



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF
THE 47th RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

**Meeting Room M6
IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

**14 September 2018
09:00 – 17:30**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNEXES	2
ACRONYMS	3
Introduction.....	4
Opening.....	4
a. Opening of the Meeting by the RCA Chair	4
b. Introductory remarks by DDG-TC and DDG-NA	4
c. Group Photo	4
d. Adoption of the Agenda.....	4
e. Appointment of Rapporteurs.....	5
I. Report on the follow-up actions for the 40th NRM – RCAGCM(47)/2.....	5
II. Report on the implementation of regional events in 2018 and tentative arrangements of regional events for 2019 – RCAGCM(47)/3	5
III. Report on the preparation of the RCA programme for 2020-2021 – RCAGCM(47)/4.. ..	6
IV. Report on the WG on the RCA MTS 2018/23 Coordination – RCAGCM(47)/5	6
V. Recommendation on an appropriate composition for the WG on the RCA MTS 2018/23 Coordination – RCAGCM(47)/6	6
VI. Report on the updating of the 2014 RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules – RCAGCM(47)/7	7
VII. Report of the RCA Regional Office – RCAGCM(47)/8.....	8
VIII. Report of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) – RCAGCM(47)/9	8
IX. Proposed modalities of engaging the RCA in the Quadripartite Forum – RCAGCM(47)/10	8
X. Update on the acceptance of the 2017 RCA – RCAGCM(47)/11	8
XI. Update on the holding of the 41st Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Sri Lanka, 2019; and the 42nd Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Malaysia, 2020	9
XII. Any Other Business.....	9
XIII. Closing	10

ANNEXES

- Annex 1 List of Participants
- Annex 2 Introductory remarks by the DDG-TC
- Annex 3 Introductory remarks by the DDG-NA
- Annex 4 Adopted Meeting Agenda
- Annex 5 Overview of the RCA Programme Implementation 2018
- Annex 6 Report on the Preparation for the 2020/2021 TC Cycle
- Annex 7 Report of WG on the RCA MTSC
- Annex 8 Report of WG on Updating the RCA GOR 2014
- Annex 9 RCARO Director's Report
- Annex 10 Report of the RCARO SAC
- Annex 11 Proposed Modalities of engaging the RCA in the Quadripartite Forum
- Annex 12 Review of the Reporting and Recording of GPs' "In-kind" Contributions
- Annex 13 Issue concerning RCA Regional Training Course Travel Expenses

ACRONYMS

DDG-TC	Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation Department
DDG-NA	Deputy Director General, Nuclear Sciences and Applications Department
DIR-TCAP	Director for Asia and the Pacific Division
GCM	General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
NR(s)	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	National RCA Representatives Regional Meeting
LCC	Lead Country Coordinator
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RCA-FP	RCA Focal Person
SH-TCAP1	Head of Section 1 of Asia and the Pacific Division
TC	Technical Cooperation Programme
TO(s)	Technical Officers
TCAP	Division for Asia and the Pacific

Introduction

The 47th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) was held at the IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria, on 14 September 2018. There were 33 participants from 18 RCA Government Parties; Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), China (CPR), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Republic of Korea (ROK), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), Nepal (NEP), New Zealand (NZE), Pakistan (PAK), the Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA) and Vietnam (VIE). Four representatives of the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) also attended the Meeting.

Mr Dazhu Yang (DDG-TC), Mr Aldo Malavasi Filho (DDG-NA), Ms Najat Mokhtar (DIR-TCAP), Mr Oscar Acuña (SH-TCAP1), Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya (SH-TCAP2) and Mr Sinh Van Hoang (RCA-FP) represented the IAEA. Other IAEA staff also attended selected sessions of the Meeting.

The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

Opening

a. Opening of the Meeting by the RCA Chair

The RCA Chair officially opened the 47th RCA GCM.

b. Introductory remarks by DDG-TC and DDG-NA

The Chair invited DDG-TC to deliver his message. The DDG-TC's message is reproduced in Annex 2.

The Chair invited DDG-NA to deliver his message. The DDG-NA's message is reproduced in Annex 3.

c. Group Photo

A group photo of all meeting participants was taken.

d. Adoption of the Agenda – RCAGCM(47)/1

The meeting adopted the agenda, with addition of four items to be discussed under Any Other Business (Annex 4).

The meeting adopted the agenda, with addition of four items to be discussed under Any Other Business, namely:

- **RCA PAC Review of the Reporting and Recording of GPs' "In-kind" Contributions**
- **RCARO Managed Projects issue raised by JPN**
- **The issue concerning RCA Regional Training Course Travel Expenses for Participants from Countries with Advanced Technology, raised by JPN**

- **The issue that no LC should lead a sequence of related projects for more than two TC cycles, raised by PAK**

e. Appointment of Rapporteurs

The Chair called for nominations for rapporteurs of the meeting. Mr Peter McGlinn (AUL), Dr Abdul Muin Abdul Rahman (MAL), and RCARO staff were nominated. All agreed to carry out this task.

Mr Peter McGlinn (AUL), Dr Abdul Muin Abdul Rahman (MAL), and RCARO staff were appointed as rapporteurs of the Meeting.

I. Report on the follow-up actions for the 40th NRM – RCAGCM(47)/2

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided a summary of the most important follow-up actions arising from the 40th NRM.

The Meeting took note of the Report and thanked the Secretariat for the effective implementation of the Follow-up Actions from the 40th NRM.

The Meeting was informed that the RCA Chair sent the appointment letters and formal request letters to the RCA PAC members and their employers' organizations in early September 2018.

II. Report on the implementation of regional events in 2018 and tentative arrangements of regional events for 2019 – RCAGCM(47)/3

The RCA-FP presented a summary of the implementation of regional events in 2018 and tentative arrangements for regional events in 2019 (Annex 5).

The Meeting noted that the current RCA Programme consists of fifteen (15) projects, with an implementation rate of approximately 62% for the current year to date, and that all projects are progressing well and in accordance with work plans.

The Meeting agreed that NRs will review arrangements for planned regional events for 2019 and confirm with the RCA FP by 5 October 2018.

The Meeting agreed that NRs will remind NPCs to prepare and submit project implementation reports for 2018 to LCCs in a timely and complete manner so that LCCs can consolidate and submit PPARs by 10 January 2019.

III. Report on the preparation of the RCA programme for 2020-2021 – RCAGCM(47)/4

The Chair of the RCA PAC reported on the preparation of the RCA programme for 2020-2021 (Annex 6).

The Meeting took note of the report by Chair of the RCA PAC.

The Meeting, taking note of the current financial situation, recommended that the Secretariat provide definitive advice to the 41st NRM regarding the available funds for 2020-2021, and beyond, in order to enable the NRM to take a final decision as to the projects to go forward.

The Meeting agreed that the NRs provide additional prioritization of the project designs for 2020-2021 after they have been revised and evaluated during the Project Design Meeting to be held in November 2018 and the RCA PAC Meeting to be held in January 2019, before the 41st RCA NRM.

The Meeting agreed to comply with the project development timeline proposed by the RCA PAC Chair, as given in RCAGCM(47)/5.

IV. Report on the WG on the RCA MTS 2018/23 Coordination – RCAGCM(47)/5

V. Recommendation on an appropriate composition for the WG on the RCA MTS 2018/23 Coordination – RCAGCM(47)/6

The Chair of the WG on the RCA MTSC, NR of NZE, presented on the report of the WG on the RCA MTS 2018/2023 which included the recommendation on an appropriate composition of the WG on the RCA MTSC (Annex 7).

The Meeting took note of the report of the WG on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination and endorsed the recommendations as follows;

- **proposed WG MTSC membership**
- **WG to undertake remaining actions of the Workplan for 2018**
- **evaluative approach for mid-term review of MTS**
- **modification to modalities to enhance implementation of the MTS**
- **Declaration for Increased Extra-Budgetary Contributions**
- **change of methodology for pilot project on impact evaluation**
- **WG Workplan for 2019 and project participation survey**

With regards to the recommendation on the membership of the WG MTSC, the Meeting endorsed;

- the designation of Mr Chris Daughney (NZE) as the permanent Chair of the WG MTSC
- the designation of Mr Mark Alexander (AUL) to be the Deputy Chair
- the appointment of one additional member having skills and experience in HRD, preferably from a developing GP

The Meeting agreed with the revised text of the Declaration proposed by the Chair of the WG. The revised text clarified that the extra-budgetary contributions by the GPs may only be used for the projects and/or activities specified by the donor GPs.

The Meeting agreed that the extra-budgetary contributions not specified by donor GPs would be allocated to the RCA Management Project until further approval by the donor GP.

The Meeting appreciated the extra-budgetary contribution of approximately 170,000 Euros declared by JPN for RAS6093 on non-communicable diseases, to be implemented from 2019 to 2022.

The Meeting recommended that the NRs provide nominations for the additional WG member and comments related to the report to the WG Chair within three weeks of the conclusion of the Meeting.

VI. Report on the updating of the 2014 RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules – RCAGCM(47)/7

The Chair of the WG on the Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR) reported on the updating of the 2014 RCA GOR (Annex 8).

The Meeting took note of the report of the WG on the Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR) and endorsed the recommendations by the WG as follows;

- 47th GCM consider the draft 2018 GOR and agree to its immediate use.
- NRs review the 2018 GOR and report comments to the Chair, GOR WG, by 1 March 2019.
- Committee of the RCA Chairs, and the rapporteurs for the 47th GCM and 41st NRM, report their experience on the revised format for the reports of these meetings, and the arrangements for maintaining the GOR as a ‘living’ document, to the GOR WG.
- GOR WG to meet immediately after the 41st NRM to review comments and suggestions of the NRs to the GOR and, where possible, make adjustments to address any concerns or limitations in the procedures set out in the document.
- Consideration be made, in time, to the possibility of transforming the approved 2018 GOR into a web-based, interactive version on the RCARO website.

VII. Report of the RCA Regional Office – RCAGCM(47)/8

The Director of the RCARO reported on RCARO's programme of work and actions carried out in 2018 (Annex 9).

The Meeting took note of report delivered by the Director of the RCARO and expressed appreciation for the work carried out by RCARO.

VIII. Report of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) – RCAGCM(47)/9

The RCARO SAC Chair presented the report of the RCARO SAC (Annex 10).

The Meeting took note of the Report of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (RCAGCM(47)/9) and endorsed its recommendations.

IX. Proposed modalities of engaging the RCA in the Quadripartite Forum – RCAGCM(47)/10

The RCA PAC Chair reported on the proposed modalities of engaging the RCA in the Quadripartite Forum (Annex 11).

The Meeting took note of the report by RCA PAC Chair on proposed modalities of engaging the RCA in the Quadripartite Forum.

X. Update on the acceptance of the 2017 RCA – RCAGCM(47)/11

The RCA FP provided an update on the acceptance of the 2018 RCA, noting that 17 GPs had deposited instruments of acceptance.

The Meeting welcomed the advice that seventeen (17) GPs have indicated their acceptance of the 2017 RCA.

The Meeting looked forward to the remaining GPs depositing their instruments of acceptance as soon as possible.

XI. Update on the holding of the 41st Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Sri Lanka, 2019; and the 42nd Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Malaysia, 2020

SRL confirmed that the 41st NRM will take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 26-29 March 2019.

MAL advised that arrangements for the 42nd NRM will be announced at the 41st NRM.

The Meeting noted that the 41st NRM will take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 26-29 March 2019.

The Meeting noted that arrangements for the 42nd RCA NRM, to be held in Malaysia, will be announced at the 41st NRM.

XII. Any Other Business

The RCA PAC's review of the reporting and recording of GPs' "In-kind" contributions (Annex 12) and the issues of the RCARO Managed Projects and RCA Regional Training Course travel expenses for participants from countries with advanced technology, raised by JPN (Annex 13), were discussed under the item, Any Other Business.

The Meeting took note of the report of RCA PAC Chair on the reporting and recording of GPs' "In-kind" contributions. The Meeting requested the NRs to complete the Survey Form and send it to the RCA PAC Chair by 31 January 2019. The Meeting endorsed holding the RCA PAC Meeting on 6-10 May 2019 to facilitate the review the NRs' responses to the survey and the preparation of the report to the 48th GCM.

In regards to the issue raised by PAK that no LC should lead a sequence of related projects for more than two TC cycles, the Meeting noted that a new GP should take the role of LC for the proposed groundwater project, designed by PAK, commencing in 2020.

The Meeting was later informed that CPR would take the leading role of the proposed project and would attend the Project Design Meeting.

The Meeting accepted JPN's interpretation of the RCARO Managed Projects as Other Cooperative Activities under the RCA Agreement. Taking note of the proposal made by AUL and JPN, the Meeting recommended that the progress on the project, including the financial component, be reported to the NRMs under the agenda item on the Review of the Progress of the RCA Projects.

The Meeting took note of the issue raised by JPN concerning Regional Training Course travel expenses for participants from countries with advanced technology. JPN agreed to make a proposal for further discussion at the 41st NRM.

Taking note of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA in 2022, the Meeting agreed to discuss at the 41st NRM, under a specific agenda item, plans and budget for the occasion.

XIII. Closing

The RCA Chair thanked all participants for their active participation and valuable contributions, and declared the meeting adjourned.