

Enhanced Programing for 2005/06 and the Sustainability of the RCA

**RCA General Conference Meeting
Vienna, 18 September 2002**

Some RCA Achievements

A valuable regional mechanism for capacity building and technology transfer

- **JIU (1995) – Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA Project was the best example of UN technology transfer**
- **Increased regional ownership, including the Regional Office**
- **Focus on problem-solving improving**
- **End user partnerships expanding**
- **RCA Vision provides long term guidance**

Present Challenges

- **Nuclear institutes should be sustainable**
- **Greater technical & financial self-reliance will lead to sustainability**
- **More managerial skills are needed for success**
- **Preservation of knowledge base and capabilities**

References:

Regional Seminar: K-L 2002:

2002 Review of TC Strategy (BOG)

IAEA Meeting on Managing Nuclear Knowledge

Funding Issues

National institutes:

- An increasing dependence on revenue from products and services

RCA:

- Agency TC funds account for over 60% of RCA funding
- To compete successfully, RCA proposals must satisfy TC funding strategies

TC Strategic Goal

To increasingly promote tangible socio-economic impact by contributing directly in a cost-effective manner to the achievement of the major sustainable development priorities of each country.

The goal drives TC funding strategies and criteria

Model Project Criteria

- **Respond to a need or opportunity of MSs.**
- **Have the potential to produce a significant economic or social impact for development via an end user.**
- **Utilise distinct advantages of nuclear technology.**
- **Attract strong government commitment.**

Central Criterion

Demonstration that there is a related national programme of high priority to the government with financial support.

OR

Enhance a necessary infra-structure such as those related to a core or mandated Agency competency, for example, regulations and safety.

Selection of TC Projects Based on -

- **Central criterion**
- **CPEs, UNDAFs, Poverty Reduction Strategy paper**
- **Support from International donors**

Plus for 2005/06

- **Greater emphasis on “fewer but better”**
- **Evidence for sustainability planning**

Challenges for RCA

- **Improving quality and potential for impact of 2005/06 proposals**
- **Demonstrating the ‘added value’ of projects run regionally through RCA**
- **Under the RCA Guidelines & Operating Rules, the responsibility for project proposals rests with Project Committees via Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs). Is this working adequately?**
- *Planning for 2005/06 must start soon*

Issues to Consider (1)

- **Sectoral programming. Driven by high-level government policy or by technologies that are traditionally-supported?**
- **TC funding strategies. Are these well enough understood by MSs and LCCs?**
- **The role, selection and training of LCCs. Is this appropriate to producing proposals meeting TC criteria?**
- **Self-reliance and sustainability. What are the RCA regional 'products & services'?**

Issues to Consider (2)

Lead Country Co-ordinators -

- **Senior scientists; not strategic planners or project managers**
- **May not have access to policy makers**
- **Requirements of their personal or institute R&D may not align with overall project requirements**
- **Seek consensus rather than make decisions**

Issues to Consider (3)

The Regional Office objectives include:

- to promote visibility in the region
- to increase funding
- to support formulation of project proposals

Note: a non-RCA regional project is assisting 11 countries with improving management skills related to self-reliance and sustainability

Issues to Consider (4)

Should a paper be prepared for the next National Representatives meeting that considers-

- **A “marketing” strategy for the Regional Office**
- **Actions to prepare successful 2005/06 proposals**
- **Support and/or training for Lead Country Co-ordinators**
- **Optimal ways to use the resources of the Regional Office, RCA Office, Lead Country Co-ordinators and RRUs to enhance programing**