



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**



REPORT

39th MEETING OF THE NATIONAL RCA REPRESENTATIVES

3–6 April 2017

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

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Acronyms

BoG	Board of Governors
DIR-TCAP	Director for Asia and the Pacific Division
DIR-RCARO	Director of RCA Regional Office
FNCA	Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia
GCM	General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
GOR	Guidelines and Operating Rules
GP	Government Party to the RCA Agreement
NR(s)	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	National RCA Representatives Regional Meeting
LC	Lead Country
LCC	Lead Country Coordinator
PCMF	TC Programme Cycle Management Framework
PMO(s)	Programme Management Officer
PPAR	Project Progress Assessment Report
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RCAPAC	RCA Programme Advisory Committee
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RCA-FP	RCA Focal Person
TC	Technical Cooperation Programme
TCAP	Division for Asia and the Pacific
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
TO(s)	Technical Officers
WG(s)	Working Group(s)

Introduction

The 39th National RCA Representatives Meeting (NRM) was held at the Royal Tulip Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, from 3 to 6 April 2017.

The Meeting was attended by thirty nine (39) participants from nineteen (19) RCA Government Parties; Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), Cambodia (KAM), China (CPR), Fiji (FIJ), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Republic of Korea (ROK), Laos (LAO), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), Nepal (NEP), New Zealand (NZE), Pakistan (PAK), the Philippines (PHI), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA) and Vietnam (VIE). Four representatives of the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) as well as the Chair and three members of the RCA Programme Advisory Committee (RCAPAC) attended the Meeting.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was represented by Ms Najat Mokhtar, Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific (DIR-TCAP) and Mr Sinh Van Hoang, RCA Focal Person (RCA-FP).

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

Opening Ceremony

Statement by the Representative of the Host Country

Arch. Yeafesh Osman, the Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh, warmly welcomed the participants to Bangladesh for the 39th RCA NRM. He emphasized the role of RCA in socio-economic development of its GPs through promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy. He noted RCA as a powerful strategic partner to Bangladesh in advocating research, development and training in the area of nuclear science and technology. He wished the participants a successful meeting.

Mr Osman's full address is provided in **Annex 2**.

Statement by the Representative of the IAEA

Ms Najat Mokhtar, Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific (DIR-TCAP), IAEA, delivered the opening statement on behalf of the IAEA. She thanked Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission of Bangladesh for hosting the Meeting. Ms Mokhtar lauded the GPs, who had successfully completed the acceptance process for the RCA 2017, which would enter into force officially on June 2017, and encouraged the remaining GPs to do the same. She further commended the RCA for the high implementation rate of projects in 2016 and for the remarkable improvement of the project designs for the 2018-2019 cycle which had been reviewed and rated to be of high quality. At the same time, she noted the challenge of securing additional funds for the successful implementation of future projects and looked forward to the recommendations from the three working groups towards producing more tangible impacts of the RCA projects. She wished the participants a fruitful meeting and pleasant stay in Bangladesh.

Ms Najat Mokhtar's full address is given in **Annex 3**.

1. Welcome Remarks of the Current RCA Chair

Mr Mavag Chadraabal, Head of Department of Nuclear Technology, Executive Office of Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia and NR of MON, delivered welcoming remarks as the outgoing RCA Chair. He expressed his appreciation for the active participation and excellent cooperation of the NRs, RCARO, and the IAEA during his tenure as RCA Chair. He thanked Bangladesh for hosting the NRM and noted that he would assist the incoming RCA Chair, supporting his leadership in the implementation of the activities of the RCA.

Designation of the new RCA Chairperson/Rapporteurs

The outgoing RCA Chair called for nominations for the new RCA Chair and nominated the NR of the host country, Engr. Jafar Sadique, Member (Engineering), Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, and NR of BGD, to be the new RCA Chair. Engr. Jafar Sadique was unanimously elected.

The Chair called for nominations for rapporteurs of the Meeting. CPR and PHI indicated their willingness to fulfil this role, with the support of RCARO. Participants supported the proposal and CPR, PHI, and RCARO agreed to be rapporteurs for the meeting.

Engr. Jafar Sadique, NR of BGD, was unanimously elected as the new RCA Chair.

CPR and PHI were appointed as Rapporteurs for the Meeting, with assistance provided by RCARO.

Remarks of the New RCA Chair

The new RCA Chair Engr. Jafar Sadique thanked Mr Mavag Chadraabal for his contribution as the previous RCA Chair. He also thanked the NRs, IAEA and RCARO for their continuous support. With the support of all participants, he looked forward to a successful Meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda – RCANRM(39)/1

The Meeting adopted the agenda as proposed (**Annex 4**) with the following item to be discussed under Other Business:

- **Discussion on measures to ensure NPCs timely submission of national progress reports to LCCs**

The Meeting adopted the agenda with the following item to be discussed under Other Business:

- **Discussion on measures to ensure NPCs' timely submission of national progress reports to LCCs**

3. Reports on Follow up Actions of the 45th GCM – RCANRM(39)/2

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided a summary of the major follow-up actions arising from the 45th GCM (**Annex 5**). The RCA-FP thanked the National RCA Representatives, Working Groups for the execution of the RCA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023, and the RCA Programme Advisory Committee (RCA PAC) for their strong collaboration and support. He also thanked the active contribution of the RCARO in preparations for the 39th NRM and Working Group meetings as well as a dedicated RCA booth to be set up in the International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. He noted that all planned activities had been implemented as scheduled, except that, in regards to the implementation of the RCA Programme in 2016, he noted that some NPCs had not send national reports to the relevant LCCs, therefore some LCCs did not have sufficient inputs to prepare Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPARs). He encouraged the NRs to take appropriate actions to improve the situation.

The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCA-FP and acknowledged the strong support of the Agency, RCA GPs and RCARO in implementing the follow-up actions from the 45th GCM.

4. RCA Annual Report for 2016 – RCANRM(39)/3

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to provide a summary of a few key points of the Draft RCA Annual Report 2016 (**Annex 6**). After his summary, participants thanked the RCA-FP for the draft report. He requested the NRs to review and provide comments and recommendations on the Draft RCA Annual Report 2016 to the RCA Chair and RCA-FP by 30 April 2017 to be compiled in the final version of the report.

The Meeting took note of the draft RCA Annual Report 2016. The Meeting agreed that any comments on the draft RCA Annual Report 2016 (RCANRM(39)/3) should be provided by NRs to the RCA-FP and the RCA Chair using track changes by 30 April 2017, with the final version of the report to be circulated by the RCA-FP to NRs by 5 May, 2017.

5. Implementation of the RCA Programme

a. Review of the implementation of the RCA Programme in 2016 – RCANRM(39)/4

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided an overview of the RCA Programme implementation in 2016 (**Annex 7**). The RCA-FP encouraged the use of the new IT platform newly developed by the IAEA for submission of PPARs for reporting of project achievements. He requested the NRs to monitor the NPCs' submission of national progress reports to the LCCs to allow the LCC to consolidate and submit the PPARs in a timely and complete manner. He also recommended that the NRs share the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules (GORs) with all LCCs and NPCs to assist them to undertake fully their specified roles and responsibilities.

DIR-TCAP emphasized that the submission of PPARs on time was an important performance indicator of the project and an essential part of the project management process.

PAK and INS asked for the clarification on the process of the submission of PPARs and the RCA-FP clarified that the NPCs should send the national reports to the LCCs, via email with a copy to the respective NR, and the LCCs then prepare the integrated PPAR and submit it into the Agency's IT Platform. He explained that the IT Platform provided the means for the TC Quality Assurance Section to monitor the progress of projects, traceability, and compliance in the submission of reports by the LCCs. He then emphasized the role of the NRs in monitoring the reporting process and in reminding the NPCs about their submissions. It was agreed that this matter would be further discussed under Other Business.

The Meeting took note of the report delivered by the RCA-FP. The Meeting agreed that NRs should work closely with LCCs and NPCs to ensure that complete PPARs are submitted to the Agency through the newly developed IT platform by the agreed deadlines.

b. Planned Arrangements of Regional Events in 2017 by the RCA FP – RCANRM(39)/5

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to present the planned regional events under RCA projects in 2017 (Annex 8). The RCA-FP said he was pleased to inform that the hosting of all regional events in 2017 had already been confirmed by concerned GPs. He thanked the support of the RCA GPs in this regard and hoped for continued support for the 2018 regional events, which would be discussed at the 46th GCM.

AUL noted the absence of the Final Review Meeting for RAS1020 in the table in Annex 8, to be held in Melbourne, Australia, in November 2017. The Meeting took note of the meeting schedule and requested the RCA-FP to add it to the table.

The Meeting noted the planned regional events for 2017 which had been confirmed by hosting GPs.

The Meeting also noted that the Final Review Meeting for RAS1020 would be held in Melbourne, Australia, in November 2017.

6. Review of the Progress of the RCA Projects by the National Representatives of the Project Lead Countries – RCANRM(39)/6

Progress reports on the implementation of each RCA project were presented by the Lead Countries responsible. The presentations are Annexes 9 to 20. The specific projects presented and discussed were:

Project Number	LCC	Annex
RAS6077	AUL	9
RAS1020	IND	10
RAS6071	IND	11

Project Number	LCC	Annex
RAS5070	INS	12
RAS6072	JPN*	13
RAS1014	MAL	14
RAS6076	ROK	15
RAS6083	ROK	16
RAS6085	ROK	17
RAS7029	NZE	18
RAS7030	PAK	19
RAS5071	PHI	20

* JPN was not present at the Meeting so the project was not discussed, but the relevant presentation had been circulated with the Meeting Background Papers.

Regarding the commercialized products resulted from RAS1014 led by MAL, RCA PAC Chair inquired whether the private companies that benefitted from the project had been able to contribute to the project in any way. He pointed out that financial indicators of commercialization should be included in the final report. The RCA-FP shared this view and suggested that such income generation indicators be considered from the project design stage in the future.

AUL and NZE noted the effective monitoring of RAS6076 and RAS6083 led by ROK with quantifiable results and suggested that these be shared amongst RCA projects. AUL highlighted the need of having a more systematic evaluation of long term impacts of a project after its completion.

The Meeting took note of the reports by RCA Projects undertaken in 2016 and the value of having quantifiable indicators for achieving the project goals.

7. Review and Decision on the RCA Programme 2018-2019 – RCANRM(39)/7

The Chair of RCA PAC, Dr John Easey, made a presentation reviewing the status of the RCA Programme 2018-2019 (Annex 21). He gave a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the RCA Project Design Meeting, held on 31 October to 4 November 2016, and the 5th RCA PAC Meeting, held on 6 to 10 February 2017, respectively. He circulated the revised concept template proposed for the preparation of the RCA Programme for the 2020/21 TC Cycle (Annex 22).

The Meeting discussed the RCA PAC recommendations pertaining to the number of project proposals submitted by each GP. The Meeting noted that, at the 38th NRM, the NRs had noted the need to limit the number of project proposals for the cycle 2020/21 due to budget constraints as well as the heavy workload of the RCA PAC. In line with this, the Meeting agreed that the NRs should take the role of “gatekeepers” in submitting project proposals to

the RCA PAC by making sure that the quality of project proposals meets the required standard. It was further agreed to limit the project concepts submitted by each GP to two (2).

In order to avoid the duplication of project designs and to identify possibilities for merging project concepts among GPs with similar interests, NZE suggested that project ideas be shared among GPs before they were developed into project concepts. KAM, CPR, INS, THA and VIE agreed to the idea to circulate the project ideas among GPs by using a simple template with the following information: project title, thematic area, overall objectives, and project's compliance with the RCA MTS. The Meeting suggested that the RCARO develop a new platform on the RCA website in order for the NRs to upload project ideas and merge the ideas with similar topics prior to the 46th GCM. The RCA PAC Chair presented the pre-concept proposal for consideration (**Annex 23**). The Meeting agreed that the submission of pre-concept proposals would be useful in avoiding duplication of project designs and that the submission of a pre-concept proposal would be a precondition to the submission of 1st round concept proposals. The Meeting endorsed the proposed deadline of pre-concept templates, 15 August 2017.

The Meeting discussed the RCA PAC recommendation on the updating of the RCA GOR. The Meeting agreed on the creation of a Working Group chaired by the current RCA Chair to update the 2014 version of the RCA GOR. The Working Group consists of the immediate past, current, and immediate next RCA Chairs and Mr Christopher Daughney, the NR of NZE, who was the Chair of the former WG on the revision of the GOR. The Meeting agreed that the updated version of RCA GOR should be compliant with the 2017 RCA Agreement and RCA MTS 2018-2023, and should incorporate the decisions of previous Meetings of the NRs and should be circulated to other NRs for comment prior to finalisation. Taking this opportunity, the Meeting agreed that the updated RCA GOR should include guidelines on how to address inputs from GPs who were physically absent from a NR Meeting.

Earlier, during the discussion on Agenda 5, the RCA-FP delivered a presentation on the financial situation of RCA Programme for cycle 2018/19 (**Annex 24**). He reported that despite the high quality of nine project designs that had been developed, the current available TC funds would not be able to cover all the nine projects in 2018-2019.

AUL highlighted that there was not enough time for seeking extra donations for the 2018/19 cycle both from the RCA GPs and outside donors. Given the high quality of the project designs, AUL suggested that some projects be deferred one year to let as many projects designs be implemented as possible.

RCA-FP noted that it was possible that extra-budgetary funds donated by the RCA GPs could be earmarked for footnote-a/ projects. DIR-TCAP emphasized that it was for the RCA NRs to discuss and decide on this issue and suggested that the Working Group for Financial Analysis and Resource Mobilization and the RCA PAC should work together to ensure that funds were sufficient and available for the future TC cycles at the time of project development stage.

Taking note of this, the RCA PAC Chair suggested that all the TC-funded projects allocate a notional 10% of the planned budget to footnote-a/, noticing that previous RCA projects showed the actual usage of around 80% of the planned budget (**Annex 25**). For the shortfalls in funds, the Meeting agreed that each GP should seek ways for providing extra-budgetary funds, one of which could be the use of unallocated PUI funds and EB funds from the RCA

GPs. The Agency was requested to provide the exact amount of their unallocated PUI and EB funds to each contributing GP.

In regard to the RCA PAC recommendation on the use of the term “in-kind contribution,” the Meeting agreed to defer the issue, taking into consideration that this issue has been raised by JPN, who was not present at the Meeting.

The Meeting agreed to endorse the following recommendations of the RCA PAC:

- The NRs act as “gate keepers” in the project development process and screen all concepts before submitting to the RCA PAC for evaluation. Only those concepts that meet the basic RCA and TC criteria are to be forwarded to the RCA PAC for review.
- If there are a number of concepts that have been formulated to address essentially the same or very similar focus in a technological area, only the highest priority one should be selected by the NR and forwarded for review by RCA PAC.
- All first round concepts should be prepared using the procedures set out in the revised integrated documentation, which should be available for use immediately after the 46th RCA GCM has agreed the action timetable for the development of the RCA programme for the 2020/2021 TC Cycle. *(This includes the use of the template for the NR endorsement)*
- The RCARO website should be the repository for the resource documentation for the development of the RCA project concepts for the 2020/2021 TC Cycle and this should be held in a restricted access location on the website.
- In the preparations for the 2020/2021 TC Cycle, there should be a designated limit on the number of project concepts submitted by the NRs to RCA PAC for review to reflect the very limited number of new projects that could be supported from the predicted TC and other funding sources.
- Also, restrictions on project concepts should be compatible with the requirements for any desired technological emphasis for that TC Cycle and/or the MTS, as may be determined by the NRs.

Regarding the preparation for the RCA Programme for cycle 2020-2021, the meeting also agreed the following:

1. Each GP would submit a maximum of two project proposals for the 2020-2021 RCA programme
2. A new platform on the RCA website would be created for sharing the project ideas amongst RCA GPs to identify possible areas for integration of project concepts before the submission of first round concept proposals to the RCA PAC; RCARO would inform the GPs of newly updated pre-concepts every month.
3. The number of pre-concepts is not limited given the potential for merges of similar proposals between the GPs.
4. The submission of pre-concepts is a precondition to the submission of first round concept proposals.
5. A mechanism for development of the 2020-2021 RCA programme would be

established as follows:

Action	Timeline	Responsible party
Development of a platform on RCA website for uploading pre-concepts	May 2017	RCARO in consultation with RCA PAC
Uploading of project ideas on the platform of the RCA website using the pre-concept template available on the website * NB: the template would contain information on the name of proposer, email address, country, RCA thematic areas for the RCA MTS 2018-2023, concept title, and overall objective	May to July 2017	NRs
RCARO's notification to NRs and RCA PAC on the uploaded pre-concepts	Every month until July	RCARO
GPs' interactions for merging project ideas in similar areas	May to July 2017	NRs
GPs' development and submission of finalized pre-concepts to the RCA PAC for consideration of the 46 th GCM	15 August 2017	NRs

- The update of the 2014 version of the GOR should include the current roles, responsibilities and procedures of RCA PAC as well as the MTS Working Groups that have been recently established.

With regards to the RCA PAC's recommendation on the updating of the 2014 RCA GOR, the meeting agreed to establish a WG chaired by the current RCA Chair to update the 2014 version of the RCA GOR. The Working Group consists of the immediate past, current, and immediate next RCA Chairs and Mr Christopher Daughney, the NR of NZE, who was the Chair of the former WG on the revision of the GOR.

The Meeting requested the WG to incorporate the decisions made by the previous Meetings of the NRs, the 2017 RCA, the MTS 2018-2023, and guidelines on how to address issues raised by GPs that are not physically present at Meetings of the NRs and how such will affect decisions made by Meetings of the NRs, as well as other matters of relevance to the 2014 RCA GOR including its operational version.

The action plan is as follows:

Action	Timeline	Responsible party
Establishment of a WG to update the 2014 RCA GOR	39 th NRM	NRs
Updating the 2014 RCA GOR	April to July 2017	WG
Circulation of the first draft of	A month prior to the 46 th	WG

updated RCA GOR	GCM	
Review and discussion on the draft RCA GOR	46th GCM	NRs
Finalisation of the updated RCA GOR	A month after the 46th GCM	WG
Uploading of the final version of the updated RCA GOR on the RCA website	When received	RCARO

- There should also be a delegation of responsibility to ensure that the GOR is maintained as a “living document” so that it is updated immediately after each NRM to incorporate those decisions of these Meetings appropriate for inclusion in the GOR.
- It was also recommended that the review of in-kind contributions should take place in 2019 following the availability for analysis of the designated information in the Annual Reports for 2016, 2017 & 2018
- Because of the observed lack of knowledge and information on TCDC within the RCA, it is recommended that, as part of the revision of the GOR, additional appropriate documentation on TCDC be included in the text or as an annex or both. The on-going tasks related to TCDC set out in the current version of the GOR should be reviewed and assessed to evaluate which should be retained, replaced or deleted. A robust regime should be established to ensure specific responsibility is assigned for the implementation of the agreed programme of tasks.

Regarding the RCA Programme for the 2018-2019 cycle, taking into consideration the limited budget, the Meeting agreed to allocate a notional 10% of the planned budget to footnote-a/ for every project proposal in order to allow five TC-funded project proposals to start in 2018 and the remaining three to start in 2019. The Meeting recommended RCA GPs to seek ways for providing extra-budgetary funds for the shortfalls, one of which could be the use of the unallocated PUI funds and EB funds by the GPs to the TC. In this regard, the Meeting requested the RCA-FP to provide to each contributing GP the exact amount of its unallocated PUI and EB funds.

The RCA Chair confirmed BGD’s intention to contribute extra-budgetary funds for the RCA Programme. The Meeting appreciated strong support of BGD and encouraged other GPs’ extra-budgetary contributions for the RCA Programme.

8. Report of the Working Group on Financial Gap Analysis and Resource Mobilization on measures to strengthen financial resources for the RCA Programme – RCANRM(39/8)

The RCA Chair requested Mr Steven McIntosh, Chair of WG on Financial Gap Analysis and Resource Mobilization and NR of AUL, to present the report of the meeting of the Working Group on Financial Gap Analysis and Resource Mobilization (**Annex 26**). The Chair summarized conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group meeting, which was

held in February 2017, and contained recommendations to the 39th NRM, the IAEA, the RCA GPs, the project designers, and the RCA PAC.

The WG Chair recommended that, for further collaborations with outside donors, it would be helpful to share the information given at the WG Meeting by the Partnership Section of the IAEA, and that for the future cycles the Partnership Section be involved from the initial stage.

On the recommendation pertaining to the institution of a regional fund for the RCA (similar to the AFRA Fund), the Meeting requested the WG to provide more information on possible creation of such a fund, including specific modalities, terms and conditions for consideration by the NRs at the 46th GCM. The RCA FP was asked to provide details on the operation of the AFRA Fund to the WG Chair.

The Meeting took note of the report of the WG on the Financial Gap Analysis and Resource Mobilization.

The Meeting requested the WG to provide further information on the possible creation of an AFRA-style fund including specific modalities, terms and conditions for consideration by the NRs at the 46th GCM.

9. Report of the Working Group on Human Resource Development – RCANRM(39)/9

The RCA Chair requested Mr Syed Mohammad Hossain, Chair of the Working Group on Human Resource Development, to present the report of the meeting of the Working Group on Human Resource Development (**Annex 27**). He summarized the gap analysis on human resource development in the RCA and the recommendations made by the Working Group. The NRs were requested to send any feedback on this report to the Chair of WG within a month of conclusion of the 39th NRM.

The Meeting endorsed the proposed 2nd Meeting of the WG on HRD to be held in order to prepare a set of strategies on the implementation of HRD and development of guidelines on HRD for the planning of the RCA Programme for cycle 2020-2021. The Meeting requested that the RCARO organize and support the 2nd Meeting of the WG on HRD. The RCARO agreed to support the meeting in cooperation with the IAEA and the WG Chair.

The Meeting noted report of the WGM on HRD and endorsed its 2nd WGM to be held to develop strategies to improve HRD under RCA projects to be reported at the 46th GCM.

The Meeting requested the NRs to provide feedback on the report of the WG on HRD to the WG Chair within a month of the conclusion of the 39th NRM.

RCARO agreed to organize and support the 2nd Meeting of the WG on HRD in either ROK or MAL, July 2017.

10. Report of the Working Group on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination – RCANRM(39)/10

The RCA Chair invited Mr Anhar Riza Antariksawan, Chair of the Working Group on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination, to present the report of the meeting of the Working Group (**Annex 28**). He presented details of the revised Performance Indicators and Milestones for the RCA MTS 2018-2023 and the Work Plan for 2018.

The Meeting agreed that the NRs would provide feedback on the report of the WG on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination within one month of the conclusion of the 39th NRM. The Meeting endorsed the 2nd Working Group Meeting for discussion on the issue of balancing/prioritizing RCA resources across the MTS thematic areas in conjunction with the 2nd HRD Working Group Meeting, which will be organized and supported by the RCARO .

The Meeting noted the report of the Working Group on RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination.

The Meeting requested the NRs to provide feedback on the report of the WG on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination to the WG Chair within a month of the conclusion of the 39th NRM.

The Meeting endorsed the 2nd WG meeting for in-depth discussion on the issue of balancing/prioritizing the RCA resources across the MTS thematic areas for 2020-2021 RCA Programme and make recommendations for consideration at the 46th GCM.

RCARO agreed to organize and support the 2nd Meeting of the WG on the RCA MTS 2018-2023 Coordination, in conjunction with the 2nd WGM on HRD, in either ROK or MAL, July 2017.

11. Report of the Director of the RCARO – RCANRM(39)/11

At the invitation of the RCA Chair, Mr Hai Joo Moon, Director, RCARO, delivered the report of the DIR-RCARO (**Annex 29**). He reviewed the RCARO Work Performance 2016 and its Work Plan for 2017.

The RCA Chair expressed appreciation to the RCARO for its support and contribution to the RCA. DIR-TCAP also expressed appreciation to the RCARO for its support of the IAEA through its implementation of RCA-related administrative duties, including the preparation for the 39th RCA NRM, coordination of the meetings of the MTS WGs, and holding RCA exhibitions during both the 60th Anniversary of the IAEA in 2016 and the TC Conference in 2017.

AUL, CPR, FIJ, LAO, MAL, NEP, PHI, SRL, THA and VIE expressed their appreciation to the RCARO for its implementation of promotional activities, fellowship programmes, and other various activities in support of the RCA and hoped the RCARO would continue its effective support for the RCA.

CPR recommended that the RCARO consider the achievements of project RAS1014 for publication as one of the next round of Success Stories. The RCARO noted that the Success Stories were published every two-three years, depending on the results of the RCA projects and upon the decisions made by the NRs and noted that RAS1014 would be a good candidate for the next batch.

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

12. Report of the Chairman of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee – RCANRM(39)/12

The Chair of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) presented the report of the 24nd meeting of the RCARO SAC (Annex 30). The Chair reported on the RCARO Work Performance of 2016 and Work Plan for 2017 and recommendations made by RCARO SAC.

The Meeting discussed the RCARO SAC recommendation pertaining to the Research Project. The Meeting took note of the seven Research Project proposals circulated by the RCARO. As this was the first initiative to implement a research project within the RCARO Managed Project Programme, the Meeting agreed that all seven proposals be forwarded to the Research Review Committee (RRC) for its review.

The Meeting endorsed the report of the 24th RCARO SAC meeting, presented by the RCARO SAC Chair.

Regarding the RCA Research Projects, the Meeting agreed that all seven proposals would be forwarded to the Research Review Committee (RRC) for its review.

13. Presentation on FNCA's activities by the FNCA Representative RCANRM(39)/13

In the absence of the FNCA Coordinator, there was no presentation on FNCA's activities at the Meeting. The relevant presentation had been circulated to the participants prior to the Meeting (Annex 31).

14. Discussion and agreement on measures to strengthen the partnerships between the RCA and the FNCA, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), and the other regional cooperative agreements (AFRA, ARASIA and ARCAL) - proposed document prepared by the RCA Chair - RCANRM(39)/14

The Chair invited Mr Mavag Chadraabal, the immediate past RCA Chair and NR of MON, to make a presentation concerning measures to strengthen the partnership between the RCA and

the FNCA, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), and the other regional cooperative agreements (AFRA, ARASIA and ARCAL) (**Annex 32**). He also made a presentation on the Quadripartite Meeting of the regional cooperative agreements (AFRA/ARASIA/ARCAL/RCA) and possible collaborations with FNCA and PIDF.

The Meeting noted that, while representatives of the RCA and FNCA had been participating in each side's policy meetings (Director of the RCARO to the FNCA Coordinators' Meeting and FNCA Coordinator of Japan to the NRMs), partnership activities had been very limited to mere information exchange for the past few years. It was agreed that the RCA Chair should consult with the FNCA Coordinator of Japan to discuss future directions for the collaborative activities between the RCA and FNCA.

The Meeting discussed possible cooperation among the regional cooperative agreements (AFRA/ARASIA/ARCAL/RCA). ROK suggested inviting a representative of one of the regional cooperative agreements to the Meetings of NRs, in order to share good practices, experiences, and current status. CPR agreed and suggested that the representatives be observers to the RCA GCMs, noting that they would be present at the IAEA Headquarters for the IAEA General Conference. The Meeting agreed in principle on the need for further information exchange amongst the regional cooperative agreements and suggested that a representative from one of these agreements be invited to future GCMs. The Meeting further agreed to have an in-depth discussion on the modalities of engaging Quadripartite Meeting at the 46th GCM.

The Meeting discussed whether there was a possibility for collaborations between the RCA and organizations headquartered in the Pacific Region, such as Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and Pacific Community (PC). AUL suggested that there was limited information at this current time and the NRs would need some time for consultation with national experts. The Meeting agreed and requested the NRs consult with each GP's national experts to further discuss on the issue at the 46th GCM.

The Meeting took note of the concept paper on measures to strengthen the partnership between the RCA and the FNCA, the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and other regional cooperative agreements (AFRA/ARASIA/ARCAL/RCA), presented by the former RCA Chair.

The Meeting requested the RCA Chair to consult with the FNCA Coordinator of Japan to review the status and identify future directions for the collaboration between the FNCA and RCA and report to the 46th GCM.

The Meeting agreed that NRs should consult with national experts regarding the possibilities of collaboration with the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and Pacific Community (PC) to allow for further discussion at the 46th GCM.

The Meeting agreed that in principle there should be greater information exchange with the other Regional Agreements such as ARASIA, AFRA, and ARCAL. The Meeting further agreed that a representative of one of these Regional Agreements should be invited to the each future GCM.

The Meeting agreed that an additional agenda item on the modalities of engaging the Quadripartite Meeting to the RCA activities be discussed at the 46th GCM.

15. Report on Situation of Acceptance of the 2017 RCA Agreement by the RCA FP - RCANRM(39)/15

RCA-FP delivered a report on the situation with regard to the acceptance of the 2017 RCA Agreement (**Annex 33**). He noted that five (5) countries, namely: Singapore, Thailand, Palau, Bangladesh and India, had informed that they had accepted the 2017 RCA. He noted that the 2017 RCA would therefore enter into force on 11 June 2017 and encouraged the remaining GPs to complete their ratification of the 2017 RCA as soon as possible. AUL, CPR, INS, LAO, NEP and PAK informed the Meeting that they were in the process of ratification of the 2017 RCA.

The Meeting welcomed advice from the Secretariat that the 2017 RCA would enter into force on 11 June 2017, took note of the progress made by GPs towards the acceptance of the 2017 RCA and encouraged the GPs' ratification of the 2017 RCA as soon as possible.

The Meeting agreed that the Agency would inform all the IAEA Member States of the 2017 RCA.

16. Arrangements for the 46th RCA GCM, the 40th and 41st RCA NRMs

ROK confirmed that it would host the 40th RCA NRM in 2018.

SRL confirmed that would be willing to host the 41st RCA NRM in 2019.

The Meeting noted that the 46th GCM would be held in Vienna on 15th September 2017.

ROK confirmed that the 40th NRM would be held in ROK in 2018.

SRL confirmed its willingness to host the 41st NRM in 2019.

17. Any Other Business

The Meeting endorsed the need for a Practical Arrangement to be signed between the Agency and the RCARO in order to facilitate the assistance by the RCARO to the Agency on the RCA administrative functions.

The Meeting discussed effective means to strengthen the communication among the NRs, LCCs, and NPCs, and to facilitate the submission of the national progress reports of NPCs. The Meeting agreed that NPCs who DO NOT submit their progress reports would NOT be

invited to the project meetings and further agreed that LCCs should seek the support of the NRs in case the NPCs did not submit the reports in a timely manner.

The Meeting took note of JPN's letters circulated prior to and during the Meeting, and agreed that the remaining concerns, if any, would be discussed at the 46th GCM. However, it was agreed that the decisions that had already been endorsed by this Meeting should not be affected.

In order to encourage the RCA GPs to contribute to the RCA through extra-budgetary funding, NEP and MON suggested that an official letter be sent to each GP regarding this matter. The Meeting agreed that the RCA Chair would write an official letter to each GP, with a copy to the Agency, requesting the provision of extra-budgetary funding to the RCA, and that this letter be forwarded to the respective Permanent Mission by the Agency.

The Meeting agreed that a Practical Arrangement be signed between the Agency and RCARO in order to facilitate the provision of assistance of the RCARO to the Agency on RCA administrative functions.

To improve NPCs' submission of project progress report to the LCCs, the Meeting agreed that NPCs who do not submit report will not be invited to project meetings. Further, the Meeting agreed that the LCCs would contact the NRs to encourage NPCs to submit report timely.

The Meeting took note of the letters by JPN. It was agreed that the decisions that had already been endorsed by this NRM could not be affected by GPs who are absent to the Meeting. It was further noted that any remaining concerns of JPN would be considered again at the 46th GCM.

The Meeting agreed that the RCA Chair, on behalf of the RCA, would write an official letter to each NR requesting the provision of extra-budgetary funding to the RCA, with a copy to the Agency which would then be forwarded to the respective permanent mission.

18. Adoption of the Report of the 39th RCA NRM

The Meeting reviewed, revised and endorsed the decisions by the NRs at the Meeting.

The Meeting adopted the report of the 39th NRM held in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

19. Closure

The RCA Chair provided closing remarks and expressed his appreciation to the GPs, the IAEA and the RCARO for their active participation to the Meeting.

The DIR-TCAP expressed her appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission for hosting the event and congratulated the RCA Chair for his efficient conduct of the Meeting.

The Meeting thanked the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission for the kind hospitality and excellent arrangements for the Meeting. The Meeting also expressed its appreciation for the contribution of the rapporteurs from CPR, PHI and the RCARO.