

23rd Meeting of RCA National Representative Japanese Proposal to the RCA Activities

I. Management

1. Lead Country System

Advantage

?? Invites initiative from RCA Member States

Concerns

?? The economic situation in a country may restrict it from taking a lead country role.

[Countries in a less advantageous economic situation would be unable to accept a lead country role]

?? The lead country itself should have the appropriate technology level for the field.

?? Based on differences of activities in each section, the same level of service is not ensured.

?? Attitude of the lead country controls RCA activities so that the collective intentions of Member States are not reflected.

Japan's Proposal

?? The Working Group should be established to re-investigate and re-think the Lead Country System

?? The Lead Country should:

?? have the backup and support of its own government.

?? have notable achievement in the field it is leading.

2. RCA Office

Concerns

?? Because of restrictions in the budget, an increase in the RCA office staff is not expected in the near future.

?? The exchange of information between the RCA office and the Technical Officers is insufficient.

Japan's Proposal

The Regional Office in Korea should be established for the effective implementation of RCA projects. (The Director of the Regional Office should be selected from a Member State other than the host country.)

3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Technical Officer

Concerns

- ?? RCA activities are a secondary task of the IAEA Technical Officer.
- ?? The Agency is not informed of the results of RCA activities. The results of RCA meetings are not followed up.
- ?? Decisions made in AGMs regarding the level of technology to be used are not adhered to. Some technical officers are apt to use more advanced technology than that agreed upon in the RCA meetings.
- ?? Some Technical Officers tend to hold RCA meetings in their own country.
- ?? Lack of communication between the Technical Officer and the Project Coordinator.

Japan's Proposal

- ?? The role of the Technical Officer in RCA projects should be clarified technically and managerially.
- ?? The results of the RCA meetings should be clearly communicated to the Agency by the Technical Officer. The Agency might develop a form that can be filled out and the results should be open to all RCA Member States.
- ?? If the AGM adopts the necessity for a basic technology project, the Technical Officer must follow these guidelines.
- ?? RCA meetings should not be held repeatedly in the Technical Officer's home country. Member States participating in the project should be consulted in advance and a suitable country should be chosen based on the feasibility of project enforcement.
- ?? The Agency should appoint Technical Officers based on the following criteria, when possible, with the consent of RCA Member States:

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he/she should come from the Asia Pacific area

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possess extensive knowledge of the conditions in the area

?? The Agency should instruct the Technical Officer to maintain close contact with the project coordinator in each country. If this is not done, RCA Member States may request the Agency to appoint a new Technical Officer.

II. Project

1. Concern regarding project design

?? The project coordinator in each member state might not sufficiently understand the conditions and the level of atomic energy for peaceful uses. The project coordinator designs the project without reflecting on the real needs of the country concerned.

2. Concern regarding project implementation

?? Lecturers are invited from outside the RCA who have little understanding of conditions in Asia.

3. Concern regarding project evaluation

?? There is insufficient follow-up to training workshops.

Japan's Proposal to the Agency and RCA Member States

1. Project design

?? Each project coordinator should research the technological level and project implementation conditions of his own country to understand the needs of his own country. He should strive to design the project to fit the technology level and needs of his own country.

?? Effort should be given to avoid duplication between completed and ongoing projects.

2. Project implementation

?? Efforts should be made to scout suitable lecturers within the Asia Pacific region.

3. Project evaluation

?? The knowledge that participants gain in training workshops should be passed on to other members of the research community within that country. The Agency and Members States should find ways to ensure this.

?? Issues and points to be improved among RCA Member States should be shared.

Japan's Proposal to the Agency

In designing and evaluating the project, Japan requests that the Agency establish a working group to investigate the following and to make the results available to all RCA member states.

- ?? Clarification of the project design criteria
 - ?? Reflect on the real needs of the RCA member states
 - ?? Reflect on the technology level of RCA Member States
 - ?? Expectation of a visible outcome
- ?? Ensure coordination between the Agency's Technical Cooperation projects and RCA projects (coordinating and/or avoiding duplication)
- ?? Evaluate the necessity for modifications to the Agency's Evaluation System to RCA projects.
- ?? Research methods to apply the results of completed projects to future projects.

III. Diffusion of technological information

Concern

Often, after returning from a workshop, the trainee switches fields and the valuable technical knowledge gained in the workshop is not passed along to his local research community.

1. Japan's Proposal to RCA Member States
 - ?? Call for improvement.
2. Japan's Proposal to the Agency
 - ?? Conditions of participation should be strictly observed.
 - ?? Investigate the possibility of establishing a system whereby training workshop participants can hold workshops in their own countries and share their acquired knowledge.