

Virtual Meeting of National RCA Representatives, 18 April 2023

**RESULTS OF THE RCA CHAIRS
MEETING**

**Dr. Tran Chi Thanh
RCA Chair**

Major Contents



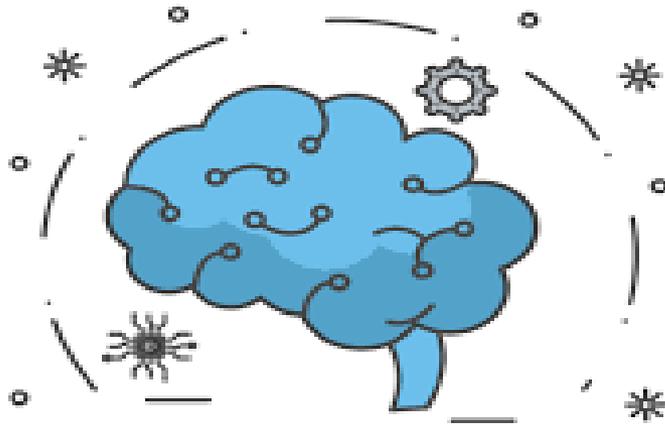
Introduction

Review of key issues under RCA

Recommendation

Background

RCA Declaration Adopted at the RCA Ministerial Level Meeting, Sep 2022.



Recommendations



Introduction

The RCA Chairs Committee Meeting was held on 27 February – 02 March 2023, Da Nang City, Viet Nam.

1

To discuss and propose Action Plans for Deployment and Execution of the RCA Ministerial Declaration of September 2022.

2

To submit the proposed action plans to the 45th RCA NRM for further consideration and direction.

Participants

- RCA Chairs Committee members
- + VIE – Current Chair
- + AUL – Incoming Chair
- + China – Future Chair (standing in for the NR).
- Representatives from the TCAP/IAEA
- Representatives from the RCARO

Review of key issues under RCA



1. RCA Governance

2. R&D Cooperation

3. Technology Transfer/Diffusion of Proven Nuclear Technologies

4. Nuclear Human Resource Development

5. Partnership and Resources Mobilization

Observation

*Reference to RCA Declaration:
Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.*

- Potential challenges that the RCA may be facing due to the **high turnover of the NRs**.
- It is not clear about **the role and responsibility of the Committee of the RCA Chairs**.
- GOR has **limited guidance on resolving disputes** that could arise within the RCA.

Recommendation

- The GPs to appoint NRs with the relevant position and duration to ensure effective fulfilment of his/her responsibilities as outlined in the GOR.
- The roles and responsibilities of the Committee of the RCA Chairs should be further specified and strengthened.
- NRs consider **establishing procedures when disputes arise**.

Recommendation to strengthen the R&D cooperation under RCA



Observation

Reference to RCA Declaration: Paragraphs 6, 8 and 9

*Article I in the Agreement says: “*The Government Parties undertake, in co-operation with each other and the Agency, to promote and co-ordinate co-operative research, development and training projects (hereinafter referred to as the “co-operative projects”), and other co-operative activities, in nuclear science and technology through their appropriate national institutions”.*

- **Bilateral cooperation among GPs is still modest.**
- **The RCA programme** basically focuses on training and *very little on R&D, and technology diffusion/technology transfer.*

Recommendation

- **To establish a network among the National Nuclear Research Institutes (NNRIs) to promote R&D cooperation under the RCA.**
- The RCARO is requested to prepare a discussion paper including proposed action plan to submit to the 45th NRM for consideration of the NRs.

Network for National Nuclear Research Institutes



RCA Regional Office



Network for National Nuclear Research Institutes



Purpose 1

▶ Research planning for long-term development directions in the area of nuclear science and technology.

Purpose 2

▶ Planning of cooperative research projects across research institutes.

Purpose 3

▶ Exchange of information and researchers and research results

Purpose 4

▶ Build collaboration research facilities.

Recommendation

- ✓ *Propose strategic topics for R&D activities which aligns with the current trends and address the regional needs*
- ✓ *Set up joint co-operative projects/bilateral projects (E.g: radioisotope production; radiolabelling of biomaterials; applying AI and nuclear technology; Project proposal on neutron diffraction between India-Viet Nam, etc.)*
- ✓ *Set up an updated database as “**Integrated Information System**” on the national level of nuclear techniques in RCA GPs*
- ✓ *Organize meetings of the presidents or high-level officials of the NNRI*

- A meeting of the presidents or high-level officials of the NNRI's will be held on a regular basis.
- The objective of the meeting is to:
 - i) Share individual and common needs for R&D in the fields of NS&T;
 - ii) Identify ways to increase effectiveness and efficiency of joint R&D activities;
 - iii) Draw directives for extending the impact of the R&D to add value in the region and their nations; and so on.

NRM & GCM	Vs.	NNRIs Presidential Meeting
RCA NRs	Participants	Presidents of NNRI's
Annual	Frequency	TBD
RCA policy and its Programme	Agenda	Joint R&D projects and activities initiated by RCA and RCARO

Examples of R&D Collaboration

- ✓ *Exchanges of scientists (among NNRI's)*
- ✓ *To invite foreign scientists (from RCA SPs) to the Editorial Boards of national scientific journals, technical program of regional nuclear science and technology conferences, review of scientific papers etc.*
- ✓ *Scientific Council (SC) of NNRI's: To invite foreign scientists to join the SC of NNRI's (to attend 1-2 meetings every year)*
- ✓ *Cooperation/Collaboration with the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR), DUBNA, Russia*
- ✓ *The Center for Nuclear Science and Technology (CNST) project: New Research Reactor (RR)*

Recommendations to promote the transfer of mature/proven nuclear technologies



Observation

*Reference to RCA Declaration:
Paragraphs 3, 6 and 9.*

* One of the **RCA missions** is to *encourage sustainability of nuclear technology capacities in the RCA GPs and to ensure effective transfer of those technologies and associated technical know-how to end-users.*

- **Lack of detailed profile of NS&T in the region**, including national nuclear policy and programmes.
- **Lack of concrete action plan** to promote technology transfer activities of mature nuclear technologies under the RCA.

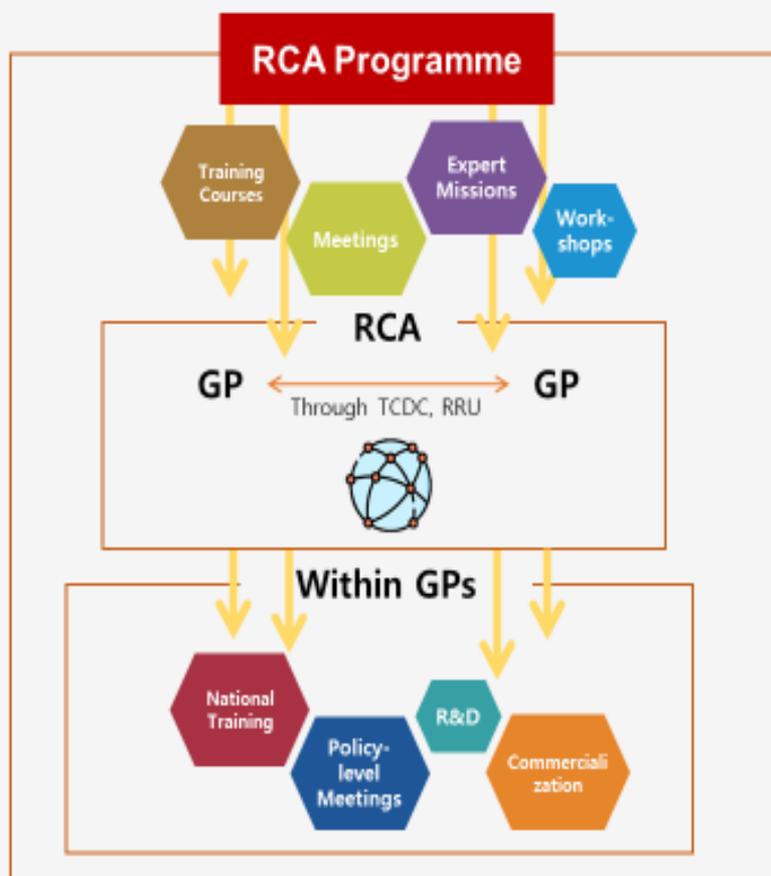
Recommendation

- The NRs consider **organizing a forum, engaging a widened range of stakeholders from policy makers to the end-users** as a way to *disseminate the advantages of and promote adoption and applications of proven nuclear technologies.*
- RCA Chair prepare a discussion paper on organizing the forum to submit to the 45th NRM for consideration

Review of the technology transfer under the RCA



3 Steps of Technology Transfer under the RCA



(STEP 1)_ Regional Capacity Building:

- Level: REGIONAL
- Types: HRD activities
- Financial Support: IAEA, RCARO, and other entities
- Recording: Data collected by the IAEA/RCARO

(STEP 2)_ TCDC Activities:

- Level: INTER-GP
- Types: Provision of services by RRUs etc.
- Financial Support: NONE
- Recording: GP reporting (RCA Annual Reports)

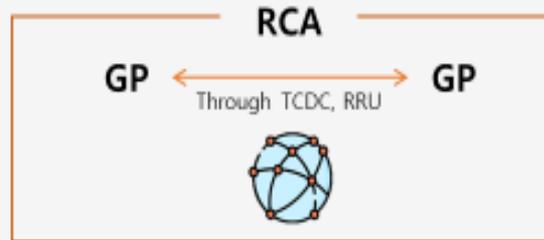
Our focus is to enhance the regional cooperation among the GPs to facilitate the technology transfer

(STEP 3)_ National Activities:

- Level: NATIONAL
- Types: Various activities to disseminate knowledge and skills earned at the regional activities
- Financial Support: NONE
- Recording: PPARs



Regional Cooperation for Technology Transfer



Purposes

- To identify common problems and address these through collective action
- To effectively utilize the resources that are already available (expertise, facilities etc.)
- To close the technological development gap of the region
- To develop various types of bi-/multi partnerships under the RCA
- To increase the ownership and sustainability

Forms of Cooperation

- Implementation of TCDC activities
- Utilization of RRUs
- Implementation of activities that specially focus on the LDCs and SIDSs

Forum for Technology Transfer under RCA



Purpose:

The forum for Technology Transfer under the RCA is a platform **to promote the transfer of mature/proven nuclear technologies in RCA region** with the participation of various stakeholders in RCA GPs (*institutes, academia, governments, industries, etc.*)

Forum for Technology Transfer under RCA



The expected activities:

- Forum Meetings and Workshops: *to share information and experiences on Technology Transfer/Diffusion of Proven Nuclear Technologies among RCA GPs* → How to develop **a model package** of a proven technology, providing information **from A to Z** for effective diffusion of a specific technology (application, institutional/HRD building, maintenance, commercialization etc.)
- **Develop a mechanism/orientations for technology transfer under RCA**
- + Supporting experts in finding and evaluating technologies,
- + Organizing activities to connect “supply & demand” of proven technologies,
- + Building a database of technology-transfer in RCA
- Issues on Intellectual property (PI);
- **Forming cross-sectional teams across specialized fields and industries that may create and execute collaborative activities for transferred technology**

Observation

Reference to RCA Declaration:

Paragraphs 5, 7 and 9.

- **Lack of a regional plan/programme on nuclear science and technology human resource development, utilizing universities and national nuclear institutes in the region.**
- It is crucial to have a programme to maintain and develop nuclear HRD in the region to ensure young scientists have **access to nuclear technologies for the benefit of generations to come.**

Recommendation

- **The WG on the RCA MTS Coordination makes the *ongoing efforts which includes drafting the terms of reference for a HRD committee* for further discussion at the 45th NRM.**
- *The Chair of the RCA SPS Committee is requested to continue providing detailed clarification to all questions from the GPs at the 45th NRM.*

Recommendation to improve nuclear HRD under the RCA



- The TOR for the permanent Committee on Comprehensive Nuclear HRD drafted by the WG MTSC has been uploaded on the rcaro's website.
 - The report of the *12th Meeting of WG MTSC* stated that “The TOR includes the functions, membership, and qualifications of the Committee members. **The Committee is tasked, among other things, to review the current state of HRD and formulate short -medium term- and long term strategies and action plans on sustainable human capacity building which include human resource development, education and training, knowledge management, and knowledge networks in the RCA region”**
 - **For the pending issue on RCA Scholarship Programme, the NRs need to make the final decision.**
- Once the scholarship programme is approved by the NRs, the committee in charge of its implementation should become a sub-committee of the permanent Committee. *(Recommendation by the 12th Meeting of WG MTSC)*

Recommendation to strengthen the partnership and resources mobilization under RCA



Observation

Reference to RCA Declaration: Paragraphs

4, 8.

- ***RCA programme is currently modest***, which relies basically on the TC funds inside the TC programme with a limited fund of 3.2 million Euro per cycle (2 yrs).

How to expand the RCA programme with more social and economic impact?

- **No concrete action plan to promote partnership and financial resource mobilization** to expand RCA programme and develop nuclear human resources development.

Recommendation

- To establish a structured and systemic approach for facilitating partnerships and resource mobilization.
- To establish a specialized committee with required skillsets involving the RCA key stakeholders with relevant expertise, such as the RCA Chairs, PAC, IAEA and RCARO, taking the leading roles.
- To establish bilateral and triangular cooperations as well as small groups of GPs.

Partnership in SDGs Context



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

• TARGET 17.6

Enhance **North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation** on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

• TARGET 17.7

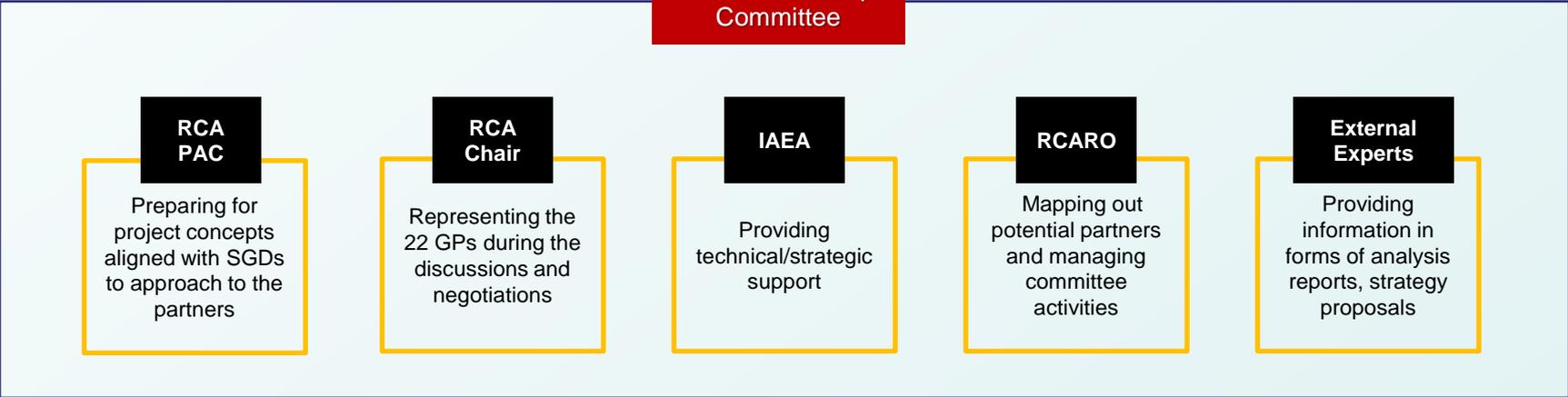
Promote the **development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion** of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.



Issue 1: “Building Structured and Systematic Approach”



44th RCA NRM endorsed the WG MTSC undertake a thorough study on the establishment of a **Committee on Resource Mobilization and Partnerships.**





Issue 2: “Building mechanism to secure funding: RCA FUND

“Encourage the proactive engagement and contribution of the RCA State Parties in order to ensure the sustainability of the RCA programme in addressing regional priority needs”
- RCA Ministerial Declaration (2022)

Status

- In 2018, RCA decided to raise collectively euro 400,000 annually (voluntary basis) for the RCA Programme through the RCA management project (RAS0086), instead of establishing a RCA fund.
- Declarations (2018, 2021) sent to GPs for commitment, but no response/contribution yet
- Many RCA activities are supported by the RCA management project but has limited scope and duration. → Always in need of applying for a new cycle
- We have proven successful examples – AFRA (2007) and ARASIA (2022)

Purpose

- A basket to collect RCA EB funds
- A symbol to strengthen and show the RCA ownership
- A channel to receive funding from outside
- A channel to implement various cooperative activities
- A strong follow-up action of the RCA Ministerial Declaration

Challenges

- Some RCA GPs are highly concerned that their financial burden would increase.
- 2-5 GPs contribute EB for the RCA Programme annually

Establishing a specialized committee on partnership building and resource mobilization



- RCA NRs consider establishing a committee on resource mobilisation to support implementation of 2022 Ministerial Declaration?
 - The Committee members will work together to formulate necessary project proposals, and present these to potential donors/partners.
- *The draft TOR for the proposed permanent Committee on Resource Mobilization and Partnership Building has been uploaded on the rcaro's website*





Q&A





Thank you for your attention