

PROPOSAL

Setting up RCA Scholarship Programme

Background:

Fully aware of a workforce skilled in nuclear science and technology is essential to realize the full potential of nuclear technology, Strategic Direction 5 in the RCA 2018-2023 Medium Term Strategy (MTS) states that the RCA will “continue building human capacity, including education and training and nuclear knowledge management and accord particular attention to special needs of: (1) the new RCA GPs, (2) the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and (3) the Small Island Developing States (SIDSs), to enable them to maximize their benefits from participation in the RCA programme”.

The building of nuclear human capacity under the RCA over many years has been basically carried out in the form of regional training courses for one or two weeks, which only serves specific and short-term purposes for each individual project. Such human resource training is necessary but far from enough to secure nuclear technology capacities in the RCA GPs for sustainable development.

It has been identified and agreed there is an urgent need for the RCA to establish a long-term education program which act as a solid platform/backbone in support of sustainable application of nuclear and nuclear-related technologies in RCA GPs, especially in LDCs and SIDSs.

In Asia and Pacific region, many Governments have established postgraduate scholarship programmes to provide scholarships for international students, for example: **Australia Awards Scholarships, Chinese Government Scholarships, MEXT Scholarships (Japan), Korean Government Scholarship Program for International Students**, etc. However, there is no partnership between the RCA and these scholarship funding bodies. Therefore, it would be very useful if the RCA could partner with these bodies to promote nuclear and nuclear-related postgraduate education for RCA countries.

Proposal:

NRs are requested to consider and decide to establish a Committee (or a Working Group) on RCA Scholarship Programme, probably in May 2021. It would be more effective if NRs (or representatives) of Australia, China, Japan, and Korea participate in the Committee.

The main duties of the Committee would be:

- Develop the TOR (functions, duties, powers, requirements for membership, membership term, etc.) of the Committee and submits to NRs for approval at the RCA GCM (Sep. 2021).
- On behalf of the RCA, discuss and explore opportunities to partner with the above-mentioned scholarship funding bodies, establish practical arrangement with each funding body that gives training quota for the RCA, as soon as possible.
- Inform GPs about scholarship conditions/requirements and provide guidance on how to apply for scholarship.
- Collect and examine applications before submitting to the relevant scholarship funding body.
- Inform GPs about accepted scholarships.
- Reports its activities to NRMs and GCMs.