

Suggested Criteria for Selecting/Evaluating Regional Resource Units (RRUs) in the RCA Programme

1) Background:

Since 1995 the RCA MS have been implementing various measures which resulted in an increase in the ownership of the RCA programme. In 1996 they suggested the concept of lead countries for the programme and initiated the development of operating rules and guidelines governing the programming and implementation of the RCA programme. At the 1996 RCA Meeting of Representatives held in Beijing, China, the RCA Member States agreed on the establishment of RRUs in the RCA.

The identification of RRUs has been a main objective of as well as an indicator of success for the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project (RAS 97/030). Under the project, RRUs had been designated or assigned by MS for the various subprojects during the project formulation meetings of these subprojects held in February and March 1998.

The Agency also recognized the importance of RRUs, which it generally considers as Centers of Excellence¹

At the 28th RCA General Conference held on September 1999 in Vienna, Austria the RCA MS received further list of proposals for RRUs and contact persons.

With the increase in interest from many Member States to be RRUs the Meeting asked the Secretariat to elaborate further on the roles and functions of RRUs and prepare criteria on the evaluation of performance of the RRUs.

In response to these requests a draft questionnaire was prepared by the RCA Secretariat and circulated to selected MS that had been earlier identified or volunteered as RRUs, for their comments. The form is intended to be filled up by the existing or prospective RRUs—it is designed to include those information that meets the criteria for RRUs as agreed upon earlier (refer to first paragraph above) and would facilitate evaluation of such candidate or the performance of an already designated RRU. The questionnaire was sent on 7 December with a deadline of 30 December 1999.

2) Results of the survey

The Secretariat received 6 replies from the following countries: AUL, IND, MAL, PHI, NZE and SIN.

The following are some of the comments:

- the format must reflect the measure of the criteria for RRU elaborated in the RCA WGM in Beijing in May 1996 (AUL);

¹ In AFRA they have the AFRA-designated centers of excellence and ARCAL has centers of excellence.

- the format as circulated is not really going to measure the performance of the RRUs but could be used to identify or select them (NZE);
- the information on whether an RRU is delivering good quality facilities to MS would be from the evaluation of the people in MS who utilized those facilities /services (NZE);
- there is a need to find ways to incorporate the evaluation forms filled in by participants of training courses and adding to it a questionnaire to the users of laboratory or other services(NZE);
- System weight (percentage points) should be included(MAL); and
- Certification facilities be included to cater to facilities certifying personnel (SIN)

Comments were also received on modification of the form.(SIN , INS, AUL)

As a result of these comments the form has been revised.

The form is not intended to evaluate the performance of the RRUs but to be used as an aid in identifying and selecting them. Additional items will be solicited from MS for measuring the performance of the RRUs. No weighting system is envisioned but MS could make suggestions.

3) Recommendations:

- a. It is recommended that the MS adopt this form as a way forward, to be filled up by the RRUs and other candidate RRUs and to submit the completed forms to the Secretariat not later than mid-March 2000.
- b. It is further recommended that the MS create a working group who will evaluate the forms and make recommendation to the body (RCA) for confirming/accepting the RRUs.
- c. It is also recommended that MS submit suggestions on measures to gauge the performance of the RRUs.

**Suggested Criteria for Selecting/Evaluating Laboratories, Expertise and Facilities
being offered by Member States as Regional Resource Units (RRUs)**

Part A

1. Title of RCA project and Project number	
2. Proposed RRU:	
Field of work: Description of proposed RRU's area of expertise(include a descriptor defining the scientific or technical contribution(s) being made, such as tracing, PIXE, NAA, etc)	
Contact Person's name and contact details (telephone, fax, email)	
Host institute's name	
Country	
3. Ability to accept the responsibility of an RRU	

REGIONAL RESOURCE UNITS

The concept of a Regional Resource Units (RRU) was developed to recognise that in RCA Member States, the national and international investments to establish and improve nuclear science and technology have often developed across the region in pockets of high level scientific and technical expertise, based around their investments in manpower and equipment. These resources have generally not being acknowledged for their achievements and more importantly have not being utilised to any significant degree for the benefit of the RCA Programme. The introduction of RRUs into the RCA programme was seen to have the potential to make a significant increase in TCDC; to increase the sustainability of nuclear science and technology at a regional level for Member States; to increase the "ownership" of projects by Member States; and as a cost effective mechanism to deliver project activities.

The definition of an RRU was agreed at the RCA WGM held in Beijing in May 1996 and endorsed at the RCA GCM in September 1996 and remains:

- a well-established expert group within a national organization, normally a NNRI;
- being in either a developed or developing Member State;
- being able to exercise a leadership role in projects/part projects through having high quality capabilities (eg analysis, tracer services, etc) which are available for use within the region;
- attuned to the needs of technology end-users, such as local companies, government organisations, etc; and

- able to carry out IAEA contracts, provide “hands on” training for other Member States (TCDC), assess project proposals, etc.

The criteria for RRUs should include:

- willingness to share in regional activities;
- scientific excellence in a technique (publication record, modern equipment, standards of measurements, etc);
- a suitable number of trained staff;
- sufficient ongoing projects to ensure that skills are regularly used and updated;
- part of a well-supported national programme; and
- administratively well-supported within their NNRI.

Is the host institute able to agree to the above statement on RRUs? Please indicate your answer.

Will any resources* in the proposed RRU require a fee for use by Member States? If “yes “ please specify which resources and the proposed charge.

4. Measures of Scientific Attainment

4.a List names, qualifications and experience of personnel designated for the proposed RRU and indicate whether they are full-time or part-time

4.b List any relevant scientific publications and/or reports published in the past 5 years covering the nominated specialty area of the proposed RRU

4.c List any major demonstration during the past 5 years conducted by the staff

* Resources could include (i) laboratories (ii) expertise (iii) training facilities (iv) certification facilities or others

of the proposed RRU in the nominated specialty area
4.d List any major equipment purchased in last 5 years that would be available for use by MS in this RRU
4.e List any significant demonstration facilities in the proposed RRU for use

Part B.

5. Measures of Infrastructure support
5.a. What are the resources available :
i) laboratories
ii) expertise
iii) training facilities
iv) certification facilities
v) others (please specify)
i) For laboratories, please enumerate them and the techniques involved including equipment available and also identify resources funded by IAEA and other external agencies
ii) for expertise, please enumerate in which fields and number of experts available
iii) for training facilities, please enumerate number of IAEA fellows trained_____

and also audio visual or multimedia facilities, number of training rooms available lecturers, etc
iv) for certification facilities , please state the type of certification programme scheme available, type of specimens and equipment, number of examinations conducted, rooms available, examiners, etc
v) for others please specify details
5.b List any significant resources that are <u>not</u> available to support the RRU.
5.c Will these be acquired in the next two years?
5.d Are the available resources already offered to or used by other Member States. If “ yes” please specify.
5.e Have other Member States used such resources in the past year?If “yes” please specify.
i) for laboratories, the frequency or number of times used: ____.
ii) for expertise, the number of experts involved____ and the duration(manweeks)____
iii) for training facilities, the number of meeting;/training events conducted ____and number of IAEA fellows trained/attached____number of experts involved____ and duration(manweeks)____. .
iv) for certification facilities , the number of certification programmes conducted____
v) for others please specify corresponding details_____
5.f What other projects are making use of the proposed RRU’s resources?

5.g	Are there constraints that prevent full utilization of the proposed RRU resources by other Member States? Please give your opinion.
5.h	What are the steps being taken to sustain the capability of the RRU?
i)	for laboratories, upgrading of equipment____, expansion____, additional skilled workers____, others(please specify) _____
ii)	for expertise, continuous contact with practitioners in the field____, training new ones____,others(please specify)_____.
iii)	for training facilities, including fellowship attachment, upgrading of training equipment____, replacing old equipment_____train additional lecturers____ others(Please specify)_____
iv)	for certification facilities, upgrading of examination materials _____replacing of old equipment and/or test specimens____training of additional examiners _____ others(Please specify)
Name of person completing the questionnaire:_____	
Position or designation : _____	
Agency	
Telephone/email/fax numbers_____	