

Assessment of Second Round RCA Concept Papers

Concept Paper No.: MP1

Lead Country: Malaysia

Title: Establishing and Harmonizing academic education and clinical training in Medical Physics towards certification of CQMPs

Objective: To improve health care to patients in radiation medicine in the region through establishment and harmonization of academic and clinical training programmes of medical physics in accordance with IAEA guidelines.

Assessment of PAC

Criterion	Comments	Level of compliance
Alignment with MTS	The project is aligned to RCA Strategic Priority C 2.2 (i)	High
Specific Gaps / Needs to be addressed	The lack of well-trained clinical medical physicists, required for safe and effective radiation medicine applications in nuclear medicine, radiology and radiotherapy had been identified as the gap to be addressed.	High
Links to previous projects	The project is linked to previous RCA Projects on Nuclear Physics RAS6038, RAS6077 and currently RAS6087.	Medium
Duplication of current or previous projects	Duplication with previous and current RCA Projects on Training and Education of Medical Physicists should be avoided.	Medium
Justification for the need of further projects in this area	Training Courses for Clinical Training of Medical Physicists had been developed under the previous RCA Projects, (TCS 37, 47 and 50). The current project is expected to address the lack of proper linkage between academic and clinical programmes, which is seen as the reason for lack of well-trained medical physicists. The validity of this assumption needs to be checked.	Medium
Justification as a regional project	The project addresses a common need of the GPs.	High
Role of Nuclear Technology	The project is related to Medical Physics	High
Suitability of requirements for participation	Not stated	Low
Potential for TCDC	Not stated	Low
Potential for EB funds	Not stated	Low

Overall Assessment: This project was proposed by the IAEA Secretariat (TCAP) and submitted to PAC as a Project Document rather than a Concept Paper. Whether the reason for lack of well-trained medical physicists in the region is due to lack of proper linkage between academic and clinical training needs to be verified. The reason for TCS 56 (Postgraduate Medical Physics Programmes) not being adopted by the GPs also needs to be investigated. There could be duplication with previous and current RCA Projects on Training and Education of Medical Physicists.

Recommendation of PAC*: PAC recommends looking into the possibility of taking into consideration the main the elements of this project in designing the proposed project on “Improving the Safety and Quality of Radiotherapy in Asia Pacific Region through Auditing and Medical Physicist Training”. PAC also recommends an investigation of the reasons for lack of well-trained Medical Physicists in the region in spite of the efforts made through past RCA projects over an extended period, and design future projects on Training of Medical Physicists to address these reasons. PAC further recommends that all RCA Projects should continue to be developed according to the procedures approved by the NRs and stated in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules.

*The recommendation of the PAC is for the purpose of assisting the NRs to select and prioritize the projects in consultation with their national stakeholders. It should not be considered as the final decision