC Programme” as set out in Annex 12 of RCANRM(38)-7.

**The Meeting agreed that, for future TC cycles, NRs will screen all Project Concepts and ensure that all those submitted to the RCA PAC meet the basic RCA criteria and that no two concepts from their GP address essentially similar focus in any technological area.**

**The Meeting agreed that, for future TC cycles, a detailed baseline of the capacity and competence of each participating GP in a project should be included in each Project Concept document, and that this information should be made available to RCA GPs during the evaluation of the Project Concepts.**

**To the extent possible and appropriate, the Meeting agreed that Project Designs for the 2018/19 Cycle and Project Concepts/Designs for future TC Cycles should:**

- provide evidence of specific partnerships or sponsorship arrangements within each GP that intends to participate in the project, and
- incorporate the agreed recommendations on TCDC as set out in the GOR.

The Meeting agreed that NRs will endeavour to implement the decision of the 41st GCM that no GP should act as LC for any sequence of related projects for more than two TC Cycles, provided another suitably qualified and willing LC can be identified.

The Meeting requested the RCARO to liaise with the RCA-FP and the RCA PAC to identify key documents that will assist the GPs and RCA PAC in formulation and evaluation of Project Concepts and Designs, then make these documents available in a central location on the RCA website.

The Meeting agreed that the following seven Project Designs will be developed by the respective LCs. The designated LCs are asked to liaise with GPs that proposed similar Project Concepts as shown in the table below, for the purpose of developing the best possible Project Design that incorporates all related elements. The LCs are strongly encouraged to secure extra-budgetary funding and develop strong partnerships with regional stakeholders.

Topic	Lead Country	Project Concept(s)	Project Concept Ranking(s)
Food authentication	NZE	RAS2016008 NZE	1
Radiation oncology	JPN	RAS2016009 JPN RAS2016022 PHI	2 14
Soils/agriculture	AUL	RAS2016010 AUL RAS2016013 MAL	3 9
Medical physics	AUL	RAS2016025 AUL	4
Nuclear medicine	ROK	RAS2016023 ROK RAS2016012 PAK RAS2016024 VIE RAS2016017 IND <i>Including paediatrics if possible</i>	5 7 12 8
Coastal erosion	AUL	RAS2016011 AUL	6
NDT/E	MAL	RAS2016014 MAL	10

The Meeting agreed that the following Project Designs may be developed, at the discretion of the LCs, with the understanding that they will need to be supported entirely by extra-budgetary contributions:

Topic	Lead Country	Project Concept(s)	Project Concept Ranking(s)
Radiotracers	PAK	RAS2016015 PAK	11
Energy systems	PAK	RAS2016016 PAK	15

The Meeting agreed that the Project Concept on mutation breeding (RAS2016018) would not be invited to prepare a Project Design because it involves significant overlap with the on-going project RAS5070. However, the Meeting invited IND to liaise with the LCC to identify any possible elements of the Project Concept RAS2016018 that could be added to Project RAS5070.

**NRs of the respective LCs agreed to send the draft Project Designs to the RCA Chair by 9 August 2016, with a copy RCA FP and Chair RCA PAC. Thereafter the Meeting agreed to adopt the “Extended Draft Timetable for Actions Related to the Development of RCA Projects for the 2018/2019 TC Programme” as set out in Annex 12 of RCANRM(38)-7.**

**8. Report on the Skill Requirements for each Working Group in Preparation for the Execution of the RCA Medium-Term Strategy (RCANRM(38)/8)**

The RCA Chair requested Ms Alumanda Dela Rosa, the Chair of WG on Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023, to present on the skill requirements for each working group in preparation for the execution of the RCA MTS (**Annex 29**). The Chair gave presentations on the skill requirements and Terms of Reference for each three Working Group as follows:

- Working Group on Financial Gap Analysis and Resource Mobilization;
- Working Group on Human Resource Development; and
- Working Group on MTS 2018-2023 Coordination

**JPN** and **THA** noted that GPs would need some time to review ToR of each WG after the 38<sup>th</sup> NRM.

The Chair of the WG summarised the status and need for the GOR to be updated to be compliant with the new RCA MTS 2018-2023.

The Chair of the WG explained their recommended procedure for mid-term review of the implementation of the MTS 2018-2023. The WG recommended that the mid-term review be undertaken by the RCA PAC rather than by a separate WG that would be implemented in 2020. This recommendation from the WG recognised that the RCA PAC already has a review function, and it would be important to have the mid-term review undertaken by a body that is independent of the WG for MTS Coordination.

**The Meeting noted the skill requirements of three WGs suggested by the Working Group for Preparation and the Execution of the RCA Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023, namely:**

- **Working Group on Financial Gap Analysis and Resource Mobilization;**
- **Working Group on Human Resource Development; and**
- **Working Group on MTS 2018-2023 Coordination.**

**The Meeting requested NRs to review the ToR of each WG and provide comments to the RCA Chair within two weeks of the conclusion of the Meeting.**

**The Meeting requested the RCA-FP to make the minor updates of the GOR to ensure consistency with RCA MTS 2018-2023.**

## **9. Report of the Working Group on the Proposed Amendment to the RCA Agreement by the Working Group Chair – RCANRM(38)/9**

Mr Christopher Daughney, on behalf of the Chair of Working Group on the Proposed Amendment to the RCA Agreement, gave a presentation on the amendment of the RCA Agreement (Annex 30). He reiterated that the 2017 RCA Agreement was approved at the 44<sup>th</sup> GCM and the Working Group had reached consensus on the 2017 RCA Agreement, excluding one outstanding issue pertaining to Clause 4 of Article 14. According to Article XIII (1), the revised Agreement would enter into force upon receipt by the Director General of the Agency of the second notification of acceptance deposited to the Agency by the Government Parties. Noting the limited remaining time before the expiration of the current Agreement on 11th June 2017, Mr Daughney urged the Meeting to make a decision on the 2017 Agreement.

Mr Daughney then tabled a revised version of the Agreement in which Clause 4 of Article 14 was removed (Annex 31), and explained that this represented a consensus agreed by all members of the WG. ROK expressed appreciation of IND's contribution to reach the final WG consensus for amendment of the RCA Agreement.

**The Meeting unanimously endorsed the amended text to the RCA Agreement that was tabled at the meeting subject to legal scrubbing of some GPs. The Acting WG Chair (NR NZE) will provide a clean copy of the revised Agreement to the RCA Chair for immediate distribution to NRs. NRs agreed to proactively engage with their respective Governments to obtain ratification of the revised Agreement prior to June 2017.**

## **10. Report of the Director of the RCARO – RCANRM(38)/10**

Prior to the presentation on DIR-RCARO, the meeting expressed its appreciation to Mr Kun Mo Choi, the former director of the RCARO, for his commitment and contribution for the development of the RCA and RCARO.

At the invitation of the RCA Chair, Ms Hyun Kyoung Jeon delivered the report of the DIR-RCARO (Annex 32). She reported the RCARO Work Performance 2015 and on its Work Plan for 2016.

**The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCARO and acknowledged the strong support provided by RCARO to the RCA Programme.**

## **11. Report of the Chairman of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee – RCANRM(38)/11**

The Chair of the RCARO SAC presented the report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (Annex 33). The participants were the NRs of BGD, MON, ROK, PAK, DIR-TCAP and RCA-FP.

The SAC took note of the 2015 work performance and reconfirmed the 2016 Work Plan of the RCARO. SAC also made recommendations on publication of the 6<sup>th</sup> batch of RCA Success Stories and was briefed on participation in regional and international conferences. The SAC



took note of the progress on the implementation of RAS6038 and RCA/UNOSSC Project. The SAC also noted the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting on the RCARO's Future Role.

Following the report of results of RCARO SAC Meeting, the RCA Chair reported on the results of Selection Committee of RCARO Director. The NRs were briefed with the selection process and result, which recommended the NRs to endorse Mr Hai-Joo Moon as the new Director of RCARO.

**The Meeting noted the Report of the 22nd Meeting of the RCARO SAC presented by the RCARO SAC Chair.**

**The Meeting unanimously endorsed the appointment of Dr Hai Joo Moon as the next DIR-RCARO.**

## **12. Report on the Working Group on the Future Role of the RCARO by the Working Group Chair – RCANRM(38)/12**

Ms Alumanda Dela Rosa, on behalf of the Chair of the Working Group on the Future Role of the RCARO, presented the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting on the Future Role of the RCARO held on 19-21 January 2016 (**Annex 34**). She reported that the criteria and guidelines for SPs, RPs and TPs were finalized and that the Working Group recommends the 38<sup>th</sup> NRM to approve them for implementation starting with the TP for new GPs of the RCA in 2016.

The meeting appreciated the work done by the WG and agreed that the RCARO's SPs, TPs and RPs would be very beneficial for the RCA. In addition, **JPN** raised legal concern on the future role of the RCARO Managed projects. **MYA**, **MAL**, **VIE**, **NEP**, **MON**, **SRL**, **PAK**, **INS**, **THA**, and **AUL** expressed the view that RCARO may assist the Agency and GPs legally based on the RCA Agreement, if authorised by the meeting of the NRs. After an extensive discussion, all GPs supported RCARO for its initiation of TP in 2016. **JPN** mentioned that it would submit its questions on the legal concern to the RCA Chair for his distribution to RCA GPs and forwarding it to the OLA, IAEA for legal advice.

RCARO expressed its appreciation to the GPs and **ROK** for their support and said that it would continue its endeavour for the benefit of the RCA.

**The Meeting took note of the report of the WG on the Future Role of RCARO. The Meeting endorsed the integrated approach, procedures and 2016-2017 work plan for the RCARO Managed Projects as presented in the report of the WG (RCANRM(38)-12).**

**The Meeting requested JPN to provide the OLA of the Agency with specific written questions on Japan's legal concerns relating to RCARO Managed Projects, to be discussed by NRs at the 45th GCM.**

**The Meeting requested the RCA-FP to append the relevant procedures related to the RCARO Managed Projects as a revised Annex 3 to the RCA GOR.**

## **13. Report on In-kind Contributions of RCA Government Parties by the Chair RCA PAC – RCANRM(38)/13**

Ms Soldedad Castaneda, on behalf of the Chair of RCA PAC, presented the report on in-kind contributions of RCA Government Parties (**Annex 35**). She presented on the problems encountered during the calculation of the GPs' in-kind contributions for 2015 and suggested improvements to overcome them.

DIR-TCAP suggested that at the designing process of each project in-kind contribution be calculated together with the estimation of budget provided by the IAEA. She also suggested that the report on in-kind contribution for a certain event such as regional training courses and meetings be provided at the time of completing the event.

JPN expressed difficulty with using the current template and approach for reporting of in-kind contributions and offered to provide suggestions for improvement for consideration by NRs at the 45th GCM.

As suggested by RCA PAC, the Meeting agreed that the current template be uploaded to the RCA Website for enhanced accessibility.

**The Meeting took note of the report from the RCA PAC on the in-kind contributions made by GPs to the RCA Programme in 2015.**

**NRs were invited to propose possible improvements to the template and process for reporting in-kind contributions, for consideration by NRs at the 45th GCM.**

**The Meeting requested the current template for calculation of in-kind contributions be uploaded to the RCA Website, and that it be used after completion of each project event to compile and provide information to NRs.**

#### **14. Report on the Collaborative Activities between the RCA and the FNCA in 2015 by the Project Lead Countries – RCANRM(38)/14**

Mr Sung-chul Jung, on behalf of Mr Chul-koo Cho, the project leader of RAS6065, gave a presentation on the report on the collaborative activities between the RCA and the FNCA in 2015 and possible future collaboration. The report is included as **Annex 36**. The areas of collaboration were in three areas as follows:

- Radiation processing (RAS1014);
- Mutation breeding (RAS5056); and
- Radiation oncology (RAS6053, RAS6072 and RAS6065).

Regarding the future coloration, it was recommended by the presenter that plans on collaborative activities can be planned at the project design process.

**The meeting noted the reports on collaboration between the RCA and the FNCA.**

#### **15. Presentation on FNCA Activities by Dr Hideki Namba, FNCA Advisor of Japan, and Discussion on Further Collaborative Mechanism/Modality between the RCA and the FNCA – RCANRM(38)/15**

At the request of the Chair, the FCNA Advisor of Japan, Dr Hideki Namba, presented a report on FNCA activities relevant to the RCA during 2015 ([Annex 37](#)).

**The meeting noted the report provided by Dr Hideki Namba, FNCA Advisor of JPN.**

**The Meeting expressed condolences on the passing of Dr Sueo Machi, former FNCA Coordinator of JPN and former RCA Coordinator.**

## **16. The IAEA's Challenges in Staffing related to the RCA Administration – RCANRM(38)/16**

The DIR-TCAP presented on the IAEA's Challenges in Staffing Related to RCA Administration ([Annex 38](#)). She explained the specific Secretariat functions presently undertaken by the Agency and highlighted the functions that could be outsourced, including but not limited to: organisation and support of meetings of NRs; preparation of the RCA Annual Report; assistance for LCCs and TOs for preparation of PPARs and RCA Success Stories; and/or organisation of meetings of RCA PAC, RCA WGs.

**The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the DIR-TCAP.**

**The Meeting requested RCARO to liaise with NRs to identify mechanisms that may assist the Agency in its RCA Secretariat functions, for further discussion at the 45th GCM.**

## **17. Korea's Request for Replacement of a Member of the RCA PAC – RCANRM(38)/17**

The RCA-FP presented a report on ROK's request for replacement of a member of RCA PAC ([Annex 39](#)). The RCA-FP explained that ROK recommended Mr Sung Chul Jung, Chief of International Strategy Team at Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences (KIRAMS) as a new member to succeed Mr Joon Keuk Chung, who has resigned from the RCA PAC for personal reasons.

**The Meeting unanimously endorsed Mr Sung Chul Jung as a new member of the RCA PAC to replace Mr Joon Keuk Chung.**

## **18. Update on Status of Acceptance of the 5<sup>th</sup> Agreement to Extend the 1987 Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) by the RCA FP – RCANRM(38)/18**

The RCA-FP delivered a report on the Status of Acceptance of the 5th Agreement to Extend the 1987 RCA Agreement ([Annex 40](#)). The RCA-FP reported that 17 GPs have deposited instruments of acceptance, and invited the NRs of the GPs that have not yet submitted the Instrument of Acceptance to provide an update on the status of their consideration.

**The Meeting took note of the Status of Acceptance of the 5th Agreement to Extend the**

## **1987 RCA Agreement.**

### **19. Arrangements for the 45<sup>th</sup> RCA GCM and the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> RCA NRMs**

The representatives of the IAEA and the representatives of BGD and ROK provided information on the status of arrangements for upcoming GCM and NRM meetings, respectively.

**The Meeting noted that the 45th GCM will be held in Vienna on 23 September 2016.**

**Representatives from BGD, on behalf of NR BGD, indicated that the 39th NRM will be held in BGD at the end of March or beginning of April 2017 as a tentative date, to be confirmed after the 38th NRM.**

**ROK confirmed its willingness to host the 40th NRM in 2018.**

### **20. Any Other Business**

The DIR-TCAP provided an update on the Agency Regional Programme Framework.

PHI asked if the RCA could have a display or coordinated presence at the upcoming 60th IAEA General Conference. RCARO indicated willingness to try to secure a booth for RCA at the 60th IAEA General Conference but noted that it may be difficult due to the limited lead time.

The NR PAK indicated that a report on alignment between the four Agreements will be circulated to the NRs for comment.

**The Meeting took note of the report on the Regional Programme Framework delivered by the DIR-TCAP.**

**The Meeting requested RCARO and GPs to consider possible methods for promoting the RCA at the 60th IAEA General Conference.**

### **21. Adoption of the Meeting Report of the 38th Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives**

The Meeting reviewed, revised and agreed the recorded conclusions, findings and decisions made during the Meeting. The RCA-FP was requested to circulate the draft report without annexes to the delegates within one month after the Meeting. The NRs shall submit their comments within two weeks of receipt of the draft report. The RCA-FP will circulate the final report within two weeks after receipt of comments.

**The Meeting adopted the report of the 38th NRM, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**

## **22. Closing**

Mr Manlaijav Gun-aajav, Secretary of the Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia, provided closing remarks and congratulated the Meeting on achieving its intended outcomes and decisions.

The DIR-TCAP thanked Mongolia for hosting the Meeting, the RCA Chair for efficiently conducting the Meeting, and the former RCA Chair for his contributions over the previous year. On behalf of the DDG-TC, the DIR-TCAP pledged the support of the Agency for the support of the RCA Programme. The DIR-TCAP expressed thanks for to the Mongolia NLO and the RCA-FP.

The Meeting expressed appreciation and thanks for the facilities and assistance from staff from the Mongolia Nuclear Energy Commission during the Meeting. The Meeting also thanked the rapporteurs NZE, PHI and RCARO.

The RCA Chair closed the Meeting and wished participants a safe journey home.