



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF
THE 41st MEETING OF THE NATIONAL RCA REPRESENTATIVES

26-29 March 2019

Colombo, Sri Lanka

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ACRONYMS

ANPC	Alternate National Project Coordinator
CRP	Cooperative Research Project
DDG-TC	Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation Department
DIR-TCAP	Director for Asia and the Pacific Division
DIR-RCARO	Director of RCA Regional Office
EBT	Extra Budgetary
FNCA	Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia
GCM	General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
GP	Government Party to the RCA Agreement
IAEA BOG	IAEA Board of Governors
LCC	Lead Country Coordinator
MTSC	Mid-Term Strategy Coordination
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NPT	National Project Team
NR	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	National RCA Representatives Regional Meeting
PCMF	TC Programme Cycle Management Framework
PPAR	Project Progress Assessment Report
QF	Quadripartite Forum
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RCA GOR	RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules
RCA PAC	RCA Programme Advisory Committee
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RCA-FP	RCA Focal Person
RRC	Research Review Committee
TACC	Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee
TC	Technical Cooperation Programme
TCPC	Division of Programme Support and Coordination
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
WG	Working Group

Introduction

The 41st National RCA Representative Meeting (NRM) was held at the Hotel Galadari in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 26 to 29 March 2019.

There were 40 participants from 19 RCA Government Parties: Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BDG), Cambodia (KAM), China (CPR), Fiji (FIJ), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Korea (ROK), Malaysia (MAL), Myanmar (MYA), Nepal (NEP), New Zealand (NZE), Pakistan (PAK), the Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA) and Vietnam (VIE). Four representatives of the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) and one representative from the FNCA also attended the Meeting.

Mr Dazhu Yang (DDG-TC), Ms Jane Gerardo Abaya (DIR-TCAP) and Mr Sinh Van Hoang (RCA-FP) represented the IAEA.

The list of participants is given in **Annex 1**.

Opening Ceremony

a. Statements of the Representatives of the Host Country

Mr Deepal Sumanthri Gunaratne, Chairman of Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board and Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Business Development welcomed the participants and delivered the opening remarks.

Mr T.M.R. Tennakoon, the NR of SRL expressed his gratitude to the participants for their attendance at the meeting. His speech is provided in **Annex 2**.

b. Statement of the Representative of the IAEA

The SRL NR invited the DDG-TC to deliver his message. The DDG-TC's message is provided in **Annex 3**.

c. Group Photo

A group photo of all the meeting participants was taken.

1. Remarks of the Current RCA Chair

a. Designation of the New RCA Chair and Rapporteurs

The Current RCA Chair, Ms Eun Kyeong Jee, the NR of ROK called for nominations for the new RCA Chair and then nominated the NR of the host country, Mr T.M.R. Tennakoon to be the new RCA Chair. Mr Tennakoon was unanimously elected.

The RCA Chair called for nominations of rapporteurs for the Meeting. AUL and RCARO were appointed rapporteurs.

Mr T.M.R. Tennakoon, NR of SRL was unanimously elected as the new RCA Chair.

AUL and RCARO were appointed as Rapporteurs for the Meeting.

b. Remarks of the New RCA Chair

Mr T. M. R. Tennakoon thanked the participants of the Meeting and announced his commitment in fulfilling his role as the incoming RCA Chair.

2. Adoption of the Agenda – RCANRM(41)/1

The Meeting adopted the agenda (**Annex 4**), with addition of one item to be discussed under Any Other Business.

The Meeting adopted the agenda, with addition of one item to discuss RCA’s support for newly appointed NRs under Any Other Business.

3. Report on the follow-up actions of the 47th RCA GCM – RCANRM(41)/2

The RCA-FP provided a summary of the most important follow-up actions arising from the 47th RCA GCM (**Annex 5**).

The Meeting took note of the report and thanked the Secretariat for the effective implementation of the follow-up actions from the 47th RCA GCM.

4. Overview of RCA Annual Report for 2018 – RCANRM(41)/3

The RCA-FP provided a summary of the draft RCA Annual Report 2018 (**Annex 6**).

The Meeting took note of the draft RCA Annual Report 2018. The meeting agreed that any comments on the draft should be provided by NRs to the RCA-FP with a copy to the RCA Chair and RCARO using track changes by 30 April 2019, and that comments received after the deadline will not be considered.

The final version of the report will be circulated by the RCA Chair to NRs by 30 May 2019.

5. Implementation of the RCA Programme

a. Review of the implementation of the RCA Programme in 2018 – RCANRM(41)/4

The RCA-FP provided an overview of the RCA Programme implementation in 2018 (**Annex 7**).

The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCA-FP. The Meeting agreed with the recommendations of the RCA-FP that NRs are to:

- **nominate appropriate NPCs/ANPCs and NPTs at the start of project implementation;**
- **nominate qualified candidates in consultation with NPCs to participate in the regional events;**
- **submit nominations on time and in full through the InTouch+ platform;**
- **work closely with NPCs and LCCs for sufficient input and timely submission of the PPARs to the Agency by the agreed deadlines;**
- **maintain close and timely contact with RCA Chairs, LCCs, NPCs, RCA PAC, WG on MTSC, RCARO and RCA-FP and to solve any issues that may arise; and**
- **share the RCA GOR with LCCs, NPCs and A/NPCs for their understanding and undertaking of the roles and responsibilities**

The Meeting encouraged NRs to inform the RCA-FP of any technical issues related to the InTouch+ platform for resolution with the IT department.

The Meeting requested the Agency to finalise Host Government Agreements at the earliest date in order to provide sufficient lead time for arranging regional activities.

The Meeting also requested the Agency to develop guidelines on hosting Expert Missions in the RCA GPs for better coordination between the Agency and GPs.

b. Planned arrangements of regional events in 2019 – RCANRM(41)/5

The RCA-FP presented on the planned regional events of the RCA projects for 2019 (**Annex 8**).

The Meeting noted the planned regional events for 2019, which had been confirmed by the hosting GPs.

6. Review of the progress of RCA projects by the National Representatives of the Project Lead Countries (PLC) – RCANRM(41)/6

Progress reports on the implementation of each RCA project were presented by the Lead Countries responsible. The table below lists the projects that were presented and discussed, with copies of the presentations provided in **Annexes 9 to 20**:

Project Number	LCC	Annex
RAS5084	<u>AUL</u>	9
RAS6087	<u>AUL</u>	10
RAS5077	<u>CPR</u>	11
RAS5070	<u>INS</u>	12
RAS7028	<u>INS</u>	13
RAS6086	<u>JPN</u>	14
RAS6083	<u>ROK</u>	15
RAS6085	<u>ROK</u>	16

RAS5081	<u>NZE</u>	17
RAS7029	<u>NZE</u>	18
RAS7030	<u>PAK</u>	19
RCARP01	<u>INS</u>	20

The Meeting took note of the reports of RCA Project activities undertaken in 2018.

The Meeting recommended that LCCs of completed RCA projects to send project documents such as meeting reports, teaching materials and PPARs to RCARO for uploading on the RCA website. The Meeting also agreed that the Meeting of WG of RCA GOR on 30 March should include text specifying the scope of materials to be supplied in the final GOR.

Taking note of the strong support at both national and regional level, the Meeting recommended the publication of a RCA Success Story on the achievements of successive RCA projects on air pollution over a series of TC cycles.

7. Report of the RCA PAC – RCANRM(41)/7

- a. Report on the preparation of the RCA Programme for 2020-2021**
- b. Report on the result of prioritization of project designs for 2020-2021**
- c. Report on the work plan of RCA PAC in 2019**
- d. Nomination of an additional member of the RCA PAC**

The Chair RCA PAC presented on the preparation of the RCA Programme for 2020-2021, result of prioritization of project designs for 2020-2021 and work plan of the RCA PAC in 2019 (**Annex 21**).

The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the Chair RCA PAC and approved the recommendations (see Annex 21) including the revision of the RCA GOR on the responsibilities of the NRs and LCCs, which will be discussed at the 30 March Meeting of GOR WG.

The Meeting agreed that 6 project designs be submitted to the Agency for TC funding for the 2020-2021 TC Cycle. In addition, 2 projects, one management project and a footnote /a project to be funded by the EBT of ROK will be submitted for the 2020-2021 TC cycle.

The Meeting welcomed the Agency’s assurance to support all the proposed projects.

The Meeting also agreed with the 2019 Work Plan of the RCA PAC including development procedures of the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 RCA Programme as below:

Schedule	Action & Responsible Parties
30 March – 1 August 2019	Pre-project concepts for the 2022/2023 TC Cycle developed by the NRs and placed on the RCARO website.
6 - 10 May 2019	RCA PAC Meeting on “In-kind” Contributions.
17 May 2019	Finalised Project Designs 2020/2021 TC Cycle uploaded into PCMF.
June 2019	RRC Mid-term Review of the CRP Air Pollution
21 July 2019	Clearance of proposed TC programme 2020/2021.
1 August 2019	Deadline for submission by NRs of Pre-project Concepts for 2022/2023 TC Cycle. (Critical timing) RCA PAC Chair downloads Pre-project Concepts from RCARO and distributes to RCA PAC Members for review. * If there are Pre-project Concepts in similar areas, action should be taken through the NRs to combine them into a single proposal
2 - 31 August 2019	Review of Pre-project Concepts for 2022/2023 TC Cycle by RCA PAC. (Critical timing)
1 - 7 September 2019	Pre-concept review results consolidated by Chair RCA PAC. Chair RCA PAC provides feedback to the submitting NRs. (Critical timing)
13 September 2019	Chair RCA PAC presentation of Pre-Concept review report at the 48th RCA GCM. At 48th RCA GCM, NRs will select those Pre-Concepts to be developed further as 1st Round Concept Proposals and approve the templates and other items related to the preparation of the Concept Proposals. (Critical timing)
13 September – 14 November 2019	Preparation of 1st Round Concept Proposals by NRs.
15 November 2019	Deadline for receipt by Chair RCA PAC of 1st Round Concept Proposals from the NRs. (Critical timing)
16 – 30 November 2019	RCA PAC Members review 1st Round Concept Proposals and send their reviews to Chair RCA PAC by 30 November deadline. (Critical timing)
November 2019	TACC Review of TC Programme 2020/2021.
November 2019	IAEA BOG Approval of TC Programme 2020/2021.
1-3 December 2019	Chair RCA PAC consolidates the RCA PAC reviews and provides feedback to submitting NRs.
4 December 2019 – 15 January 2020	NRs prepare 2nd Round Concept Proposals.
16 January 2020	NRs submit 2nd Round Concept Proposals to Chair RCA PAC.
20 -24 January 2020 or 27 – 31 January 2020	RCA PAC Meeting. Lunar New Year starts 5 February 2020

The Meeting welcomed Dr. Prinath Dias as a new member of the RCA PAC.

8. Report of the Working Group (WG) on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination – RCANRM(41)/8

The Acting Chair of the WG on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination presented on the report of the WG (Annex 22).

- a. **Nomination of an additional member of the WG**
- b. **Report on the work plan of the WG in 2019**

The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the Acting Chair of the WG MTSC and endorsed the recommendations unchanged, with the exception of the revision of recommendation 14 (given below) and deletion of recommendation 15.

Revised Recommendation 14

It is recommended that the WG MTSC works with TCPC experts to:

- **update the RCA project design documents to ensure that planned outcomes for new projects:**
 - are systematically drafted,
 - differentiate between outputs and outcomes,
 - are regionally focused, and
 - clearly define how outcomes will be measured and reported; and
- **update the Final Review Meeting Report template to provide clear guidance to NPCs on use of the methodology.**

These documents should be completed for consideration at the 6th Meeting of the WG MTSC and approval at the 48th GCM for inclusion in the project concepts templates for 2022/23.

The Meeting also agreed with the 2019 Work Plan of the WG MTSC (RCANRM(41)/8-Annex 22-1).

9. Report of the RCARO Director – RCANRM(41)/9

The RCARO Director delivered the report on the RCARO work performance of 2018 and work plan for 2019 (Annex 23).

The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCARO and appreciated the contribution provided by RCARO to the RCA Programme.

The Meeting thanked Mr Hai Joo MOON, the Director of the RCARO for his commitment and contribution to the RCA and RCARO from 2016 to 2019.

10. Report of the Chair of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee – RCANRM(41)/10

The Chair of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) presented the report of the 28th Meeting of the RCARO SAC (Annex 24).

The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCARO SAC and endorsed its recommendations. In particular, the Meeting approved the recommendation of the SAC for appointment of the next Director of RCARO.

11. Presentation on FNCA's activities by the FNCA Representative – RCANRM(41)/11

The FNCA Representative presented on FNCA's activities at the Meeting (Annex 25).

The Meeting took note of the presentation on FNCA activities. The Meeting noted the importance of further strengthening the cooperation between RCA and FNCA through the exchange of knowledge and information.

12. Report on the meeting of the Quadripartite Forum – RCANRM(41)/12

The former RCA Chair reported on the meeting of the Quadripartite Forum (Annex 26).

The Meeting took note of the report by the former RCA Chair on the meeting of the Quadripartite Forum. The Meeting agreed with the continuation of the current participation in the Quadripartite Forum for information exchange amongst the Cooperative Agreements until the next NRM review of the value of such Forum. The Meeting agreed that future forums should have a set Agenda and be attended by experienced representatives as specified below.

It is recommended that:

- **The RCA Chair attending the QF should be accompanied by advisor(s) knowledgeable and experienced in the RCA and its Programme to ensure that discussions related to the sharing of knowledge and experience could be appropriately focused and productive.**
- **The RCA Chair should request that adequate time be allocated at the QF to enable meaningful opportunities for sharing of detailed knowledge and experiences amongst the Agreements.**
- **The RCA Chair should encourage the QF to prepare detailed action lists for each coming year and that there are reports against these by all Agreements at the following QF.**
- **The RCA Chair should circulate the revised/edited version of the report of the QF Meeting used as the background paper for the 41st RCA NRM and request that draft Minutes of the QF meeting should be circulated to all the Agreement Chairs soon after the QF meeting so that these can be reviewed and that the text of the final Meeting Report is agreed.**

13. Update on the acceptance of the 2017 RCA Agreement – RCANRM(41)/13

The RCA-FP provided an update on the acceptance of the 2017 RCA Agreement (Annex 27).

The Meeting welcomed the advice that eighteen (18) of the twenty-two (22) GPs have submitted their instrument of acceptance of the 2017 RCA to the Agency.

The Meeting looked forward to the remaining GPs depositing their instruments of acceptance as soon as possible.

14. Discussion on plans and budget for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA in 2022

The Meeting noted that Vietnam would need more information to confirm hosting the 44th NRM in 2022.

The Meeting agreed to hold a RCA Exhibition in 2022 to showcase the socio-economic impact of the RCA in the region over the 50 years.

The Meeting requested the RCA Chairs to provide a draft proposal on how to celebrate the 50th Anniversary for the RCA for discussion at the 48th GCM.

The Meeting suggested the host country, RCARO and the Agency to draw on the information and experiences from the holding of the 40th Anniversary of the RCA in Beijing in 2012 and any inputs on the socio-economic impacts of the RCA Programme in the region for the organisation of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA.

15. Arrangements for the 48th RCA GCM, the 42nd and the 43rd RCA NRMs

MAL confirmed that the 42nd NRM will take place in Malaysia in 2020.

THA advised that it will confirm hosting of the 43rd NRM in 2021 at the 48th GCM.

The Meeting noted that the 48th GCM will be held on 13 September 2019 in Vienna.

MAL confirmed that the 42nd NRM will be held in Malaysia in March 2020 with the dates and venue to be confirmed at the 48th GCM.

The Meeting recommended THA to host the 43rd NRM in 2021 and to provide confirmation at the 48th GCM.

16. Any Other Business

The RCA PAC Chair delivered a presentation on RCA programme proactive support for newly appointed national representatives (**Annex 28**)

**The Meeting noted the challenges due to the high turnover of the NRs highlighted by the Chair of RCA PAC and recommended that adequate support structure to be set up to enable proper carriage of duties by the NRs (Annex 28).
It was agreed that the following mechanisms will be discussed at the 48th GCM:**

- A 1-day seminar be held for newly appointed NRs and RCA Chair Committee on the day before the Meetings of NRs to be briefed on their roles and the issues to be discussed at the meetings of NRs
- Introductory workshop for new NRs on the RCA Programme and its policies
- GPs nominate NRs for longer terms, approximately 3 years, dependent on the internal situation of GPs
- Effective knowledge transfer from outgoing NR to incoming NR

The Meeting noted AUL's announcement of the changeover of the NR effective from the following week of the NRM and thanked the outgoing NR for his contribution.

JPN drew attention to the difficulties that GPs might have in bearing the remuneration of DIR-RCARO, if the Director were appointed from that GP and suggested that it be covered by the RCARO. However, it was recognized that the internal restrictions in the ROK made it very difficult to change the current approach.

The Meeting noted JPN's request to include a table of total amount of the financial component of the RCARO Managed Projects and RCA/UNOSSC project in the RCA Annual Report. The Meeting welcomed the settlement of the legal matter concerning RCARO Managed Project.

17. Closure

The RCA Chair thanked all participants for their active participation and valuable contributions, and declared the meeting adjourned.