

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE RCA 2024-2029 MTS DRAFTING WORKING GROUP

8-10 February 2021

Presentation on RCA Regional
Programme Framework for 2018-2023

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Topics

- Basis and objective of the RCA Regional Programme Framework
- Past strategic documents
- The main steps of development of the RPF
- Outcomes of the survey
- Current status and future steps

RCA Vision

The RCA shall be recognized as an effective partner in providing **nuclear technologies** that enhance **socio-economic wellbeing** and contribute to **sustainable development** in the region.

RCA MISSION

The Missions of the RCA are to:

- Identify and implement nuclear technologies that address **regional priority needs**;
- Encourage sustainability of nuclear technology capacities in the RCA Government Parties (GPs) and **to ensure effective transfer** of those technologies and associated technical know-how to end-users;
- Coordinate cooperative research in applications of nuclear science and technology in support of agreed regional priority needs;

RCA MISSION

- Promote the benefits of nuclear technologies to appropriate end-users and decision makers, and identify potential partners and funding mechanisms to support an expanded RCA programme; and,
- Develop regional networks for information and experience sharing, mutual assistance and resource mobilization.

RCA Programme

- Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs)
 - TCPs are designed by the GPs to meet their **development needs and priorities** and their design should have **socio-economic impact**. The TCPs provide the means for transfer of technology

(IAEA TC Projects should address an area where there is a national programme enjoying strong government commitment with evidence of significant financial support – Central Criterion)

- Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs)

TC Programme Cycle

- Programme development (**identification of projects to be implemented** and project design)
- Programme implementation (IAEA and **national inputs**, NPCs, national work plans, national project teams)
- Programme monitoring (NPC reports, LCC reports to NRMs)
- Evaluation (LCC reports on achievements, lessons learnt)
- Publication of achievements (by RCARO as success stories)

Programme Development

Identification of projects to be implemented require

- A framework that helps RCA GPs to propose projects that are aligned with criteria for RCA TC projects
- A procedure that enables identification of projects based on
 - Criteria for RCA projects
 - Long term planning
 - Specific needs of RCA GPsto ensure optimum utilization of limited resources.

Nature of RCA TC Projects

- Should conform to criteria defined in the GOR
- Should conform to RCA Strategic Directions defined in the MTS
- Should be in priority areas of the RCA GPs
- Should have a strong government commitment and financial support – TC Central Criterion
- Should be built on past achievements of RCA Projects
- Should promote regional cooperation and TCDC
- Should contribute to SDG

Objective of the Regional Programme Framework

To assist RCA GPs to identify projects that meet the above requirements

Summary

- RCA Vision and Mission
 - RCA Programme
 - Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects
 - TC programme cycle
 - Programme development
 - Identification of projects to be implemented
 - RFP is a framework to be used for identifying the projects to be implemented

History (2006-2011)

- First RCA MTS for 2006-2011 - adopted in 2006 and contained
 - RCA Vision
 - Mission
 - Core Values
 - RCA Governance
 - Strategic Directions
 - Performance Indicators
- Prepared by a WG – NRs of AUL, IND, MAL and NZE

History (2012-2017)

- Second RCA MTS for 2012-2017 (adopted in 2009)
 - Updated and expanded First MTS
 - Contained an Implementation Plan
 - Prepared by NRs of AUL, INS, NZE , PAK and support staff members of CPR, IND, JPN, MAL

History (2012-2017)

- RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017 (adopted in 2010)
 - Contained an analysis of past achievements
 - Was based on a survey conducted to identify priorities
 - Identified priorities for the future to be used as a guideline in preparing future RCA Programmes
 - Developed by Expert Groups in each Thematic Sector, Chaired by an RCA NR

History (2018-2023)

- Third RCA MTS for 2018-2023 (adopted in 2015)
 - Strategic directions **and strategic priorities in each thematic sector**
 - Critical implementation enablers
 - Execution plan
 - Revised performance Indicators

Development of the RPF – Main Steps

- Decision of the 49th RCA requesting RCA PAC to prepare the RPF (containing priorities for 2024-29) in consultation with the WG on MTS.
- Survey to identify priorities and needs of the RCA GPs.
- Compilation of outcomes and achievements of RCA projects implemented since 2007 (6 TC cycles)
- Formation of expert groups in each Thematic Area to recommend future priorities.

Survey on Priorities and Needs

- Format – based on the previous surveys
- Conducted using Google Forms – more user friendly and easier to analyze responses
- Aimed at identifying **priorities of GPs**, current status and future needs
- 20 RCA GPs out of 22 responded
- The report on the survey is posted on the RCA Web-site at
<http://rcaro.org/rpf/view/id/22712>

Priority Levels

- Very high priority – high potential for socio-economic benefits (Weight = 5)
- High priority – good potential for socio-economic benefits (Weight =4)
- Medium priority – could provide socio-economic benefits (Weight =3)
- Low priority – of scientific interest only. Could be relevant for development programmes in the future (Weight =2)
- Very low priority – of scientific interest only. Would not contribute to development programmes even in the future. (Weight =1)

Project Areas

- Agriculture (8 areas)
- Environment (4 areas)
- Human Health (6 areas)
- Industry (4 areas)
- Other (4 areas)
- Total of 26 areas based on previous surveys and past RCA Projects

Results - Agriculture

| Priority | Project Area | Weighted Average |
|----------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Food Safety and Security | 4.20 |
| 2 | Plant Breeding | 4.00 |
| 3 | Pest Control | 3.80 |
| 4 | Land use - Soil fertility | 3.75 |
| 4 | Food Irradiation | 3.75 |
| 6 | Land Use - Soil Erosion and Contamination | 3.65 |
| 7 | Animal Health and Nutrition | 3.10 |
| 8 | Animal Reproduction | 3.00 |

Results - Environment

| Priority | Project Area | Weighted Average |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Water Resources Management | 4.40 |
| 2 | Air Pollution Monitoring | 4.15 |
| 3 | Marine and Coastal Environment | 3.80 |
| 4 | Dam Safety | 2.85 |

Results – Human Health

| Priority | Project Area | Weighted Average |
|----------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Radiation Oncology | 4.85 |
| 2 | Medical Physics | 4.80 |
| 3 | Nuclear Medicine | 4.75 |
| 4 | Radioimmunoassay (RIA) | 3.45 |
| 5 | Nutrition | 3.15 |
| 6 | Tissue grafting | 2.45 |

Results – Industry

| Priority | Project Area | Weighted Average |
|----------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Non-destructive Testing | 4.20 |
| 2 | Radiation Processing | 3.60 |
| 3 | Nuclear tracers and sealed sources | 3.25 |
| 4 | Nuclear Gauges and NCS | 3.05 |

Results – Other areas

| Priority | Project Area | Weighted Average |
|----------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Radiation Protection | 4.30 |
| 2 | Energy Planning | 3.75 |
| 3 | Research Reactor Utilization | 3.55 |
| 4 | Nuclear Instrumentation | 3.15 |

Results – New GPs

| Priority | Project Area | Weighted Average |
|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Radiation Protection | 5.00 |
| 2 | Medical Physics | 4.75 |
| 3 | Nuclear Medicine | 4.5 |
| 4 | Radiation Oncology | 4.5 |
| 5 | Air Pollution Monitoring | 4.25 |
| 6 | Nutrition | 4.25 |
| 7 | Animal Reproduction | 4.00 |
| 8 | Animal Health and Nutrition | 4.00 |
| 9 | Water Resources Management | 4.00 |

Review of Past RCA Projects

- Period of the review 2007-2020 (6 TC cycles)
- Total number of projects reviewed 64

| Sector | Completed | Ongoing |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Agriculture | 9 | 4 |
| Environment | 12 | 3 |
| Human Health | 16 | 5 |
| Industry | 10 | 1 |
| Radiation Protection | 1 | 1 |
| Research Reactors | 1 | 0 |
| Energy Planning | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 50 | 14 |

Review of Past RCA Projects

Contents (for each project)

- Project Title and number
- Implementation Period
- Project Lead Country
- Budget (Euros)
- Objectives
- Participating GPs
- Regional Activities
- Achievements (completed projects)
- Comments

Review of Past RCA Projects

Sources of information

- IAEA TCPRIDE
- LCC reports submitted to NRMs

The report on review of past projects is posted on the RCA Web-site at

<http://rcaro.org/projectsummary/view/id/2268>

Expert Groups

- Chairs
 - Agriculture – NR of Vietnam
 - Environment – NR of the Philippines
 - Human Health – NR of Japan
 - Industry – NR of Malaysia
 - Other areas – NR of Mongolia
- PAC Members – 8
- Regional Experts – 10
- IAEA technical officers - 10
- Each group met separately (virtual meetings)

Contents of the RPF

- General Introduction
- For each Thematic Area
 - Introduction to the Thematic Sector
 - For each priority area
 - Introduction
 - Outcomes of the survey
 - Past RCA Projects
 - Future Directions
 - Opportunities for TCDC
 - Links to SDGs
 - Possible additional areas (based on the survey)
- Recommendations
- Summary reports of the survey and past RCA Projects (Annex)
- Composition of the Expert Groups (Annex)

Current Status

- The expert groups were provided the reports on the outcomes of the survey and the details of past RCA projects
- The Expert Group Meetings of all 5 areas were held.
- The first draft of the RPF has been prepared
- The draft is being further refined through consultations within expert groups

Future Steps

- Finalization of the first draft – 12th February
- Circulation to NRs and WG on MTS for comments – 15th February
- Revision based on the feedback received - 15th to 20th March
- Submission of the Background Paper for the 43rd NRM – 20th March
- Approval of the NRM – First week of April

Thank you for your attention