



REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

DRAFT REPORT

23rd RCA MEETING OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

18-20 MARCH, 2001

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
APCTT	Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APO	Asian Productivity Organisation
ARCAL	Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Advancement of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
AUL	Australia
DDG	Deputy Director General
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FNCA	Forum for Nuclear Co-operation in Asia
GC	General Conference
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
KAERI	Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute
LDC	Least Developed Country
MS	Member State
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ROK	Republic of Korea
RRU	Regional Resource Unit
SARRC	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
S&T	Science & Technology
TC	Technical Cooperation
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCAPS	East Asia and the Pacific Section
TCPA	Division for Africa and East Asia and the Pacific
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services

1. Opening

The opening of the 23rd RCA National Representatives Meeting was held at the Winter Garden of the Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka on 18 March, 2001.

The meeting was attended by 34 participants from the RCA Member States (MSs) including 16 National Representatives (Annex-1). The IAEA was represented by Mr. Adnan A. Shihab-Eldin, Director, Technical Cooperation, Mr. M.N. Razley, Head, East Asia and the Pacific Section (TCAPS) and Mr. C.R. Aleta, RCA Coordinator, East Asia and the Pacific Section.

Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, RCA National Representative of Bangladesh and Member, Biological Sciences, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), welcomed the delegates to the 23rd RCA National Representatives' Meeting and wished them a pleasant stay at Dhaka. He expressed his satisfaction that all the participants had kindly used their precious time to join the meeting.

Dr. Adnan A. Shihab-Eldin, on behalf of the IAEA and its Director General welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He also extended the greetings and best wishes of Mr. Qian, the Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation to all the delegates for a successful meeting.

He said that an important task of the meeting would be to take decisions on the upstream activities for the 2003/2004 programmes. He stressed the Agency's wish to see fewer, more effective programmes. He further said that over the past few years, the Agency had gained valuable practical experience of what constitutes a good model project. This led the Agency to refine and highlight one of the model project criteria-that of government commitment-as a central criterion. This would greatly facilitate the work of all parties involved during the up stream work, in both the design and appraisal stages. It is simple, easy to apply and would result in selection of projects, meeting the model project quality standard. A copy of his message is in Annex-2.

Engr. Md. Habibuddin, Chairperson of the ceremony and Chairman BAEC, expressed his satisfaction to note that collaboration on a regional basis under RCA has already helped to pool regional resources and share experiences among the participating countries. He also hoped that the present meeting of the RCA representatives would help to formulate an appropriate action plan to the benefit of all the member states. A copy of his speech is in Annex-3.

Mr. M. Fazlur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology on behalf of his ministry welcomed the respected delegates and wished every success to the meeting. He hoped that its outcome would greatly facilitate shaping the future programme of the RCA in such a way that all its member states may be benefited by peaceful uses of atomic energy. He also mentioned his recent experience in attending the Expert Group Meeting, preparatory to the LDC III meeting at which the UNESCO representative mentioned the RCA model, noting that this model may be followed by the LDCs in future in their S&T initiatives. He declared the meeting open. A copy of his speech is in Annex-4.

Finally Mr. Md. Abul Hossain, Director International Affairs Division, BAEC thanked all for attending the ceremony.

2. Administrative Session

2.1 Statement of the Outgoing Chairperson

The outgoing Chairman Mr. A. K. Anand welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He opined that RCA is a classic example of TCDC. He further related his past experience as RCA Chairman that RCA was moving from capacity building to problem solving. On behalf of India and RCA he expressed his satisfaction to hand over the RCA baton to Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury of Bangladesh.

2.2 Election of the Chairperson

Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, Bangladesh was elected the chairperson as proposed by Korea and seconded by Myanmar and supported by all the member states.

2.3 Statement by the Incoming Chairperson

The incoming chairperson, Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, took the chair and conveyed his thanks and gratitude to the proposer, seconder and all the participants for their whole-hearted support. He sought their cooperation in order to carry out his responsibilities smoothly so that all the different agenda issues could be discussed and useful conclusions made. He thanked the outgoing chairperson Dr. Anand for his dynamic leadership and excellent performance in running the affairs of the RCA during his tenure.

2.4 Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda (Annex-5) was adopted.

3. SESSION 1

3.1 Presentation of 29th RCA GC Meeting Report

The RCA Co-ordinator presented the 29th RCA GC Meeting Report (the report had been circulated to the MSs earlier). He updated the meeting on progress with the list of action items found in Annex 18 of the report. He briefly enumerated the status of each action item and said that most of the actions had been completed, while a few more were scheduled to be taken up at this 23rd RCA Meeting. These were on the proposal for a regional office in Korea (see para 4.1 below), the role of research (see para 4.6 (iii)), and the items related to the legal aspects of materials put in the homepage and establishment of an advisory board for the electronic newsletter (see para 4.6 (vii)), and elaboration on two criteria on selection of technology to be adopted/transferred under the Tripartite forum (see para 4.6(viii)).

Australia expressed appreciation of the contribution of Mr. Anand and Mr. Krishnan in preparing the report and supported its contents. Japan noted that their views on part of the GC Report would

be provided later in the meeting. Malaysia also informed the meeting that follow-up actions on Electronic Networking and Outreach (ENO) would be circulated during the meeting.

After some further general discussion, the report was adopted.

3.2 Presentation of RCA Annual Report 2000

The RCA Co-ordinator informed the meeting that the electronic version of the report had already been circulated to the MSs. The report consisted of three parts. Parts 1 and 2 were close to finalisation. Part 3 would be finalised after further input is received from several MSs.

New Zealand expressed satisfaction with the great improvement in this report compared with earlier RCA annual reports. He noted especially the use of success stories and illustrative pictures. However, there could still be further improvements made to the format. Taking up this point, Australia suggested that the report should be provided in two documents. One could be very short and provide highlights of the programme. This would be useful for presentations to policy makers and other organisations. The other document would contain the details of the programme and would be useful for MSs.

Japan and Indonesia emphasized the need for a thorough evaluation of the programme achievements. This was needed in addition to the success stories. Indonesia also said that it was the role of project committees to provide this evaluation. An evaluation from each project committee should be reported briefly to the Meeting of National Representatives.

On the information provided on TCDC contributions in Part 3, Korea commented that more detail was necessary than the simple yes/no presently requested. Australia agreed that suitable alterations to the table could be made.

The meeting adopted the report subject to MSs providing the missing information for Part-3. The meeting also noted that in future the report should take account of the comments made by Australia.

3.3 Project Activities in 2000

The RCA Co-ordinator presented a summary report of major activities in 2000, comprising (i) Policy/Management (ii) Programme Implementation and (iii) Staff (Annex-6). He referred to the good implementation record in terms of delivery and increased activities in the year. This was assisted by the provision of a cost free expert from Korea. However, despite this, he also noted the heavy work-load of the staff of the RCA office.

Indonesia expressed concern about the workload problem since this could affect the delivery of programme seriously. Indonesia suggested that the possible solutions to the staff workload would be either a reduction of number of projects, an increase in the number of staff or an increase in the responsibility for implementation by MSs.

Korea informed the meeting that a replacement cost free expert would be provided to RCA shortly. Korea also noted that the impact of the cost free expert on the programme implementation was substantial. Japan supported the comments of Indonesia, and noted that a proper evaluation of the programme might also help with the management of the programme activities. The Philippines said that mechanisms such as outsourcing could be explored, and the speed of implementation increased. Savings could be made that might assist research.

The report was noted.

3.4 Status of Joint/UNDP/RCA/IAEA Project

The RCA Coordinator reported the outcomes of the terminal tripartite review meeting of the Joint/UNDP/RCA/IAEA Project held in New Delhi in December 2000. It was noted that the UNDP was unable to attend. The meeting was informed that UNDP had confirmed that it would not fund the Joint project beyond December 2000. The review meeting had endorsed the resolution of the 2000 RCA GC meeting to continue the project for the remaining two years. The RCA Co-ordinator sought the support of the MS for the remaining projects.

A Terminal Report of the Joint Project had been forwarded to UNDP. UNDP had responded that they were generally pleased with the report and its findings but they had requested some further

details about the impact of the project. New Zealand said that they believed that these extra details could be provided quite quickly and agreed to supply item to its RCA Co-ordinator.

The Director of TCPA commented that UNDP project managers were under pressure to decrease its overall level of funding to projects and they had also made a policy decision to reduce the extent to which their programmes were executed by UN agencies.

The meeting had a lengthy discussion of the interaction between MSs, the Agency and the UNDP. Finally, it was decided that the chairman of the RCA would write to the UNDP thanking them for their support and emphasizing the achievements of the project to date. The chairman would also mention that the project was continuing at a reduced level and hope that the UNDP might be involved in the project again at some future time. He would also express the disappointment on behalf of the RCA MSs at the UNDP decision not to continue funding the project. (A copy of this letter should be sent to relevant ministries in addition to the UNDP focal points through RCA National Representatives.)

3.5 Overview of 2001/2002 Programmes

The RCA Co-ordinator drew the attention of the meeting to Annexure 13 of the Annual Report where the overview of 2001/2002 has been summarized. There are 30¹ projects shown together with the sectoral budget allocation of US\$ 5.39 million for 2001 and US\$ 4.18 million for 2002. On the sectoral program on radiation protection, he informed the MSs about the new approach of the Agency in implementing the TC radiation protection programme and invited the Lead Country Co-ordinator, Australia, to explain this approach.

Dr. Ron Cameron, chairman of the Co-ordination Group on Radiation Protection for RAS/9/018 and RAS/9/024, presented a report on the National Project Coordinators' meeting in New Zealand from 19-21 February 2001. In view of the significant changes to the planned role of the Coordination Group, he welcomed the opportunity to present these issues to this RCA meeting. He emphasized that the Agency was advising that all radiation protection activities should be co-ordinated through a single National Co-ordinator under two new umbrella projects, RAS/9/026 -

Model Project on National Regulatory Control and Occupational Radiation Protection Programmes and RAS/9/027 - Model Project on Development of Technical Capabilities for Sustainability Radiation and Waste Safety Infrastructure. The RCA programme was well suited to delivering many of the activities to support this new approach. The Co-ordination Group meeting had made recommendations on how to integrate the RCA activities with the new IAEA approach and indicated some of the key issues for regional countries.

The meeting endorsed the following recommendations of the Co-ordination Group:

1. To support the new IAEA approach to the provision of radiation protection services to Member States and the appointment of a single National Counterpart for all issues to do with radiation protection in each country.
2. To integrate RCA activities in the new approach and with the RCA modality used mainly to implement activities related to milestones 2 – 5 as defined in the programme.
3. For an enhanced role for the Coordination Group in overseeing all radiation programmes in the region.
4. New terms of reference for National Counterparts as they relate to the RCA. These people should have the responsibilities and authority to carry out their role.
5. Funding of the planned activities for 2001-2002 and the preparation for a new programme for 2003-2006.
6. Proposed new mechanisms² for ensuring more effective use of training courses and workshops, and more appropriate dissemination mechanisms in each country.

3.6 Regional events 2001

The RCA Co-ordinator referred to the proposed regional events in 2001³. He requested the member states to consider hosting events for which no host country has yet been identified. Member states were also requested to confirm their decision to host activities if they had not already done so. Vietnam expressed concern that the project RAS/8/089 “Optimisation of Mineral Resources

¹ 9 additional projects are scheduled to be closed during 2001.

² The new mechanism refers to collation of training materials on CD-ROM.

Recovery using Low Radioactivity Nucleonic Gauges” could not be upgraded from being a footnote a project.

The RCA Co-ordinator also mentioned a training event on Irradiator Safety proposed to be held outside the region in Canada. The meeting opined that RCA activities and events should take place within the region unless there is a compelling reason for not doing so. The Philippines suggested that criteria be drawn up for holding events outside the region. The meeting will now be held in the region⁴.

4. SESSION 2

4.1 2003/2004 Programme

The Director TCPA made a presentation on TC guidelines on upstream work for 2003/2004 (Annex-7). He stressed the need for new project proposals to meet the Central Criterion evolved from the model project concept. This Central Criterion emphasises a demonstrated national need and firm government commitment as essential to Agency approval of TC funded projects. He also mentioned that it was desirable to decrease the number of projects in order to achieve greater impact within available resources.

The Section Head TCAPS presented an overview of the Regional Programme (Annex-8) . He mentioned that when the budget of the approved programme for 2003/04 was taken into account, there would be only limited funds available for new projects. He requested the lead countries to note both the likely budgetary constraints and the Central Criterion when formulating project proposals for 2003/2004 for new and continuing projects.

³ The list of regional events (meetings, workshops and training events) was distributed earlier.

⁴ Thailand agreed to host this meeting.

The RCA Co-ordinator advised that the budget for RCA projects with actual budget allocation in 2003/4 (Category CO)⁵ is \$1.05 million, for projects planned to go to 2003/4 but with no budget allocated (Category C1) is \$1.02 million, and for projects likely to be continued to 2003/4 (Category C2) is \$4.1 million, making a total estimated budget of about \$6.17 million for 2003/4 (Annex-9). He informed that the budget for 2001/2 for hard-core funding is \$5.22 million and therefore the estimated budget for 2003/4 was already oversubscribed even without any new projects, and that this is an area that MSs would have to look at when submitting the RCA programme for 2003/2004.

The meeting then heard presentations from the Lead Countries for Health, Industry and Research Reactors. In discussion, some concern was expressed about the number of new initiatives brought forward. The Lead Country for Health, Indonesia, said that this was because the Advisory Groups were considering regional needs and had not considered fully the budgetary implications.

At this point, the meeting requested all Lead Countries to convene after the session and report back on their advice on how to move forward on the project formulation process for each Thematic area in the light of the available budget.

Subsequently, the lead countries made the following recommendations to the meeting concerning the “Hard Core Component” of the 2003-2004 RCA budget using the RCA budget allocation for the 2001-2002 biennium as a basis.

1. The hard core component of the RCA budget for the 2003-2004 biennium shall be distributed among the thematic areas as follows:

Thematic Area	Allocation
Agriculture	25%
Health	20%
Industry, Natural Resources and Environment	35%

⁵ These categories, C0, C1 and C2 are defined in the TC guidelines for upstream work.

Energy and Research Reactor	10%
Radiation Protection	10%
Total	100%

2. The project committees under the coordination of respective lead countries, are requested to:
- ?? review the ongoing (2001-2002) projects and prepare new proposals or proposals for extension in the approved format
 - ?? assume a ceiling of 6 (six) million US\$ for the total hard core component and the above percentage allocations as guidelines
 - ?? further review and provide a list of projects in order of priority
 - ?? submit the aforementioned proposals and priority list to the RCA Office by the end of May 2001
 - ?? in reviewing and proposing projects for the 2003/4 RCA Programme Lead Countries are to pay attention to the Model Project and Central Criterion. If necessary, pre-project assistance may be provided by the Agency to the Lead Country to assist in carrying out upstream work.

The meeting endorsed these recommendations. The RCA Office was requested to convey this information to the project committees via the Lead Countries, clearly pointing out the process to be followed. New Zealand noted that special consideration would be needed in the area of the Environment, where there were separate Lead Countries for each sub-project. Australia and New Zealand were requested to assist in the formulation of the letter to be sent to the Lead Countries before the end of the meeting⁶.

The meeting then considered how to apply the lessons learned in the future. It was recommended that the Meeting of National Representatives review the percentages to be assigned to the various Thematic areas before the programming begins in each programming cycle. The review will be based on -

⁶ The letters prepared by AUL & NZE suitably modified by RCA and was sent to all RCA MSs in early April 2001.

- ?? a report on each thematic area from the project committee presented by the Lead Country Coordinator at each National Representatives meeting held in the region.
- ?? this report should be brief and highlight outcomes, achievements, an assessment of the project progress and any difficulties encountered, and should be available one month prior to the meeting of National Representatives.
- ?? an estimate of the likely hard-core budgetary allocation to be assigned to the RCA for the upcoming cycle, also one month prior to the meeting of National Representatives.

The decision of the National Representatives will then be forwarded to the RCA Office and to the Project Committees to guide their formulation and evaluation of new programmes.

Dr. Peter Airey, IAEA consultant, then presented his report on “Towards enhancing synergy of RCA programme with TC strategy”⁷. The report documented evidence that the TC Strategy and Guidelines are working for TC funded RCA projects. It suggested the need for additional resources independent of TC for its RCA programme with the concept of Lead Countries and RRUs as a mechanism for this. Potential opportunities for generating additional cash resources and for exploiting the RCA Homepage were also discussed.

The report made two recommendations that were summarised as follows:

- ?? RCA Meeting of Representatives (perhaps augmented) could provide TC with advice, covering the whole of EA&P programme to realize the benefits of the synergies between all programmes within the region.
- ?? To fully realize converging opportunities for RCA, non-traditional sources of support should be sought for example :
 - leverage through LC and RRUs
 - direct support from donor agencies
 - research grants and commercial opportunities.

⁷ This report was circulated earlier to the RCA MSs; copies were also distributed at this 23rd RCA Meeting.

Australia commented that there were opportunities for obtaining research grants and commercial revenue. RCA may wish to look into this and produce clear guidelines for receiving research grants. Australia also noted that there may be ownership and IP issues concerned with such research grants. Malaysia recalled that RCA had no guidelines concerning IP issues and that it was time to consider this matter properly.

Indonesia suggested that the wording of the first recommendation should be amended to reflect the need for “effective synergy between programmes and their balance”.

The meeting expressed their satisfaction with the consultant report and requested that the Agency consider its recommendations.

4.2 Outsourcing

The RCA Co-ordinator reviewed previous discussions on the issue of outsourcing. He informed its meeting that while the Agency is still developing guidelines on outsourcing, it is encouraging outsourcing using the existing mechanisms, e.g. contracting. The Director TCPA pointed out that in view of the heavy work-load at the TC Department some outsourcing seems inevitable. The meeting wanted clarification about outsourcing from the Agency. The Director suggested that the RCA member states could propose methodology for outsourcing. However it should not affect the present position of in kind contributions of the MSs in terms of hosting events.

The Director TCPA recalled last year’s General Conference Resolution on strengthening of TC (GC(44)RES/18) which requested the Secretariat to “facilitate cost-sharing, outsourcing and other forms of partnership in development by reviewing, and amending or simplifying, as appropriate, relevant financial and legal procedures.” He informed its meeting that the Agency is compiling models of best practices of outsourcing under current financial and legal procedures. He further noted that, for the longer term, some changes in the Agency financial and legal procedure may lead to simplification of the process of outsourcing and increase its utilisation in implementing TC activities. Further information will be provided to MSs by the RCA Coordinator prior to the next meeting.

India commented that the spirit of RCA obliged Members States to make contributions through in-kind and TCDC mechanisms. It was important that outsourcing should not replace these concepts. Boundaries to outsourcing were required. Japan also expressed some concerns about outsourcing, and preferred to use Agency in-house mechanisms such as using Technical Officers.

Malaysia referred to its experience in organising the Regional Seminar on Sustainability and Self-reliance of National Nuclear Institutions in the Asia and Pacific region in August 2000 through an outsourcing mechanism. Malaysia expressed its view that outsourcing needs to be undertaken selectively so as to strike a proper balance between administrative and technical benefits to MSs.

Indonesia requested further information on outsourcing in the light of the comments made. Australia then noted that considerable work had been done on outsourcing by SAGTAC, from which a report was already available. This report was used as reference at an ad hoc meeting to determine a structure for RCA held in Singapore in Feb 1999.⁸

The meeting concluded that outsourcing should be further investigated but that the mechanism of in-kind contribution and TCDC would remain key elements of RCA.

4.3 RRUs

The meeting was informed by the RCA coordinator that there are presently 34 RRUs and that there is a need to evaluate the “performance”. It was pointed out by Australia that there are already criteria for selection and evaluation of RRUs. India pointed out that evaluation should not be discussed in this meeting but should be left to the Project Committee. The RCA Coordinator remarked that according to the previous decisions by RCA MSs a review should be done after 2 years and Australia suggested that the Project Committee should do this evaluation soon.

⁸ This report by the ad hoc committee forms part of the Annex of the 21st RCA Meeting of National Representatives, Feb/March 1999, Singapore.

5. SESSION 3

5.1 Proposed Establishment of an RCA Regional Office

The formal proposal to establish a regional RCA office in Republic of Korea was discussed most recently among the RCA member states at the 29th RCA General Conference meeting. At that meeting a committee was formed to consider the proposal further, comprising representatives from Australia, Korea, Pakistan and the RCA Co-ordinator. The RCA Coordinator said that a questionnaire developed from the consultations made among members of the working group had already been circulated to MSs together with other relevant papers and invited the MSs⁹ to complete this. The comments from Australia were also circulated.

Korea reiterated its proposal. In response to a question from Australia, Korea advised that it was expected that their funding in support of the regional office would be ongoing while the office was located in Korea. There was considerable discussion about many of the details involved in setting up a regional office and its roles and operating guidelines. Several views emerged. After debate, the meeting resolved as follows: the meeting -

1. expressed appreciation and thanks the Government of Korea for having offered support to establish the RCA Regional Office with a view to further improve the RCA performance and profile in the future;
2. noted the previous consensus decisions by meetings of RCA National Representatives to support, in principle, the establishment of a Regional Office;
3. noted the reservations expressed by some Member States, in particular concerning the costs and consequences resulting from the establishment of the Regional Office and its interactions with the RCA Office of the IAEA, the RCA Chairperson and with the Lead Countries;
4. supported the view that the essential purpose and role of the Regional Office should be to promote the visibility of the RCA in the region and in particular to increase the funding base available to the RCA as outlined in section 3.1 of the Working Paper as circulated by Australia;

⁹ These papers were the revised proposal from KOR, the issue on immunities and privileges, the role of the regional office versus that of the RCA office in Vienna, and financing of the salary of the director.

5. requested that a working paper be prepared for consideration at the 30th General Conference of RCA National Representatives Meeting to be held in September 2001. The paper should set down the basis of the initial operation of the Regional Office in Korea in 2002 including its financial basis, its role and responsibilities, any institutional or legal issues, and provide more information of the Regional Office. The paper should be drafted by a task force consisting of Korea, Australia, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines and the RCA Coordinator; Korea and Australia would take the lead. The working paper should be circulated about a month in advance of the RCA GC meeting.¹⁰

6. SESSION 4

6.1 TCDC :

6.2 Tripartite AFRA/ARCAL/RCA

The RCA Coordinator presented on-going activities in the Tripartite AFRA/ARCAL/RCA project. The activities related to technology transfer in areas such as: Distance Learning in Nuclear Medicine; Harmonisation of Safety Guides in Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy; Harmonisation of Regulations on Irradiation of Food; Establishing Quality Systems in Veterinary Testing and Diagnostic Laboratories; Distance Learning in Basic Radiation Oncology; Development of selected ICT-based training and learning materials in the field of maintenance and repair of nuclear instruments; Geothermal Exploration for Power and non-Power Applications; and development model documentation of standards, legal and regulatory aspects of tissue grafts, and electronic networking among the 3 agreements. .

The meeting noted his report (Annex-10).

6.3 FNCA

The Meeting was informed that some exchanges had taken place before the current meeting between the Agency and FNCA, during the First and Second FNCA Coordinators Meeting in

¹⁰ The working group met on 20 March 2001 and agreed that the RCA Coordinator submit by end of March 2001 the replies to the questionnaire from all RCA MSs to KOR and AUL to be used as basis for preparing a draft working paper which would be made available by end of May 2001. During the drafting stage prior inputs/advice from the other members would be obtained/provided to KOR and AUL. The draft will be reviewed by AUL, KOR and RCA Office by end of June and circulated to the working group members. After review/revision the draft would be sent to all MSs for initial review and reference by August 2001.

March 2000 and March 2001, respectively, both in Tokyo, Japan¹¹; the Ministerial level FNCA Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2000 which was attended by the DDG-TC/IAEA; and an FNCA Workshop on radiation oncology held in Djakarta, Indonesia in February 2001 attended by an Agency Technical Officer¹². In these events the Agency was invited as observer.

The FNCA mission, goals, activities and achievements were presented by Dr. S. Machi, FNCA Coordinator. He expressed the views that FNCA is a forum to exchange views and to carry out projects to achieve socioeconomic development. He also pointed out that RCA and FNCA are complementary and can be synergistic. Dr Machi noted that FNCA, unlike RCA, is not a legal entity. Japanese financial support for FNCA and RCA come from different sources. Subsequently Prof. Nakano presented a paper on the complementary linkage between IAEA/RCA and FNCA activity on radiation therapy.

Korea said that complementary activities were already occurring in the research reactor project. India expressed some concern that non-FNCA members of RCA would not be able to benefit from any FNCA projects that arose from collaboration with the RCA.

The Philippines mentioned that some co-ordinators of FNCA were also RCA National Project Co-ordinators. Therefore they should be able to ensure good co-ordination between RCA and FNCA. Nevertheless, some member states expressed their concern about possible overlaps between RCA and FNCA activities. The meeting, however, expressed the opinion that the RCA and FNCA may continue their own programs with efforts to avoid duplication and to seek better coordination and synergy between RCA and FNCA.

7. SESSION 5

7.1 Consultative meeting with Regional and International Organization¹³

¹¹ The RCA Coordinator attended these events as observer

¹² The TO was Mr. H. Tatsuzaki, NAHU/IAEA

¹³ A separate meeting report on the consultative meeting has also been prepared and circulated to the RCA MSs and meeting participants.

The chairman informed the meeting about the objectives of the consultative meeting that was to be held immediately after the meeting of National Representatives. He said that representatives from APO, IMO, APCTT¹⁴, UNOPS, UNDP/GEF/IMO and SARRC confirmed their participation in the consultative meeting. Other organisations such as ESCAP were unable to attend but had indicated they would submit their papers for consideration by the meeting.

It was unanimously decided that the chairperson will preside over the meeting and the immediate past chairperson will present the RCA paper. New Zealand would present a paper on the Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project, and the RCA Co-ordinator would present highlights from other Thematic areas. Australia and New Zealand were requested to ensure that the discussion sessions were properly facilitated. Discussion leaders should be sought from the visiting organisations, if willing.

8. SESSION 6

8.1 Other Matters

8.2 Next meeting: 24th Meeting of RCA National Representatives

It was decided that the next RCA meeting will be held in the first week or last week of March 2002 in either Seoul or Taejon, Republic of Korea. The duration of the meeting will be three days. Pakistan kindly offered to be an alternative venue. It was requested that the host country consider whether it was possible to arrange a technical visit to a Nuclear Power Station and KAERI. The Korean delegates noted the request and hoped to be able to fulfill it.

8.3 Regional and Non-regional Projects

This issue was not discussed in the meeting at the request of the Secretariat since an Agency position on this was still being developed.

8.4 RCA Management

¹⁴ APCTT was not able to come. UNICEF local representative came.

The Japanese delegate presented a paper detailing a number of proposed refinements to the implementation of the RCA's Guidelines and Operating Rules in the areas of Lead Countries, the role of IAEA Technical Officers, the identification of projects and project assessment (Annex-11). In discussion, it was pointed out that RCA had already considered or put in place guidelines covering some of these issues. Japan agreed to review the paper taking into account opinions and limitations pointed out in the meeting and a new version will be presented at the next GC meeting.

Australia offered to assist Japan in the revision. Agency support was also indicated by the Director TCPA through provision of the new management principles for managing TC projects, that include delineation of the roles and responsibilities of Technical and Country Officers as well as the TC strategy and a list of Project Responsible Officers.

8.5 Role of Research in the RCA Programme

The meeting was informed that at the 22nd Meeting of RCA National Representatives in Feb/March 2000 a working group comprising Australia, Indonesia, Japan and Philippines was set up to focus on this issue. A paper was circulated by Japan at the 29th RCA GC in September 2000. Further comments were requested from MSs for incorporating into the paper prior to submitting a revised version at this meeting.

The Director TCPA said that while the TC strategy did not allow the funding of research *per se*, it was certainly possible to fund research that was necessary to meet the objectives of a development project already approved.

A number of comments were made on the paper, and Australia pointed out it wished to give further consideration to it. It was agreed that MS would provide any further comment to Japan within two weeks and then the paper should be finalised.

8.6 Proposed action items arising from the seminar/workshop on sustainability of nuclear institutions

The Section Head, TCAPS, reminded the meeting of the successful Regional Seminar on Self-reliance and Sustainability of National Nuclear Institutes held August 2000 in Malaysia. Malaysia

reported on some of the outcomes of the meeting and further indicated that some of the information gathered for the seminar could be used as possible TCDC activities. In response to a question from Indonesia, Malaysia outlined the different style of the meeting that is based on the format of the Langkawi International Dialog on Smart Partnership (LID). In this format participants are grouped into several small, round table discussions focusing on specific topics to bring forward their conclusions and recommendations.

New Zealand provided a draft evaluation of the possible follow-up actions to the Regional Seminar, and invited comment from MSs. The extensive recommendations of the Regional Seminar had been consolidated into a single Table.

The meeting was informed that a new regional project on enhancing self-reliance had been initiated. A summary of its projected outcomes and objectives was presented. The initial activity would be a Regional Workshop that would refine project aims, determine the needs of the interested countries and initiate National Action Plans. A draft of the Prospectus for the Regional Workshop was presented (Annex-12).

In discussion, it was explained that the project was not about commercialisation of nuclear applications, although it could contribute to this if necessary. Its purpose was to provide training and assistance to upgrade skills and infrastructure in managing technology transfer, maintaining the relevance and experience of nuclear institutes and presenting the benefits of nuclear science and technology to other agencies and clients.

After some discussion on the meaning of self-reliance, that among others include the ability of the institute to maintain relevance thus assuring continuity of financial support/sources, several countries expressed their support for the project, such as Thailand, China, Indonesia and Japan.

The meeting noted the general support for the new regional project.

8.7 Evaluation

The meeting returned to the need for evaluation and assessment of RCA programmes. There was general consensus on its importance. It was noted that evaluation of training events could be undertaken in the near future as this was the easiest of activities to evaluate.

Australia pointed out that at least two reports existed from Dr Nahrul¹⁵ and Dr Manoon¹⁶ on the outcomes and achievements of the RCA. There were also reviews undertaken within several RCA programmes and project, such as Radiation Protection and the Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project.

India and the Philippines commented that an assessment of the effect of the RCA programmes on economic and social benefit to RCA member states was very important and some instances where this had occurred were reported.

The Director TCPA offered to bring the need for evaluation of RCA to the attention of the Internal Audit of the Agency. New Zealand noted that primary responsibility still rested with the Member States and particularly the project committees, but he welcomed the idea that the expertise of the Agency in evaluation could be made available.

The Meeting was informed about a forthcoming 3-part evaluation workshop focusing on training events, but that the tools to be gained from this workshop would also be useful for evaluating projects or a programme.

8.8 Scientific Forum

It was noted that during the forthcoming GC conference, the Scientific Forum would concentrate on the non-power applications of nuclear energy within the TC programmes. The Director TCPA suggested that RCA may wish to consider making a presentation at the Forum. This suggestion was greeted with enthusiasm. A task force consisting of India, Philippines and Malaysia was convened to formulate the RCA presentation at the Forum.

On behalf of the task force, India reported that participation should take the following form.

¹⁵ Report on Review of RCA Programme, 25 Jan-19 Feb 1999

¹⁶ Review of Technology Applied in RCA Programme (1992-1996), October 1999

1. An RCA representative will make 30 minute presentation highlighting some of the success stories in the RCA programme in consultation with the Section Head TCAPS. During the presentation, the need to continue to pursue and strengthen the RCA programme will be emphasised in the context of TCDC.
2. A brochure highlighting the activities of the RCA programme will be distributed;
3. Depending upon availability, exhibition panels exhibiting RCA success stories will be displayed;
4. Continuous relay of the RCA Homepage and achievements in electronic form will be considered.

The Director TCPA mentioned that it was appropriate that RCA be given this opportunity as it completes 30 years of activity. He undertook to take up the issue of participation in the Scientific Forum within the Agency and to inform MSs of the outcome through the RCA Office¹⁷.

In order to allow all Member States the opportunity to participate in the Forum, it was decided that the next RCA GC meeting would be held on the Friday prior to the week of the GC. It was also decided that the RCA would propose the tripartite meeting of AFRA/ARCAL/RCA be held on Saturday and the RCA Coordinator to propose this to the other regional coordinators¹⁸.

8.9 RCA Homepage: Legal Status and Advisory Board

Malaysia informed the meeting that the information network as developed by the ENO Project Co-ordinators meeting in April 2000 is the basis for constant approval and flow of documents for publication on the Homepage. The RCA Co-ordinator is the authority to approve the content of the Homepage and he will indicate publication in either the public or member's only domain. RCA National Representatives are responsible for the content of their respective National Homepages. All documents shall carry a copyright and legal notice or disclaimer; the IAEA net site disclaimer notice can be used as a model (Annex-13).

¹⁷ At the time of this writing (May 5, 2001), RCA MSs participation takes the following form: distribution of brochure, putting up a panel display, and demonstration of its homepage. Time slots for oral presentation may be limited to discussion panels.

¹⁸ It was learned that the AFRA meeting will be during the week of the GC.

On the composition of RCA Newsletter Editorial Board, which was one of the follow up action items from the 29th RCA GC meeting Malaysia sent a note¹⁹ explaining the proposed composition of the Board and frequency of the newsletter and that this matter was to be further discussed at a forthcoming meeting in KL in May or June 2001

8.10 Criteria for Technology Transfer

With regard to the criteria on Inter-regional Technology Transfer, Malaysia elaborated on the need for RCA MSs not to be compromised as a result of the transfer. Malaysia also explained that the criteria on the “non-commercial” nature of the transfer meant that the technology transferred must take place between non-commercial institutions. On the issue of non-competitiveness Malaysia explained that the transfer of technology to other regions should not result later on in competition with the RCA MSs if the technology is commercialized.

8.11 Extension of the RCA Agreement

The National Representatives were urged to send their agreement to the proposed extension of the RCA Agreement, a copy of which was already circulated earlier. The present Agreement will end on 11 June 2002.

9. SESSION 7

9.1 Presentation of the Meeting Report

The draft meeting report was presented and discussed. It was adopted subject to the incorporation of the comments made.

9.2 CLOSING

India and New Zealand expressed their thanks to the organisers of the meeting and especially to the fine organisation and arrangements made by the meeting chairman and his staff. Several other countries endorsed these sentiments.

¹⁹ The Advisory Board proposed composition consists of the RCA Coordinator as Chairman and the ENO project coordinators and technical officers as members. The current and past chairmen would act as advisors. The newsletter would be published quarterly in electronic format at the RCA homepage.

The Director TCPA expressed thanks to the government of Bangladesh and to the meeting organisers. He noted that he had been pleased that the meeting had dealt most effectively with the many issues in front of it and made significant progress.

Following a closing address by Eng. Md. Habibuddin, chairman BAEC, the meeting was closed by Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury.