



DRAFT FINAL REPORT
Of the
21st MEETING OF RCA NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES
1-5 MARCH 1999
SINGAPORE

<p style="text-align: center;">REPORT of the 21st MEETING OF RCA NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES 1-5 MARCH 1999</p>
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**REPORT
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1. Introduction

1.1 The 21st Meeting of RCA National Representatives (NRs) was held from 1-5 March 1999 at the York Hotel, Singapore. The Meeting was attended by 33 participants from 15 Member States (MSs). The participant list is given in **Annex 1**. The IAEA was represented by Mr Qian Jihui, Deputy Director-General, Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, Mr M.N. Razley, Section Head for East Asia and the Pacific (TCAPS), and Mr C.R. Aleta, the RCA Coordinator.

2. Opening Ceremony

2.1 Dr Aline Wong, Senior Minister of State (Health) and Senior Minister of State (Education) officiated at the Opening Ceremony. Dr Wong welcomed participants to Singapore and was proud to note that Singapore has been playing an active role in the RCA, especially in the areas of health, industry and environment. She acknowledged the contributions made by the IAEA and RCA over the years and urged all MSs to ensure that present and future development can be sustained through the appropriate use of nuclear technology. The full text of Dr Wong's speech is given in **Annex 2**.

2.2 Mr Razley read a statement on behalf of Mr Qian Jihui. In his statement, Mr Qian urged MSs to formulate projects that would solve the real problems in the region and to consider the use of Regional Resource Units (RRUs) while formulating and implementing their programmes. The full text of Mr Qian's speech is given in **Annex 3**.

3. First Administrative Session (Chairman: Mr Tan Teng Huat, Rapporteur: Mr Lee Kheng Seng)

3.1 Election of Chairperson

Dr Peter Roberts, the delegate from New Zealand took the interim chairmanship of the Meeting.

Mr Tan Teng Huat, Director of the Environment Policy and Management, Ministry of the Environment, Singapore was proposed by Mr A K Anand of India to act as the Chairperson of the Meeting; the proposal was seconded by Dr Tin Hliang of Myanmar. Mr Tan was unanimously elected as chairman.

3.2 Statement by Outgoing Chairperson

Dr Roberts said that it had been an honour for New Zealand to host the previous meeting in Taupo and he thanked MSs for their cooperation in making the meeting a success. A copy of his remarks is in **Annex 4**.

3.3 Statement by Incoming Chairperson

Mr Tan thanked the Meeting for electing him as Chairperson and also thanked Mr Anand for his kind words. He said it was the first time that Singapore was hosting the RCA NRs Meeting. He was confident that the camaraderie among delegates would help in making the meeting a successful one. A copy of his remarks is in **Annex 5**.

3.4 Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with minor amendments. The modified agenda is in **Annex 6**.

3.5 Designation of Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

The Chairman proposed the session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs. This was **agreed unanimously**¹. The CVs of the chairpersons are given in **Annex 7**.

3.6 Presentation of the Draft 1998 RCA Annual Report

The RCA Coordinator, Mr Aleta, presented the draft 1998 RCA Annual Report which was earlier sent to the MSs. The draft Annual Report for 1998 was **adopted in-principle** subject to the following:

- The deletion of the complete Section on page 8 headed “Political Events which affected the RCA Programme Implementation”.
- The endorsement of the previous decision at the 27th RCA General Conference (GC) Meeting in September 1998 on the need to ensure the Annual Report is seen as a flagship document for the RCA. In particular, Part 1 of the Report containing the Executive Summary should contain the broad strategy and major

¹ The names of chairpersons and rapporteurs appear within the heading of each session.

achievements, policy direction and highlights of RCA activities in that year. The IAEA may require additional assistance to finalise this Executive Summary for making available to government authorities or other international organisations.

- The inclusion of detailed comments on the draft text which should be provided to the RCA Coordinator by 20 March 1999.
- The submission of all national inputs to Part 3.
- The inclusion of a table showing in-kind contributions by MSs based on person-days/months or standard dollar amounts for specific activities similar to those which formed the basis of the calculation of in-kind contributions in the previous UNDP/RCA/IAEA Project Document viz.:

Hosting of regional training events including demonstrations	US\$2000/day
Hosting of national training events	US\$1000/day
Provision of senior staff for project coordination meetings, tripartite and other review meetings	US\$250/day
Provision of experts for advisory meetings, lecturing at training events, expert assignments	US\$200/day

A national training event encompasses training where the IAEA provides experts

- An addendum on the achievements/impacts of closed projects as circulated at the Meeting.

The RCA Coordinator also **requested** MSs that had not provided their country activity report for Part 3 to do so by 20 March 1999, electronically if possible.

The Meeting **requested** Indonesia and Australia to draft a standard format for submitting reports on project accomplishments as reflected in Part 2 of the Annual Report. This would assist the RCA Office in compiling the Annual Report and also help to document highlights in the RCA programme for the Executive Summary.

The Meeting also noted that MSs supported the provision of extra assistance, such as sending someone to the RCA Office to assist in producing the Annual Report, if necessary.

Mr. Aleta noted that many MSs have yet to submit their reports on accomplished tasks and meetings they have hosted based on the agreed mechanism. The Meeting **agreed** that it would be helpful that reports could be sent electronically to the RCA Office. MSs were urged to submit their reports as soon as possible.

3.7 Presentation of the Report of the 27th General Conference Meeting

The Chairman invited Mr. Aleta to present the final report of the 27th RCA GC Meeting held on 23 September 1998 in Vienna. Pakistan noted that many country statements were rather lengthy and this made the RCA GC report rather bulky. The Meeting **agreed** to limit country statements to not more than two pages for future RCA GC reports; these statements should concentrate on policy aspects.

The Meeting commended the Secretariat for producing a good report and **adopted** the 27th RCA GC Report, subject to any detailed comments being received within the next week.

3.8 Follow-up actions from the 27th RCA General Conference Meeting

Mr. Aleta briefed the Meeting on the actions and recommendations of the 27th RCA GC. The table is given in **Annex 8**.

On the request by Yemen and Iran to join the RCA, Mr. Aleta said that based on the legal opinion of the IAEA, both countries were outside the geographical boundaries of the Asia Pacific region and hence cannot become a member of the RCA. The IAEA's legal section has however advised that it be up to MSs to decide whether to allow the two countries to be part of the RCA. After discussion, the meeting decided to let the issue rest and **requested** Australia to assist the RCA Coordinator to draft a reply to the written request from Yemen. The Meeting also **agreed** that it would suffice at this juncture to note the verbal request from Iran.

Mr. Razley informed the Meeting that future RCA documents/reports cannot use the IAEA logo unless it follows the protocol set by the IAEA. The Meeting **invited** the IAEA to streamline the documents/reports issued or printed by the three Regional Agreements to give consistency regarding the use of IAEA logo.

The Meeting noted the usefulness of the list of actions and recommendations provided after recent Meetings. It was suggested that it would be useful in future Meetings to discuss the list in an early Agenda Item as Matters Arising from Previous Meetings. The Meeting **requested** the RCA Office to produce a similar list to be disseminated to MSs in advance of future Meetings of National Representatives (including the GC Meeting).

4 **Second Administrative Session (Chairman: Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur: Mr Lee Kheng Seng)**

4.1 Programmes for East Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Razley gave a presentation on the 1999/2000 programmes for the region as well as the strategies for preparation of the 2001/2002 cycle as at **Annex 9**. He highlighted that of the US\$18.6 million available in 1999 in the Asia Pacific Section, only 20% were budgeted for equipment and the remainder was essentially for movement of people. He mentioned that movement of people, such as training and provision of experts, etc. was the more challenging task. He urged MSs to work closely with the IAEA to implement all activities in 216 projects and to convert ideas into reality. He also urged MSs to formulate well-designed projects before 31 December 1999 so as to be included in the 2001/2002 cycle.

Australia noted the need to ensure there was no duplication of activities between regional projects outside RCA and RCA projects.

The Meeting took note of the programmes and the importance of formulating sound future projects.

4.2 Programme and Projects for RCA

The RCA Coordinator presented the overall programme for 1999/2000 in terms of number of projects, funding, activities and other information as at **Annex 10**. He also gave a detailed breakdown of the programme by thematic programme areas, funding source and status.

There were altogether 34 projects for 1999/2000 divided into the following thematic areas:

- a) Agriculture
- b) Health
- c) Industry
- d) Energy/Research Reactor/Waste Management
- e) Environment
- f) Radiation Protection
- g) General – those that cannot be categorised as above.

The Meeting noted that Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Sri Lanka were funding footnote a/ projects. The Meeting **requested** the RCA Office to identify what needs to be funded, whether there were problems encountered in funding as well as to investigate possible additional funding sources.

Japan noted it was the Lead Country for RAS/8/085 – “Non-Destructive Testing and Evaluation” which was a footnote a/ project with an estimated cost of \$400,240.

However, the National Representative of Japan stated that Japan had not been made aware of the activities planned within the project. The RCA Coordinator clarified that the project was among those considered and endorsed at the 27th RCA GC. After discussion, the Meeting **confirmed** its endorsement of the projects identified in the report of the 27th RCA GC.

The Meeting noted the presentation by Mr. Aleta and **agreed** to consider the programmes on a Thematic basis during later sessions.

4.3 Project Formulation Meetings (PFMs)

New Zealand presented the major outputs of the PFM for the sub-project “Clean and Energy Efficient Production Processes” under the UNDP/RCA/IAEA project – “Better Management of the Environment, Natural Resources and Industrial Growth through Isotopes and Radiation Technology” held in Kuala Lumpur on 26-30 November 1998. The project was complementary to thematic projects on industry. He recorded thanks to Malaysia for hosting the meeting as well as the assistance provided by Japan and Thailand as assistant Lead Countries. The Meeting **approved** the recommendations of the project.

Philippines presented the outputs of the PFM held on 30 November – 3 December 1998 in Manila on the component “Harmful Algal Bloom” under the sub-project “Management of Marine Coastal Environment and Its Pollution” of the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project. The IAEA noted that it was a high profile project and would be funded by the UNDP and IAEA. The Meeting **approved** the recommendations of the project.

China and Myanmar jointly presented the output of the PFM held in Yangon on 11-15 January 1999 under the project RAS 5/035 “Better Feed Supplementation and Animal Production”. The Meeting **approved** the recommendations of the project.

China made mention of the outputs of the PFM held in Bangkok on 8-12 February 1999 on RAS 5/037 “Enhancement of Genetic Diversity in Rice”. The meeting noted that the project report was not finalised yet. Subject to the conclusions of an overall thematic meeting to consider agriculture projects, the project activities were **approved in-principle**.

5. **First Technical Session: Thematic Programme in Radiation Protection** (Chairperson: Mr Stephen Chong, Rapporteur: Ms Annie Tan)

5.1 RAS/9/018 Radiation Protection Enhancement and Harmonisation of Radiation Protection

Australia, being the Lead Country for this thematic programme for Radiation Protection, gave a summary of the IAEA/RCA Expert Advisory Group Meeting (EAGM) held in the Philippines on 22-24 February 1999. A report on the meeting was circulated.

The Meeting was attended by 6 MSs and the IAEA Technical Officer (TO). The purpose of the Meeting was:

- To review the effectiveness of the radiation protection activities held in 1998;
- To review and agree on the activities for 1999-2000;
- To plan the activities for 2001-2;
- To ensure proper coordination with the Model Project RAS/9/021 and the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA activities.

The EAGM meeting was considered essential in the on-going process of reviewing, evaluating and planning activities. The 1999/2000 activities were reviewed in detail and amended. The revised list was considered of high priority for funding. The forward activities for 2001-2002 have been identified with their proposed justification.

5.2 Discussion

Japan explained the structure of this project and how it is to be implemented. All 17 MSs will participate. It is a 5-year working plan and during this period there is a coordination group which reviews and evaluates all activities and makes recommendations. Presently the Chairman of this group is Dr. Ron Cameron from Australia. There was some discussion on the size of the Coordination Group and its representative nature. It was noted that the programme of activities had been constrained by the reduced financial contribution from Japan and the limited financial contributions from MSs other than Australia.

Australia reviewed the areas of responsibility of the Coordination Group for which lead persons had been appointed for each area:

- ☐ Standards and Regulations
- ☐ Accident Management
- ☐ Radiation Protection in Medicine
- ☐ Radiation Protection in Industry
- ☐ Occupational and Environmental Exposure

IAEA stated that the overall programme has some complexity and there was a need to ensure that the overall programme was well formulated. How are the objectives achieved considering that the level of radiation protection is different in the different

countries? One possibility is to divide the 17 MSs into 3 groups of different levels namely lower level, intermediate and high. This is in line with the Interregional Model Project, INT 9/143².

IAEA outlined the scope of regional and inter-regional projects which were seen to be complementary to the RCA project.

The Chairman invited Dr. Djermouni, Project Manager, RAS 9/021, to outline the progress of the project. Dr. Djermouni said that there are 5 MSs participating in this Model Project. They are Bangladesh, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The main problems for these MSs were identified and solutions to these problems were being worked out. The infrastructure for radiation protection was being introduced into these countries such as radiation protection regulations, codes of practice, radioactive waste management, and a system of licensing. He stated that there was no duplication with the RCA project.

IAEA noted the need for MSs to have a basic level of radiation protection infrastructure before technical assistance is provided.

Following discussion, the 1999-2000 activities were **approved** and the activities for 2001-2002 were **approved in-principle**.

IAEA suggested a questionnaire or audit be sent to MSs seeking information on the benefits and outcomes of the project to date. Value was seen in this proposal. Australia pointed to the emphasis in the project document already placed on evaluation and follow-up activities.

Korea confirmed the country's commitment to donate US\$100,000 for the project RAS/9/024 - Environmental Radiation Monitoring and Regional Database, for 1999 provided the IAEA matched this funding. IAEA invited Korea to formalise this offer on an unconditional basis as soon as possible.

6. Second Technical Session: Agriculture - Related Projects (Chairman: Mr Stephen Chong, Rapporteur: Ms Annie Tan)

There are five projects under Agriculture for 1999. The Lead Country China was invited to update the meeting on the progress of the three hardcore projects:

- RAS/5/034 - Irradiation as Sanitary and Phytosanitary Food Treatment

² The implementation of this interregional project INT9/143 has been delegated to the regions; in East Asia and the Pacific it is implemented through RAS/9/021

- RAS/5/035 - Better Management of Feeding and Reproduction of Cattle
- RAS/5/037 - Mutational Enhancement for Genetic Diversity in Rice

China stated that food security and food safety is very important for Asia. Hence all new agriculture projects are based on food security and food safety.

Discussion

It was noted that during the GC meeting in 1998 it was decided that a questionnaire would be formulated with the help of Pakistan, to collect information about agriculture in MSs of the East Asia and Pacific Region, before the thematic meeting in Beijing. The questionnaire has been prepared but not finalised. A draft copy was circulated to members of the meeting. Pakistan requested that the questionnaire should be simple and distributed as soon as possible so that MSs can fill them in easily.

It was agreed that China would convene an EAGM in Beijing in June 1999³ to provide a strategic overview for the Thematic Agriculture Programme. However, comments from MSs and the IAEA included:

- The programme should be linked to national priorities and should not duplicate other programmes in the region.
- Problems beyond the traditional areas should be considered (such as ornamental plants, and problems associated with processing, packaging and marketing).
- The focus should include mutation studies, pest control and land fertilisation.
- The outcomes of the two PFMs considered under Section 4.3 should be aligned with the overall strategy.
- EAGM participants should have a broad knowledge of the needs of agriculture in MSs and the region, as well as nuclear science. Perhaps each country should nominate a policy maker and if necessary another technical person, and the IAEA should investigate whether the FAO could send a representative to the meeting.
- Consideration of funding of the two footnote a/ projects RAS/5/036(Monitoring Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment) and RAS/5/038(Improvement Genetic Diversity in Wheat, Oil Crops and Pulses) should be deferred until after the EAGM had reported.

The Chairman ended the session by requesting MSs to consider how they might support RAS/5/036 and RAS/5/038.

³ The event has been scheduled on 7-12 July 1999.

**7. Third Technical Session: Energy and Research Reactor - Related Projects
(Chairman: Prof. Tang Seong Mun, Rapporteur: Ms Annie Tan)**

The Lead Country Korea was invited to overview the two new projects namely: RAS/0/028 - Comparative Assessment of Electricity Generation Options; and RAS/4/019 - Improving Research Reactor Operation and Utilisation.

A report of the activities in 1998 and the proposed activities were circulated. The last PFM was in March 1998 in Korea one week before the 20th RCA National Representatives Meeting in New Zealand.

Another project has been ongoing - RAS/4/016 - Disposal of Radioactive Waste from Non-Power Sources. Since March 1998, no progress has been made on this project.

Korea informed participants that there would be another PFM from 22-27 March 1999 to discuss and refine the project RAS/4/019.

Discussion

Mr Razley expressed reservations to holding what could be seen as a second PFM in March 1999 and referred to the discussion on the scope of the project at the Taupo RCA Working Group Meeting last year. The project RAS/4/019 had been endorsed at the 27th GC Meeting in 1998. There is only US\$80,000 for RAS/4/019 and if the money is going to be spent on meetings the money will be used up and there will not be enough money to finish the project. Mr Razley stated that this meeting would be cancelled by the IAEA.

Korea stated that all invitations had been sent out to the participating MSs and all arrangements for the meeting had been finalised. MSs expressed their views and the session was held over until the following day.

Later, Korea made a statement after consultation with its government, the host Agency and its mission in Vienna and the IAEA TO concerned. Korea hoped that the PFM could proceed and noted that it was a Project Finalisation Meeting, not a Formulation Meeting. However, Korea was willing to be guided by the IAEA and MSs.

The Report of the 20th Meeting of National Representatives showed that there had been considerable confusion about the project since its March 1998 PFM.

MSs held a variety of views on whether the new PFM should proceed. After difficult discussions, a consensus was reached that:

- ❑ A Project Meeting to finalise the scope of the project should proceed as scheduled;
- ❑ Korea, as Lead Country, would liaise urgently with the RCA office, the relevant TO and intended participants to provide revised objectives for the meeting and ensure that participants were fully advised of the required outputs from the meeting; and
- ❑ NRs may wish to consider whether their intended participants in the meeting were still appropriate as soon as they are informed of the revised objectives.

The Chairman closed the session thanking all contributors for their help in reaching consensus..

8. Fourth Technical Session: Health - Related Projects (Chairman: Prof Aziz Nather, Rapporteur: Ms Annie Tan)

The Chairman stated that Health was a key priority in the RCA Programme. Nuclear Medicine is contributing increasingly towards diagnosis and therapy of many diseases.

The Chairman invited Indonesia, the Lead Country for the Thematic Programme to present the progress on the different health-related projects, namely:

- ❑ RAS/6/027 Quality Assurance in Radiation Therapy;
- ❑ RAS/6/028 Nuclear Medicine Applications;
- ❑ RAS/6/029 Improved Training for Nuclear Medicine Technicians;
- ❑ RAS/6/033 Distance Learning in Radiation Oncology.

A report of the activities performed during 1998 was circulated.

A National Coordinators Meeting was convened in India in March 1998, the full report of which has been sent to all MSs. Several regional workshops were conducted in Pakistan, India and Singapore.

Discussion

Problems in the air transportation of radioactive kits were reported which had resulted in the participants of a workshop being unable to receive their kits in advance in their respective countries. The Meeting **requested** the IAEA to take up the matter with IATA⁴.

⁴ IATA-International Air Transport Association, provides rules on air transport.

Some representatives felt that the thematic programme over-emphasised nuclear medicine. Radiation Oncology and certain other health-related areas are of equal importance and projects in this topic should be encouraged.

Indonesia responded that the decisions were made by policy makers and Nuclear Medicine specialists in the health sector in participating countries. Indonesia felt that the agreed projects were already a challenge. In 2-3 years, new projects in the participating MSs may be considered.

Australia circulated a progress report on RAS/6/029 and noted that the training material was now available on CD-ROM and had been made available to AFRA and ARCAL. Very positive outcomes had resulted from this project. Australia noted that a project plan for RAS/6/033 had been fully developed and implementation of the project was awaiting funding.

The Chairman presented a Report of Workshops for RAS 7/008 - Quality Assurance in Sterilisation of Tissue Grafts which was circulated. In 1998 a number of training courses and workshops were held with emphasis on improving quality control standards. During a Regional Workshop held in Malaysia, it was recommended that a Regional Training Course on radiation dose validation be held in Warsaw in October 1999.

It was **agreed** that the project RAS/6/027 should be drawn to the attention of the Radiation Protection Infrastructure Project Committee, as there were clear radiation protection-related implications.

The Meeting congratulated Singapore on the achievements of the Tissue Bank. IAEA informed the meeting that Singapore was to be used for training basic tissue banking while the advanced training would be carried out in Thailand.

Mr Razley reviewed the three regional projects and the interregional project. For the regional programmes, Mr Razley gave the following comments:

- RAS6/032 "Regional Screening of Network for Neonatal Hypothyroidism"- IAEA would come in only if the countries concerned already have a national programme on screening, to give it added value; and
- RAS 7/010 "Measuring the Effectiveness of Multinutrient Supplementation." A PFM was held in Indonesia in December 1998 to develop the workplan.
- RAS 4/017 "Maintenance and Repair of Nuclear Instruments." This involves maintenance of equipment used in health sector. TCDC has been brought in but was limited to 5 countries in the region.

The Meeting **agreed** that as a general principle, if non-nuclear techniques were available as the more effective option for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, then they should be used. Japan then suggested that for PFMs of liver cancer treatments for example, a hepatologist should be included as a participant.

The Meeting **endorsed** the overall project plans subject to the above comments. It was **agreed** there would be value in a range of MSs being visited to assess the impact and identify experience to date in implementing the health-related thematic projects and whether MSs are following the appropriate protocols and methodologies.

9 Fifth Technical Session: Industry and Environment (Chairman: Mr Sze Thiam Siong, Rapporteur: Ms Annie Tan)

The Lead Country, Japan, presented the progress on the following projects:

- ❑ RAS/8/086 - Radiotracers, Sealed Sources and Nucleonic Gauges;
- ❑ RAS/4/018 - Manufacture and Quality Control of Co-60 Brachytherapy Sources;
- ❑ RAS/8/085 - Non-destructive Testing and Evaluation; and
- ❑ RAS/8/077 - Advanced Thematic Programme in Industry.

A related activity RAS/8/087 - Radiation Processing Applications for Agrowastes would be discussed under the Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA Project.

9.1 RAS/8/086-Use of Sealed Sources and Tracers.

Japan gave an outline of this project and circulated the final Project Document. Japan stated that this project was originally proposed as a sub-project of the Joint UNDP/IAEA/RCA Project. Japan added that there could be practical difficulties on the side of thematic lead countries in finding appropriate experts. The meeting was advised that Japan was not able to send any experts to the PFM held in Malaysia last November and that a qualified expert responsible for this project had not yet been identified.

9.2 RAS/4/018 - Manufacture and Quality Control of Co-60 Brachytherapy Sources

Japan gave an overview of the project, and reported that the project had progressed over the past two years. Two Japanese experts and one TO visited China and India in November 1998 in order to assess the capability of these countries as recipients of the necessary technology transfer. A report was circulated. Both countries were found to

be suitable. Endorsement of the project was sought in view of its high probability of success.

Indonesia and Thailand expressed their interest in participating in this project. India stated that a high flux nuclear reactor as well as elaborate technology to manufacture sealed sources was mandatory. Consequently, only China and India could participate at this stage. China emphasised the importance of this project as it contains a TCDC⁵ element. New Zealand suggested that funding should be found due to the usefulness of the project compared with the limited funds required. The Meeting **endorsed** the project to proceed on the proviso that the project be completed in a timely manner with the sole objective of technology transfer for source production.⁶

9.3 RAS/8/085 Non-destructive Testing and Evaluation

It was noted that this project was not yet funded. Japan also indicated that it had not been consulted nor informed on the project which was indicated in the Annual Report to start this year and that measures should be taken by the IAEA secretariat to rectify this. The RCA Coordinator explained that this project was among those submitted to the 27th RCA GC which was endorsed by MSs.

9.4 RAS/8/077 Advanced Techniques for Industry

The project continued activities in radiation processing. Japan pointed out the basic strategy of the project based on the conclusion of the PFM held last year, viz:

- Lesser emphasis on technology transfer; and
- More emphasis on the original technology development in radiation processing of natural products.

Japan then explained, as illustration of the new strategy, two Coordinated Research Programmes (CRP) on “Radiation processing of indigenous natural polymers”, and “Improvement of physical properties of RVNRL film” as well as on three topics to be dealt with under RAS/97/030, viz:

- Cellulosic waste utilisation;
- Viscose Rayon manufacture; and
- Chitin/Chitosan utilisation.

⁵ TCDC = Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries

⁶ The activities under this project have been funded under RAS 8/077 for financial administrative reasons.

In response to concern about the high cost of accelerators for the Viscose Rayon topic, Japan indicated that the cost of the electron beam (EB) accelerator in question was not a major problem as it would be a small cost compared to the large investment capital in place for the conventional Viscose Rayon production plants. As such, there are only a few major facilities in the region that would need an EB accelerator in place to deal with problems related to carbon disulphide regeneration and the emission of hydrogen sulphide and other toxic substances.

9.5 Discussion

Of the four projects, only RAS/8/086 has hardcore funding, while the rest are footnote a/ projects. The IAEA indicated that funding for RAS/8/077 was already secured. RAS/4/018 had received Japanese seed money in 1998 but the suggested activities for 1999 remained unfunded. The IAEA suggested that RAS/8/077 and RAS/8/085 be combined as they were related. Japan appealed to MSs to consider funding the projects.

Japan was asked to clarify its role as the Lead Country for the four projects within the thematic area of Industry. The potential confusion from RAS/8/077 also being called a "Thematic Programme" was noted. Japan indicated that it had practical difficulties in 'leading' a programme that included work on Radiotracers, Sealed Sources and Nucleonic Gauges as Japan had currently no candidate to take on the responsibility for this area. New Zealand offered to assist in Radiotracers, Sealed Sources and Nucleonic Gauges provided that Japan could identify a person for liaison purposes. Japan undertook to confer with appropriate government agencies and inform National Representatives promptly⁷.

Japan also indicated that consultation should start as soon as possible between Japan (Lead Country), India (Assistant Lead Country) and the IAEA secretariat (including a TO) concerning effective programme planning and implementation and integration of the RAS/8/077 and RAS/8/087 projects to avoid duplication.

The meeting **endorsed** the programme plan in principle. However it was **agreed** that an EAGM consisting of senior experts with a broad industry background consider overall policy directions and management of all aspects of the industry-related projects.

⁷ In April 1999 Japan indicated that Mr Tominaga has been identified as the expert.

9.6 Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA Joint Project (RAS/97/030)

The Chairman introduced the Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA Joint Project (RAS/97/030). There were five sub-projects within the Joint Project and each Lead Country presented a report on the present position in each project, namely -

Philippines -	Access to Clean Drinking Water
Australia -	Management of the Marine Coastal Environment and Its Pollution
Singapore -	Air Pollution and its Trends
Malaysia -	Electronic Networking and Outreach
New Zealand -	Clean & Energy Efficient Production Processes

All the sub-projects were now underway and, overall, there was good progress. Malaysia noted that the HomePage was not yet available on the IAEA Website⁸. However, the existing information could be accessed and added to via the MINT Website.

9.7 Discussion

The Meeting was informed that during the project formulation in the Air Pollution sub-project, IAEA staff had expressed concern about some activities that were directed primarily at training and building the human resource base. These problems had been resolved. After discussion, the Meeting **re-affirmed** that all RCA projects should have a focus on problem-solving for end-users combined with appropriate capacity-building.

The Meeting also discussed and the Status of RRUs and noted the criteria for RRUs as agreed at the 1996 Beijing RCA Working Group meeting. The Meeting noted that the Joint Project aimed to establish at least 10 RRUs. After discussion, the Meeting **requested** the IAEA to compile a list of RRUs nominated either by MSs or by Project Committees and further **agreed** that the list of nominations should be updated and presented for review at each Meeting of RCA NRs.

Finally the Meeting was reminded of the long history of how the sub-project on Clean and Energy Efficient Production Processes had evolved from the success of activities within the previous Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA Project (RAS 92/073) in Radiation Technology and in Nucleonic Control Systems and Tracers. It provided a useful guide on how RCA programmes needed to develop and be integrated into new Thematic Programmes.

⁸ From April 1999 the RCA homepage could be accessed at <http://www.rca.iaea.org>

10. **Third Administrative Session: (Chairman: Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur: Mr Lee Kheng Seng)**

10.1 Programme Management and Implementation Issues

Mr. Razley noted that a key issue was communication between the IAEA and MSs as well as among MSs. The Chairman urged MSs to note this and suggested that it might be worthwhile to review their communication methods.

The Meeting noted the concern expressed by some MSs over the current level of service provided by the IAEA's appointed travel agents on the PTA arrangements. It was also noted that quotations by the IAEA's travel agents were often higher than what was offered in the respective countries. Mr Razley gave some background on the IAEA's policy on travel arrangements. Mr Razley noted the feedback and explained that certain things like issuance of visa and language proficiency were beyond the control of the IAEA as they rest with the sovereign rights of each country. He would however, raise these concerns with the IAEA.

Several representatives expressed concern over the communication between the IAEA and MSs regarding letters of invitation for nomination of candidates for meetings/workshops/training courses. They requested that letters of invitation to participants should be sent to the RCA NR in the first instance rather than directly to proposed participants, as the participants identified by the IAEA were not always the most appropriate participant from the MS perspective. Others said that sometimes, such letters were addressed to a person instead of the office holder and inadvertently gave rise to unnecessary delays and unhappiness. The Chairman **requested** those MSs affected by this to circulate their comments to Mr Razley over the week so that he could take appropriate action.

MSs also sought clarification on UNDP's role with respect to the delivery of equipment to site, customs clearance and payment of freight haulage. Mr. Razley informed that in the agreement with the UNDP, MSs were responsible for these.

The Meeting noted that there was general consensus to have the most efficient management of NR Meetings in light of the burden placed on the host country and the time involved for NRs. It was noted that at the 1998 GC Meeting, it had been agreed that there would be value in the previous Chairperson and the designated Chairperson meeting with the RCA Coordinator before NR meetings to prepare for NR meetings. This procedure had proven to be valuable for the Singapore meeting.

The Meeting with some reservations from Japan, felt that NR Meetings should focus increasingly on policy and management matters while technical and operational issues should be discussed at Project Committee Meetings. The new Lead Country and

thematic management approach should assist this. It was generally **agreed** that technical sessions could be made more efficient by keeping project reports concise. Indonesia's paper on Health was cited as an example. These changes should lead to shorter NR meetings.

The Meeting **agreed** to the suggestion that NRs should ensure that reports from National Project Coordinators are obtained well in advance so that they could be circulated early for NR Meetings.

The Meeting **noted** that increased financial implementation would play a key role in securing funds for future projects. Mr. Aleta said that although the implementation rate was important, emphasis on good quality projects could not be ignored.

Indonesia wished to put on record that the participation of appropriate TOs or other external experts in PFMs is welcome. Mr Razley noted Indonesia's suggestion and said TOs would be provided when they could make a useful contribution. He, however, cautioned that projects must always be driven by MSs.

10.2 Revision of RCA Operating Rules and Guidelines

Mr Aleta presented the revisions made to the RCA Operating Rules and Guidelines at the 27th RCA GC. Regret was expressed that the changes have not been enacted. Mr Aleta noted that the matter was not in the list of actions from the GC Meeting. The Meeting noted that further revisions to the Operating Rules and Guidelines could be expected pending the outcome of discussion on the Role of Lead Country. It was **agreed** that Australia and the Philippines would revise the Operating Rules and Guidelines for submission to NRs after finalisation of the Lead Country paper.

10.3 Updates in the Proposed Project Manager for the Joint UNDP/IAEA/RCA Projects

Mr Razley referred to the three funding options for a Project Manager position which were identified in the working paper considered at the 1998 RCA GCM but advised that the IAEA felt that funding for a regional project manager was not presently possible. There was disappointment expressed by some MSs over the IAEA's position. Several alternatives on funding of a project manager were explored. Australia referred to the increasing need for the RCA to be seen as a respected force in regional science and technology initiatives. There was consensus that the RCA should widen its outreach by enhancing its visibility to other agencies which could be potential contributors/donors. Mr Razley noted that this could be a good move as other agencies such as the FAO, World Bank, WHO could be interested in RCA activities. He added that such a move required concerted effort of MSs. Comments

were made that the IAEA, and a possible future RCA regional representative, also had important roles to play in enhancing a regional profile for the RCA.

The Meeting noted that well presented publicity documents were needed to sell the activities of the RCA. It was suggested that an external consultant might be able to assist in this task. It was **agreed** that each country should be encouraged to submit one success story stressing the importance of RCA. The Silver Jubilee publication and RCA Annual Report **should be sent** to all relevant ministries by NRs.

10.4 Updates on the Role of Lead Country/Ad hoc Committee Meeting

New Zealand presented the report of the ad hoc committee tasked to discuss the possible structure for the RCA convened prior to the NR Meeting. The committee made recommendations to pursue the Lead Country concept as the preferred option to increase MSs involvement in project programming. The committee **agreed in principle** that MSs should become more involved in project implementation after provision of further information from the IAEA on how this might be achieved. The RCA Coordinator was **requested** to develop a set of activities which the IAEA considered might be undertaken by Lead Countries during the implementation stage of projects taking account of such issues as Privileges and Immunities. A copy of the report is at **Annex 11**. The ad hoc committee was thanked for its efforts and the report was **endorsed in principle** subject to any further comments being submitted to the New Zealand representative in the next few weeks.

Australia next presented the working paper on the Role of a Lead Country (**Annex 12**). It was noted that there was general consensus that thematic planning should be changed to sector planning since the IAEA was using this term in a different context. It was also felt that it was important to identify a particular lead person in addition to a Lead Country and that such a person should have the necessary backing from their institute. The Meeting **agreed** that Lead Countries were not obliged to carry out all the functions themselves. It was **agreed** that assistant Lead Countries should be appointed who could also act as backups if required.

The Meeting was informed that a Regional Training Course on Project Design would be organised in June 1999 in Beijing, China for MSs receiving technical assistance. In view of their important role, value was seen in the Agency convening an event to include Lead Country Coordinators to enable them to share experience. This could be held in parallel with the above Training Course, allowing Coordinators to attend relevant parts of the Training Course.

China expressed thanks to Australia and New Zealand for their good work and was fully supportive of the objective of the papers which was to improve the quality of RCA activities. However, it questioned the legal status of the paper on Lead Country

and asked whether there would be conflicts between the RCA Agreement and the Operating Rules and Guidelines. China also suggested that the role of the IAEA at the stage of formulation should be delineated more clearly in the paper.

The Meeting noted China's position and **agreed** to endorse the principles contained in the paper as a way of moving forward. It **requested** any further comments on the paper be sent to the Australian representative and invited Australia to circulate a revised version to MSs taking account of the above comments as a final text for endorsement by the GC. Possible amendments to the Operating Rules and Guidelines would also be examined as noted above.

Mr. Aleta, referring to a list of Lead Country and Thematic Project Coordinators (TPCs) circulated earlier, **requested** NRs to:

- Identify and submit their list of TPCs to the IAEA;
- Review their national policies to assist the sectoral approach; and
- Send proposals to the RCA Office on the various themes under each sector within a month. NRs were encouraged to use the concept highlighted by Mr Razley for the preparation of project proposals.

10.5 Updates on Initiatives among the Tripartite Agreement

Mr. Aleta gave an update on the initiatives made among the Tripartite Agreement during the 27th GC. A draft proposal document on Inter-regional Cooperation on Regional Programmes was circulated. The proposal included the transfer of distance learning materials on nuclear medicine from RCA to AFRA and ARCAL. The Meeting **endorsed** the activities and the Inter-regional Cooperation project.

10.6 Milestones for the RCA Vision

Indonesia reported that it has not received any further comments from MSs yet on the RCA Vision paper which was presented at the 27th RCA GC. MSs were encouraged to contribute ideas to help realise the Vision outlined in the paper. For a start, Philippines offered a suggestion to have nuclear science and technology seen as a cooperative trailblazer in the region.

New Zealand presented a paper on RCA as a Force for Regional Development. The Meeting noted the paper and commended New Zealand for the effort.

Attention was drawn to the helpful background and information in the papers prepared by Dr Nahrul, Malaysia on a "Review of the RCA Programme" and Dr Manoon, Thailand on "Assessment of Technology Applied in RCA Programme 1972-1996".

Any comments on these two papers should be sent to the RCA Coordinator within the next two weeks.

11. Fourth Administrative Session: (Chairman: Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur: Mr Lee Kheng Seng)

11.1 Plans for 2001/2002 Cycle

Mr. Razley gave an outline of the project cycle as well as the strategy for preparation of project proposals for the 2001/2002 cycle. He informed the meeting that there was keen competition for the budget and that a balance among regions, sectors and components would have to be made. Projects would need to be formulated as far as possible by September 1999 prior to the next RCA GC, which would mean PFMs would need to be held in July/August. These meetings would follow the meeting of Lead Country coordinators to be held in June as referred to in Section 10.4.

There was a broad discussion in terms of identifying particular regional needs to be addressed by projects in the 2001/2002 cycle. Pakistan circulated a proposal on the use of isotopes in dam safety and sustainability. The Meeting **asked** Pakistan to develop this proposal further by obtaining information from MSs. Other areas proposed included dykes, agricultural productivity taking account of reduced agricultural land areas, solid wastes, liver cancer and nutrition.

It was noted that Project Committees should carefully review these problems/needs for future projects. NRs were invited to forward further problems/needs to the RCA Coordinator as an issue/objective/output within the next month.

11.2 Informal Consultation

India sought the assistance of the IAEA in encouraging an ongoing research reactor capacity utilisation within RCA countries to meet the increasing demand for radioisotopes in the future.

At the Informal Consultation Meeting on 1 March 99, India offered to host a Workshop on Experience in Managing Y2K Readiness Programme in Nuclear Facilities in May/June 99. The Meeting thanked India for the offer and looked forward to receiving more details on the Workshop.

11.3 Next Meeting of National Representatives

India kindly offered to host the next Meeting of RCA NRs in Mumbai, India in 2000. Pakistan offered to be an alternative to India.

12. Fifth Administrative Session: (Chairman: Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur: Mr Lee Kheng Seng)

12.1 Presentation of Meeting Report

The Meeting Report was **adopted in principle** subject to the various comments noted at the meeting. The Rapporteur would circulate the draft to all MSs for further comments. The Chairman thanked all delegates for their help in making the draft report possible. Special thanks were given to Australia, New Zealand and Japan for staying till the early morning with the Rapporteur to draft the report.

12.2 Closing Remarks

In his closing remark, Mr Tan Teng Huat noted that discussions over the past few days had proceeded well although there still remained a few details which would be further sorted out during the year before the RCA Annual GC this September 99. He thanked all delegates for their cooperation in making the Meeting a success and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Mr Razley, on behalf of the IAEA, thanked the host country for its hospitality and the efficient organisation of the meeting.

Several MSs also thanked the host country for the hospitality given and that the efficiency of the host secretariat has led to a fruitful and successful Meeting.

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**SPEECH BY DR ALINE WONG,
SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE (HEALTH) &
SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE (EDUCATION),
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
21ST MEETING OF THE RCA NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
ON 2 MAR 99, 9.15 AM
YORK HOTEL, SINGAPORE**

Good morning
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to first extend a very warm welcome to our overseas delegates to Singapore for this 21st Meeting of National Representatives of the Regional Co-operative Agreement or RCA for short. Singapore is indeed honoured to be hosting this important annual RCA event for the first time.

2 To the layman, the word “nuclear” may evoke apprehension because of its natural association with weapons of mass destruction. However, nuclear technology is used in many other varied fields. Be it in applications in the areas of industry, agriculture, environment and health, nuclear technology has without doubt become an important technology that has contributed to the well-being of many people around the world.

3 The International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, has been actively promoting the use of nuclear technology in agriculture, environment and medicine. In particular, the RCA, under the aegis of the IAEA, has made possible the sharing of nuclear technology among nations, in our joint attempt to eradicate diseases, to better manage our natural resources and to minimise environmental degradation.

4 The RCA was formed in 1972 with a view to promoting co-operation in research and application of nuclear technology in the above areas in the Asia Pacific region. Since joining the RCA from its inception, Singapore has been an active participant in this regional grouping. Like the other 16 RCA member states, Singapore has benefited from the various projects over the years, especially in the areas of nuclear medicine, industry and environment.

5 In the application of nuclear technology to medicine, I am happy to note that the National University Hospital Tissue Bank has been chosen by the IAEA as the regional training centre for tissue bank operators. The Centre has successfully

conducted its first diploma course for the RCA member states last year. It has also produced a distance learning multi-media package and will be receiving its second batch of trainees for the diploma course. With the experience gained, I am confident that our Tissue Bank would now be in a good position to share its knowledge with other regions as well.

6 In spite of the many advances in medical and health care, a growing number of people are now succumbing to health problems related to a more affluent lifestyle. Cardiac and cancer cases, especially, are on the rise over the years. However, thanks to the advancement in radiotherapy and chemotherapy technologies, the treatment of such cases has now been more successful. I am glad that our local hospitals have been collaborating closely with the IAEA in advancing nuclear techniques in the examination and treatment of such dreaded illnesses.

7 In this connection, I am heartened to learn that our Singapore General Hospital has hosted several regional training courses together with the IAEA last year. These include the course on nuclear cardiology and the course for therapeutic radiographers in clinical quality assurance. In addition, we have been providing training in clinical nuclear medicine on a regular basis to participants from countries from within the region. We are thus proud to join the legions of dedicated medical researchers and practitioners in bringing hope to the many patients suffering from such illnesses.

8 There is no doubt that the use of radiation technology in medicine has led to major advances in healthcare and the treatment of diseases. In our hospitals, radioactive materials are widely used in nuclear medicine for diagnostic and investigative procedures, such as assessments of organ functions and the localisation of tumours. They are also used in radiotherapy as radiation sources for the treatment of cancers and other diseases.

9 Various R&D projects on the application of nuclear technologies in medicine are on-going in our hospitals and national centres. They include the use of radio-labelled colloids for imaging lymph nodes, the use of radio-labelled antibiotics to image infections, and the use of various radionuclides for therapeutic purposes. Gamma-Knife Surgery was introduced in Singapore about 3 years ago and has been successfully used in the treatment of brain tumours and Arterio-Venous Malformations (AVM) in the brain. Coronary intravascular radiation in conjunction with angioplasty procedures has recently been introduced in our National Heart Centre.

10 With the increasing usage of nuclear techniques in health, research and industrial applications in Singapore, it is also important to regulate such uses for the reasons of radiation safety. The Radiation Protection Act was promulgated by my Ministry to control various activities related to nuclear materials and irradiating apparatus in medicine and industries. It was first enacted in 1973 to ensure the safe use of radiation in Singapore. In 1991, it was re-enacted to include the control of non-ionising radiation in addition to ionising radiation. The Act lays

down all the various rules and regulations regarding safety of use and transportation of radioactive materials as well as management of radioactive waste. In this respect, we work closely with IAEA to ensure safety and quality. We look towards IAEA for continued assistance and guidance in ensuring the safe and appropriate use of radiation. We regularly update our rules and regulations to be in line with IAEA's recommendations and guidelines. As a matter of fact, we are now incorporating IAEA's latest transport requirements embodied in their safety standards series publication ST-1 into our national transport regulations.

11 Still in this field of radiation safety, I have just learned that Singapore will be sharing her experience in this area when we host a RCA Workshop on Radiation Protection in Medical Exposure for Regulators and Radiation Safety Officers in August this year. I am confident that the Workshop will help to broaden usage and enhance control of radiation protection in hospitals regionally.

12 Next, I wish to make some observations on the Agency's Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP). I note that although the size of TCP is modest, the impact of TCP projects has far reaching benefits. Applications arising from projects on the control of agricultural pests, radioimmunoassay techniques in medicine, use of radioisotopes in industry, hydrology and environmental management and many others have served to improve many aspects of our daily lives.

13 To benefit an even greater number of people, the transfer of technologies and findings from such projects must remain as a top priority in the Agency's agenda. In addition, the TCP must be responsive to the needs and priorities of member states. Here, the IAEA can assist by appropriately aligning the technical assistance it provides with the respective state's economic and social development plans. The programme should also have its own intrinsic values such as capacity building towards a more efficient delivery of assistance to member states.

14 As members of the IAEA and the RCA, the responsibility is on us to ensure that our present and future development can be sustained through the appropriate use of nuclear technology. There is great potential and benefit to be derived from proper, safe and verifiable use of nuclear techniques and materials. I would like to urge all participants to ensure that this remains the objective of the international community.

15 I am confident that this meeting will produce useful outcomes and developments that would greatly benefit the community in the region. During the course of the week, I would like to urge our overseas friends to take some time out to visit our warm and sunny island; and to sample the many types of mouthwatering local cuisine that many Singaporean's find hard to resist.

16 On this note, it gives me great pleasure to announce the "21st Meeting of RCA National Representatives" open.

17 Thank you.

RCA Meeting of National Representatives Singapore, 1-5 March 1999

Welcome Address by Mr. QIAN Jihui
Deputy Director General
Head of the Department of Technical Co-operation
International Atomic Energy Agency

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Representatives of RCA, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for me to welcome you this morning on the occasion of the RCA Meeting of National Representatives.

RCA Agreement

When I addressed the RCA national representatives at the 27th RCA General Conference Meeting in Vienna in September 1998 I mentioned that all 17 Member States agreed to extend the intergovernmental agreement for a further 5 years to 2002. This further extension of the Agreement is a sign of confidence by Member States that this framework of cooperation is realizing benefits for each Member State and that they wish this to be sustained. In my view it would be in your favor, the national RCA representatives, to ensure the further sustainability of the Agreement and live up to the expectations of the Member States. The Agency, as you are aware supports the RCA Programme as its Secretariat.

It is pleasing to learn that countries outside the geographical region have expressed interest in joining RCA. This is a sign of the attractiveness of your programme. Your Agreement however, does not stipulate the acceptance of members from outside the region. You must collectively decide the criteria to gauge additional membership. Here, the benefits as well as any possible burdens to the Agreement and to the Member States must be considered thoroughly. "More members" does not always mean a "better" Agreement. I trust you will be able to arrive at the appropriate criteria for accepting new memberships.

Agenda

Distinguished Representatives,

Today you have a full agenda which includes achievements of completed projects in 1998 as well as activities under the new programme for the 1999-2000 cycle. Moreover, the issue of management of the RCA programme, the establishment of a structure for the RCA and upstream work for the 2001-2002 programme cycle will be discussed.

Upstream Work and Agency Strategy

With regard to the upstream work and Agency strategy, Member States have been informed to submit project proposals for the next programming cycle, 2001-2002, but how should they prepare for this?

Let me just stress that the Agency is looking for projects which solve the real problems of member states. These projects should utilize the existing regional capability, apply nuclear techniques, and enjoy strong government support.

The joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project on "Better Management of the Environment and Natural Resources and Industrial Growth through Isotopes and Radiation Technology" is an example of such a project. One of its sub-projects is on clean drinking water, a vital necessity. Clearly fresh drinking water is a problem in the region. In some countries there is pollution of groundwater aquifers and over-extraction of deep wells, which, in coastal areas leads to water salinization. Using your existing capabilities and facilities developed under previous UNDP/RCA/IAEA projects isotope and radiation techniques can be utilized to locate additional sources of fresh water and to trace sources of pollution.

The availability of fresh drinking water is a political question with high visibility. An answer to this question would not only have high socio-economic impact, but great political impact as well and thus the participating governments are committed to solving this water crisis.

Regional Ownership

Let me now turn my thoughts to regional ownership.

On the part of the RCA Member States, the issue of management of the RCA programme has been discussed continuously over the past 5 years. The Member States have already adopted the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules. You have agreed to designate lead countries for thematic programme areas and for the ongoing projects. You have agreed on their role for the programming aspects of the RCA programme and I hope that you can make use of the national and regional capabilities to make this become a reality.

As part of the management process, you have identified Regional Resource Units or RRUs. To be an RRU means to be the "best" in that particular field. You have several examples of RRUs: tissue banking, distance learning for nuclear medicine,

isotope hydrology, radiation technology, radiation protection and many others. This indicates strength in the capability of Member States in those specialty areas. You should continue to utilize them; the RRUs should continue to excel in their fields and provide service and expertise, and make available their facilities, to the countries in the region. In formulating and implementing your programme, I hope you have already considered the utilization of these RRUs and that this will result in submissions of good project designs for the 2001-2002 cycle and smooth, effective and efficient implementation of on-going projects.

However, while the RRUs have to be the "best " in their field, the lead country, according to your paper on this, need not be. I think these two concepts--lead country and RRUs--should be strongly inter-linked; I would like to ask you to study this inter-linking and decide whether the lead country needs to be an RRU as well.

RCA Programme in 1998

Let me now turn to the past year's programme.

In terms of activities, the year 1998 was better than 1997 for RCA. You achieved more implementable results. I will not dwell on this as you will hear more about these results during the meeting. I can only say that these accomplishments were achieved despite difficulties in the region and changes within the Secretariat. To your credit and together with the Agency we have overcome many of these difficulties.

I would like to see more commitment and dedication of Member States to the RCA programme.

Long term planning

Distinguished Colleagues,

RCA celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1997 and the Member States are proud of the accomplishments of the programme. While the achievements during the past quarter century are appreciable, the next 25 years may task RCA to be more proactive.

On long-term planning, RCA Member States have adopted a vision for the next 25 years. You have started to consider translating this vision into concrete milestones. You are developing action plans for submitting proposals for future programming cycles, including that for 2001-2002 and these action plans are forming the basis for Medium Term Plans. The Agency, on its side, has facilitated this vision by bringing experts from your countries to Headquarters and engaging them with the review of the previous programme in your region; by tasking them to identify past achievements; by asking them to use the experiences gained as a basis to prepare Medium Term Plans, better project designs and ultimately concrete action plans.

Synergy in the New Millennium

Distinguished representatives,

The Agency's Technical Cooperation programme is now facing the challenge of a new millennium. We must reach out more and achieve more with limited resources. One answer to this challenge is to share resources, for example, through TCDC

The TCDC activities involving AFRA, ARCAL and RCA are proceeding smoothly. The distance learning materials on nuclear medicine developed in RCA will be transferred to the other 2 regions; the safety guidebooks on nuclear medicine and radiotherapy being developed in ARCAL with Agency inputs will be reviewed by the other 2 Agreements for possible adoption; and AFRA's specialized team on dam leakage will include experts from the other 2 regions.

RCA with its pioneering approach to TCDC and its maturity could help catalyze this synergism even further by reaching out to other organizations at the regional and inter-regional level.

Under the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project on "Better Management of the Environment" mentioned earlier, this type of synergism has already been established. Under the agreement with the Malaysian-based Asia Pacific Development Information Programme, a sister UNDP programme in information technology, APDIP will provide training materials, trainers and the use of their facilities to RCA Member States and the Agency will provide transportation and stipends. Possible collaboration with another GEF/IMO/UNDP regional project on Determining Radioactivity Levels in a Selected Marine Environment is also under discussion.

I encourage you to continue this outreach and linkage with other organizations. When developing your programme, I urge you, the RCA Member States, to consider this aspect: Use the regional capabilities to solve problems at the national level, but think also beyond national borders. Continue to link up with other organizations not only within this region (e.g. ASEAN, ESCAP) but also across regions (e.g. AFRA, ARCAL countries.)

Distinguished Representatives,

I wish you all the success in your deliberations and it is my hope that you will have a fruitful meeting.

Thank you.

**Statement by Outgoing Chairperson
Dr Peter Roberts
New Zealand**

Good afternoon

First let me welcome all delegates to the start of the business meeting. New Zealand had been honoured to have had the responsibility of chairing the RCA for the previous twelve months. A highlight for me had been the previous Meeting of National Representatives in Taupo. The organisers of that meeting had asked me to send their greetings to all their friends in the delegations of the visiting countries, and wished their colleagues in Singapore every success for the present meeting.

The year had been notable for some difficulties in establishing a number of activities which meant that financial implementation rates were still low. However, I believed that these problems should now be behind the RCA, and that Member States could look forward to a period of high productivity and success.

A number of initiatives had been taken, such as on the Lead Country concept and the ad hoc Committee to study the structure of the RCA. These items were for further discussion during the meeting and I urged all delegates to consider their implications carefully.

Finally I would like to thank delegates and the RCA office for their support during the year and wished the new chairman, Mr Tan, a successful tenure as the new chairman.

**Opening Remarks by Incoming Chairman
Mr Tan Teng Huat
Singapore**

Good afternoon

Mr Razeley, Head, East Asia and Pacific Section

Mr Aleta, RCA Co-ordinator

Distinguished delegates

First, I must thank Mr Anand for his proposal and kind introductory remarks. I am indeed honoured to chair the First Session of this 21st Meeting of RCA Working Group.

I learned that most delegates present here consider themselves among friends. This is a good sign and clearly understandable as delegates are not meeting each other for the first time. More importantly, I sensed that the bonds have been strengthened over the years by the close co-operation which member states have enjoyed since the RCA was formed in 1972. I am confident that this week's meeting will have the full co-operation of all delegates to make it a success.

**Modified Agenda
21st Meeting of RCA National Representatives,
1-5 March 1999
York Hotel, Singapore**

27/28 February 1999

Arrival of Participants.

First day, 1 Mar 99

- 1 **Registration.**
- 2 **Photo session.** The host as part of the documentation process for the meeting will arrange a brief group photo session.
- 3 **Consultation.** The RCA National Representatives will have a consultation session on major RCA issues with Mr Qian JiHui. Issues include RCA ownership of the programme, upstream work and the programme. Consultation among Member States will continue during the remainder of the day and be chaired by New Zealand.
- 4 **Hospitality Dinner** hosted by Mr Qian Jihui, Deputy Director-General of Technical Co-operation, IAEA.

Second day, 2 Mar 99

- 1 **Opening Ceremony.** The meeting will be open by Dr Aline Wong, Senior Minister of State (Health) and Minister of State (Education). Mr Qian Jihui, the Deputy Director-General –Technical Cooperation will give the remarks on behalf of the IAEA.

**Part 1 First Administrative Session: Chairperson - Mr Tan Teng Huat,
Rapporteur – Mr Lee Kheng Seng**

- 1.1 **Election of Chairperson.** NZ representative will act as interim Chairperson for the Meeting. The National Representatives (NR) will elect the chairperson and rapporteur for the meeting. It is expected that Singapore, as host, will be nominated and elected Chairperson. The outgoing chairperson and the newly elected Chairperson will give their respective remarks.
- 1.2 **Adoption of the Agenda.** The Meeting Representatives will deliberate on the provisional agenda and subsequently adopt this with modifications, if any.
- 1.3 **Designation of chairpersons/ rapporteurs.** The Chairperson will designate the rapporteurs/chairpersons for each of the sessions. If no local Chairperson is available, this may be designated from among the meeting representatives.

1.4 Presentation of the 1998 RCA Annual Report. The RCA Coordinator will give a brief presentation on the highlights of the RCA programme in 1998.

(The Meeting will be asked to adopt the RCA Annual report or if there are substantial comments/clarifications to submit their comments by a certain date, specifically within 2 weeks after the end of the Meeting or on 20 Mar 99).

1.5 Presentation of the final report of the 27th RCA GC Meeting Report. The RCA Coordinator will summarise the comments submitted by Member States and the changes in the draft report, which was circulated earlier. *(If there are no substantial changes or comments raised, the Meeting will be asked to adopt the meeting report and to incorporate those proposed changes as maybe agreed by the National Representatives).*

1.6 Follow-up actions from the 27th RCA GC meeting. The Meeting will be informed of the follow-up actions undertaken based on the recommendations of the 27th RCA GC Meeting. These were made by the National Representatives and Agency representatives concerned. *(To prepare the documentation, RCA national representatives are requested to review the list found in the appropriate Annex in the 27th RCA GC Meeting report and provide their comments to the RCA office for those recommendations in which they have to act. These comments should reach the Agency by 15 February 99.)* The list of follow up actions will be made available during the Meeting. *(The Meeting will be asked to take note of the actions taken or to be taken).*

Part 2 Second Administrative Session: Chairperson - Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur – Mr Lee Kheng Seng

2.1 Programme of the East Asia and the Pacific. The Section Head of EAPS/TCPA will present the 1999/2000 programme for the region as well as the strategies for preparation of the 2001/2002 cycle
(Member States will be asked to take note of the programme in the East Asia and Pacific region as well as the strategies to be adopted for their next planning cycle).

2.2 Programme for the RCA. The RCA Coordinator will present the overall RCA programme for 1999/2000 in terms of number of projects, funding, activities and other information. *The Meeting will take note of the programme.*

2.3 RCA Projects for 1999. The RCA Coordinator will present the details of breakdown of the programme by thematic programme areas, funding source, status. A list of regional events will be circulated to Member States for information.
The Meeting Representatives will be asked to take note of the activities in which the host countries have been identified and state their confirmation or agreement as the case may be; for events in which no host has been identified the representatives will be asked to make their offers on this. The Meeting will endeavour to obtain the commitments from the Representatives. It will also take note of the number of trainings, meetings, workshops and seminars in the entire region under the RCA/Regional/Inter-regional/National Projects.

2.4 Project Formulation Meetings. A brief report on each of the Project Formulation Meetings (PFMs) organised after the 27th RCA GC meeting will be presented. These PFMs are on the following:

- a) On 26-20 November 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the subproject on "Clean and Energy Efficient Production Processes" under the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project, "Better Management of the Environment, Natural Resources and Industrial Growth through Isotopes and Radiation Technology;

The Representative from New Zealand or Malaysia will be expected to make a short presentation to cover the major output of the PFM.

- b) On 30 Nov-3 December 1998 in Manila, Philippines on the component, "Harmful algal bloom, " under the sub-project "Management of Marine Coastal Environment and Its Pollution," of the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project ;

The Representative from Australia or Philippines will be expected to give a brief presentation on the significant outputs of the PFM.

- c) On 11-15 January 1999 in Yangon, Myanmar, on feed supplementation and animal reproduction under RAS 5/035 "Better feed supplementation and animal reproduction";

The Representative from China(lead country, agriculture) or Myanmar(host country) will be expected to give a brief presentation of the significant outputs of the PFM.

- d) On 8-12 February 1999 in Bangkok, Thailand, on RAS 5/037 "Enhancement Genetic Diversity in Rice."

The Representative from China(lead country, agriculture) or Thailand(host) will give a brief presentation of the significant outputs of the PFM.

The Meeting will be asked to approve the outputs of these PFMs, specially the commitments indicated by each participating Member States, and the national action plans they proposed to undertake that are in line with their needs and the objectives of the project.

Part 3 **Welcome Dinner** hosted by Mr Tan Gee Paw, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment.

Third day, 3 Mar 99

Part 4 **First Technical Session: Thematic Programme in Radiation Protection;**
Chairperson – Mr Stephen Chong, Rapporteur – Ms Annie Tan

The lead country, Australia, will present the progress of the projects: RAS /9/018 - Harmonization of Radiation Protection Infrastructure, RAS/0/029 - Radiation Protection

and Networking and RAS9/024 - Environmental Radiation Monitoring. The last two are footnote a projects with Australian and (expected) Korean contributions, respectively. Under RAS 9/018 the output of the EAGM held in Manila in Feb 22-24 1999 will be presented.

(The Meeting will be asked to take note of the progress and their further commitments to the project activities. The Meeting will be informed of the progress in the complimentary interregional projects for radiation protection, waste; radiation protection in Nuclear Power Plants; legal framework and Japanese extrabudgetary programme on nuclear safety).

Part 5 Second Technical Session: Thematic Programme in Agriculture; Chairperson – Mr Stephen Chong, Rapporteur – Ms Annie Tan

The Lead country, China, will present the progress of the projects in agriculture. These are RAS/5/034, RAS5/035 and RAS/5/037, all hardcore projects. The other footnote a projects still await funding.

(The Meeting will be asked to take note of the activities in the hardcore projects and asked to consider providing support to the footnote a projects.

The Meeting will be informed of the Secretariat initiative to review, collect information and preparation for an Expert Advisory Group Meeting planned for June 1999).

Part 6 Third Technical Session: Thematic Programme on Energy and Research Reactor; Chairperson – Prof Tang Seung Man, Rapporteur – Ms Annie Tan

The Lead country, Korea, will present the progress of the projects in these thematic programme areas; they are RAS/0/028 - comparative assessment of energy options and RAS 4/019 - Improvement of Research Reactor Utilization.

The Meeting will be asked to take note of the activities under these projects and be reminded of the commitments by the participating member states.

The Meeting will be informed of complementary regional and national projects in the region.

Part 7 Fourth Technical Session: Thematic Programme in Health; Chairperson – A/P Aziz Nather, Rapporteur – Ms Annie Tan

The Lead country, Indonesia, will present the progress on the different health related projects : RAS 6/028 - Nuclear Medicine Applications; RAS 6/029 - Strengthening Education in Nuclear Medicine; RAS 6/027 - QA in Radiation Therapy; RAS 7/008 - QA in Radiation Sterilization of tissue grafts. There is a new project, RAS 6/033 - Distance learning on radiation oncology which is footnote a. Another footnote a project, RAS 6/022 on distance learning in nuclear medicine, is still to be closed after financial obligations have been made.

The Meeting will be asked to take note of the projects and the commitments made by Member States. Some policy issues may be discussed here, such as the ethical issues on tissue banking, and others.

The Meeting will be informed of the regional and national projects in this area within the region.,

Part 8 Social Programme – Dinner hosted by Mr Tan Teng Huat, Director of Environmental Policy & Management
- Night Safari

Fourth Day, 4 Mar 99

Part 9 Fifth Technical Session: Thematic Programme on Industry and Environment; Chairperson – Mr Sze Thiam Siong, Rapporteur – Ms Annie Tan

The lead country, Japan, will be asked to present the progress on the projects RAS/8/077 - Advanced Thematic Programme in Industry, RAS 8/086 - Use of Sealed Sources and tracers, RAS 8/087 - Radiation Processing.

The Meeting will be asked to take note of the project activities and their national commitments.

Joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project(RAS 97/030). The RCA Coordinator will present the progress of the joint project. All five subprojects have now detailed working plans and commitments by Member States. The progress on each subproject will be presented. The RRU's for each of the subproject will be identified

The Meeting will take note of the project activities and their national commitments to achieve the objectives of the project.

Part 10 Third Administrative Session: Chairperson – Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur – Mr Lee Kheng Seng

10.1 Programme Management Issues. The Meeting will tackle the various issues which were raised in earlier fora as well as new ones that may have arisen prior to the Meeting.

10.2 Programming and implementation issues. The issues encountered during the implementation of projects in 1998 will be discussed and analysed. Some of these may be related to the nuclear explosion, delays in payment of participants at training events, denying of visas; late nominations and others.

On the programming side some of the issues encountered during the preparation for the project cycle for 1999/2000 will also be presented and analyzed. A few issues relate to non-participation of agency officials during project formulation meetings.

Member States are encouraged to submit to the RCA office by 15 February 1999 any concerns they have related to the programming and implementation of RCA projects

The lessons learned from this implementation and programming issues will be summarised as a guide for future activities.

10.3 Revision of RCA Operating Rules and Guidelines. At the 27th RCA GC Meeting there were some suggested revisions to the RCA Operating Rules and Guidelines

The Meeting will be informed of any revisions to the RCA Operating Rules and Guidelines.

10.4 Updates in the proposed Project Manager for the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project. At the 27th RCA GC Meeting the Member States discussed a proposal for the designation of a project manager for the joint UNDP.RCA/IAEA project and had asked the agency to study this matter further, especially on the funding aspects. It was emphasised that the funding aspects would have to be resolved if the concept of a project manager will have to move forward.

The Meeting will be informed of the results done by the Agency on this topic, if any.

10.5 Updates on the role of lead country/ad hoc committee meeting. A revised paper on the role of lead country was prepared by AUS(Mr Rolland) with revisions by Mr. Roberts(NZ) . An ad hoc meeting to discuss the possible structure for the RCA will be convened prior to the RCA Meeting .

The Meeting will hear the results of the adhoc committee meeting. The Meeting will be asked to discuss and adopt the recommendations, if any, from the discussions.

10.6 Updates on Initiatives among the Tripartite Agreement. The RCA Coordinator will give an update of the progress of an interregional project involving the three Regional Agreements—AFRA, ARCAL and RCA--.

The Meeting will be asked to endorse the project activities.

10.7 Milestones on the RCA vision. After the 27th RCA GC Meeting, Member States were asked to provide inputs to flesh out the milestones for the RCA vision for the next 25 years. The Agency has not received any inputs from Member States (at the time of this writing). *The Meeting will be asked to decide how they should proceed further with this vision, if there is no interest on the part of Member States; or how the Vision could be used as guidance for preparation for the future programme?*

10.8 Reporting. Member States will be reminded of their obligations to report on accomplished tasks they have hosted based on the agreed mechanism; and any unusual cases they experienced during the implementation of projects. *The Meeting will be invited to give their views on how to improve the reporting and the RCA annual report as a flagship of RCA.*

Part 11 Fourth Administrative Session. Chairperson – Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur – Mr Lee Kheng Seng

11.1 Plans for 2001/2002 cycle. Additionally on the programming side, Member States will be reminded of the strategies to be followed in the preparation of project proposals for the 2001/2002 cycle. This will be a follow up from the presentation made

The Meeting will be informed of the regional and national projects in this area within the region.,

Part 8 Social Programme – Dinner hosted by Mr Tan Teng Huat, Director of Environmental Policy & Management
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Fourth Day, 4 Mar 99

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The Meeting will take note of the project activities and their national commitments to achieve the objectives of the project.

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10.1 Programme Management Issues. The Meeting will tackle the various issues which were raised in earlier fora as well as new ones that may have arisen prior to the Meeting.

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On the programming side some of the issues encountered during the preparation for the project cycle for 1999/2000 will also be presented and analyzed. A few issues relate to non-participation of agency officials during project formulation meetings.

Member States are encouraged to submit to the RCA office by 15 February 1999 any concerns they have related to the programming and implementation of RCA projects

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Part 11 Fourth Administrative Session. Chairperson – Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur – Mr Lee Kheng Seng

11.1 Plans for 2001/2002 cycle. Additionally on the programming side, Member States will be reminded of the strategies to be followed in the preparation of project proposals for the 2001/2002 cycle. This will be a follow up from the presentation made

during the first day of this meeting; A presentation on the result of an assessment of technologies that are considered mature and sustainable within RCA countries will be made based on recent work

The Meeting will be asked to bring and disseminate the strategies with them when they go back and inform the project counterparts or project coordinators of these requirements.

11.2 Next RCA Meeting of National Representatives. The meeting will be informed of the possible venue and host for the next RCA Meeting of National Representatives. As is the practice in the past few years, two to three countries are cited, the first as the possible next host and there is a first and second alternative venue.

It is expected that two to three national Representatives will offer to host the next meeting.

11.3 Preparation of Meeting Report. The rapporteurs and chairperson(s), with the assistance of the RCA Coordinator, are expected to submit their report to the overall Chairperson or overall rapporteur for consolidation.

Fifth day, 5 Mar 99

Part 12. Fifth Administrative Session Chairperson – Mr Chua Yew Peng, Rapporteur – Mr Lee Kheng Seng

12.1 Presentation of Meeting Report. The Rapporteur will present the draft report for comments and/or adoption, as well as for approval of 1999 activities.

12.2 Closing remarks. Host government officials as well as agency representatives are expected to give their closing and/or farewell statements.

Part 13 Technical Visit – Visit to the Tissue bank at the National University Hospital and the laboratory at the National University of Singapore or the Physics Test Lab at the National University of Singapore.

Sixth day, 6 Mar 99

Departure of participants

CURRICULUM VITAE OF SESSION CHAIRMEN

- 1 Mr Tan Teng Huat**
Director of the Environmental Policy & Management Division
Ministry of the Environment

Mr Tan is a civil engineer by profession and an environmental engineer by specialisation. Mr Tan has been involved in many of the environmental infrastructure projects during his 36 years with the Ministry of the Environment. Among his most notable achievement was the cleaning up of the Singapore River, a project which took ten years to complete. He was one of the ten gold medal recipients for this particular project. As Director of the Environmental Policy & Management Division, RCA co-ordination is one of the many activities under his purview.

- 2 Mr Stephen Chong**
Director of Radiation Science Division
Ministry of Health

Mr Chong is the Director of the Radiation Science Division of the Institute of Science and Forensic Medicine under the Ministry of Health. He is also the Director of Radiation Protection, responsible for the Administration of the Radiation Protection Legal Framework in Singapore. Mr Chong is the RCA Project Coordinator for Radiation Protection Infrastructures.

- 3 Prof Tang Seung Mun**
Professor of Physics
National University of Singapore

Prof Tang Seung Mun is a professor of physics at the National University of Singapore. He is also the RCA Project Co-ordinator for the UNDP/IAEA/RCA sub-project "Air Pollution and its Trends". For the past 15 years, Prof Tang has been working in various research areas involving the applications of XRF, PIXE and micro-PIXE in environmental science, biomedical science, materials science and gemology.

- 4 Assoc Prof Aziz Nather**
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
National University Hospital

Assoc Professor Aziz Nather is a consultant orthopaedic surgeon with the National University Hospital. He is also the Director of the NUH Tissue Bank. The NUH Tissue Bank was established in October 1988 and was inaugurated on 3 November 1997 as the IAEA/NUS Regional Training Centre for RCA. It had then launched the

NUS Distance Learning Diploma Course in Tissue Banking. The Tissue Bank is also the IAEA/NUS Interregional Training Centre for Latin America and Africa. The Tissue Bank has in Apr 1998 completed a production of IAEA Draft Curriculum on Tissue Banking into Multi-Media Distance Learning Package on Tissue Banking in April 1998.

5 Mr Sze Thiam Siong
General Manager
SETSCO Services Pte Ltd

Mr. Sze Thiam Siong is the Director/General Manager of SETSCO Services Pte Ltd (formerly a subsidiary of the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research). He is the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Non-Destructive Testing and Chairman of the Working Group on the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies under the Singapore Accreditation Council. He is also the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education and Training of the Singapore Welding Society. Mr. Sze is the RCA Project Coordinator for the area on Non-Destructive Testing.

Annex 8

Actions and Recommendations of the 27th RCA General Conference

Agenda Item	Actions and Recommendations	Status
2. Adoption of the 1997 RCA Annual Report	The Meeting <u>noted</u> some general points on how the future report shall be prepared as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple format was already available and MSs were urged to follow this format and submit the report as soon as possible after completion of every activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Submission of format of the report after each event is not followed. * Delayed submission by Member States for the Annual Report
3. Adoption of RCA 20 th Regular Meeting of Representative Report	The Meeting <u>recommended</u> that, in the future, a table on actions and recommendations should be attached so that they can be systematically followed up by both IAEA and MSs.	* This present table has been prepared
6. and 7. Presentation of RCA Activities for 1998, Projects to be Closed in 1998, and Program for 1999-2000 Cycle	The Meeting - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>requested</u> the RCA Office to study, with due diligence and urgently, the possibility of rearranging unallocated leftover funds to support fully developed projects such as Radiation Oncology project, ii) <u>noted</u> the RCA Office is seeking the agreement and/or confirmation from MSs to host events that are identified and suggested on the list of regional events under the programme for 1999-2000, iii) <u>requested</u> that detailed work plans be provided to MSs to help them monitor the progress of programme. iv) <u>urged</u> all National Representative and National Project Co-ordinators (NPC) to provide all possible assistance and to facilitate the implementation of RCA activities within their own countries, v) <u>noted</u> that MSs are invited to submit nomination for new NPCs for proposed projects for 199-2000 cycle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Study submission to management * Single host agreement letters proposed for each country * Booklet of regional events prepared; for expert mission being prepared * Political issues affect the implementation * Invitation reiterated; not all have nominated Project Coordinator

8. Administrative Issues		
8.2 RCA Management	<p>The Meeting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>noted</u> that IAEA accepted the third recommendations on the use of RCA funds to support the participation of delegates as Chairperson stated as the last paragraph in page 5 of the working paper and <u>agreed</u> to keep this option under review on annual basis, ii) <u>requested</u> the IAEA to investigate further the mechanisms for both funding and administrative arrangement, iii) <u>requested</u> the IAEA to immediately set up ad-hoc committee consisting of a senior level personnel to study structures and organisations of RCA and requested the IAEA to convene a meeting and prepare a report as soon as possible, iv) <u>noted</u> that the IAEA would study further the proposal contained in the working paper and would report to the next Regular Meeting of National Representative of RCA Member States in Singapore in March 1999. 	<p>* Meeting of chairperson before the Singapore Meeting convened</p> <p>* Under study</p> <p>* Convened 25th -27th February 1997</p> <p>* Under study</p>
8.3 Role of Lead Countries	<p>The Meeting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>noted</u> the working paper on "Preliminary Development of Lead Country Concept", and adopted the working paper, in principle, as a provisional measure on the role of Lead Countries and <u>requested</u> the RCA Office to circulate the working paper and <u>requested</u> MSs to send their comments to the RCA Office, ii) <u>requested</u> designated Lead Countries to send the nomination of contact person as soon as possible, iii) <u>agreed</u> that this matter will be included in the agenda of an ad- 	<p>* Paper circulated; comments received from Sri Lanka: Australia prepared on paper to commented on by New Zealand; this revised paper was circulated & discuss in the Ad-Hoc Meeting on 25 - 27 Feb 99.</p> <p>* Contact person provided in few projects; MSs to designate them still</p>

	hoc committee on Structure and Function of RCA.	
8.4 RCA Vision Milestones	<p>The Meeting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>agreed</u> that the Vision Statement should be finalised as soon as possible by taking into account the comments from MSs, ii) <u>recommended</u> that MSs send further comments on the milestones to the RCA National Representative of Indonesia and the RCA Office as soon as possible. 	<p>* No comments received. But Pakistan stressed that action should already be undertaken</p>
8.5 Recording In-Kind Contribution	<p>The Meeting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>requested</u> the IAEA to provide information on average or standard rating for conducting particular activity, ii) <u>recommended</u> that MSs continue to submit man-days or man-hours or best estimates of cost and a list of events for the consideration of the IAEA. 	<p>* Average figures on the IAEA expenditure is available * MSs still to follow this</p>
9. TCDC Tripartite Meeting	The Meeting <u>noted</u> the paper on "TCDC in the RCA programme" and <u>urged</u> MSs to provide comments.	* Some comments received
9.2 Proposal on TCDC	<p>The Meeting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) requested the RCA Office to ensure that there should be a follow-up report MSs on the outcome of any TCDC Tripartite meeting. 	<p>* Highlight of Tripartite Meeting circulated to MSs; No comments received on the report</p>
<p>11. <u>Other Matters</u></p> <p>11.1 Formation of Advisory Group</p>	<p>The Meeting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>requested</u> the IAEA to consider the need of reformulation of the basis of the Advisory Group Meeting with broad objectives and to seek the possibility of holding the meeting for the thematic programme of 2001-2002 project cycle before the next Meeting of RCA National Representatives in Singapore, 	<p>* This will be held after the Singapore¹ RCA Meeting on 1-5 March, 1999</p>

¹ Output of consultant's job still awaited

	ii) <u>agreed</u> that, in-principle, the selection criteria will be senior policy makers who are aware of the national development programs and requested MSs to review the criteria and send comments to the RCA Office within two weeks.	* Criteria to be decided still ²
11.2 High Level Participation	The Meeting <u>noted</u> that this a political issue to a large extent and <u>invited</u> the IAEA to prepare for the circulation to MSs for their comments.	* Under preparation
11.3 RCA Membership	The Meeting <u>noted</u> the information provided by the RCA Office and recommended the IAEA to send a formal letter to RCA MSs for consideration	* Letter to be drafted; the IAEA legal clearance approved on draft * Criteria for acceptance to RCA to be discussed
11.4 Numbering of Meetings and Reports	The Meeting <u>requested</u> the IAEA to seek a most appropriate way for numbering and to inform MSs of the results	* Meeting number to continue after WGM * Logo issue

² Prepare transparency of criteria

YEAR 1999

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

CC/DT-VIE PRS

Contents

I. Challenges

II. Opportunities

III. Summary and Conclusion

CC/DT-VIE PRS

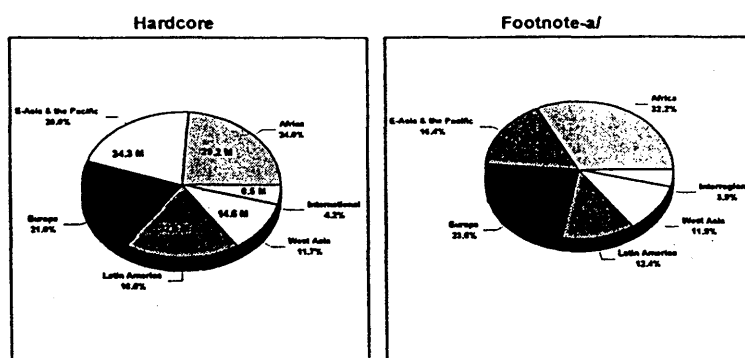
Challenges

Management of 1999 Programme

Size of the programme

CC/DT-VIE PRS

Regional Distribution of 1999-2000 Core Project Assistance



CC/DI-VIE PRS

Regional Distribution of Resources (Core project Assistance)

Region	1991-92		1993-93		1995-96		1997-98		1999-00	
	Total (\$)	%	Total (\$)	%	Total (\$)	%	Total (\$)	%	Total (\$)	%
Africa	20,985,050	29.0	19,916,800	27.9	22,055,630	25.5	24,265,600	22.3	29,208,820	23.9
East Asia and Pacific	16,996,400	23.4	17,324,500	24.2	17,809,620	20.6	18,418,820	17.0	24,333,870	19.9
Europe	15,582,450	21.5	15,628,550	21.9	16,600,450	19.2	22,869,050	21.0	26,265,150	21.5
Latin America	17,754,550	24.5	17,815,600	24.9	19,289,550	22.3	19,448,270	17.9	22,525,770	18.5
West Asia	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,181,510	9.4	10,857,890	10.0	14,578,850	11.9
Interregional	1,161,600	1.6	782,750	1.1	2,494,650	2.9	12,823,220	11.8	5,273,773	4.3
Total	72,481,050	100	71,468,200	100	86,431,400	100	108,682,800	100	122,186,233	100

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Challenges East Asia and the Pacific Region

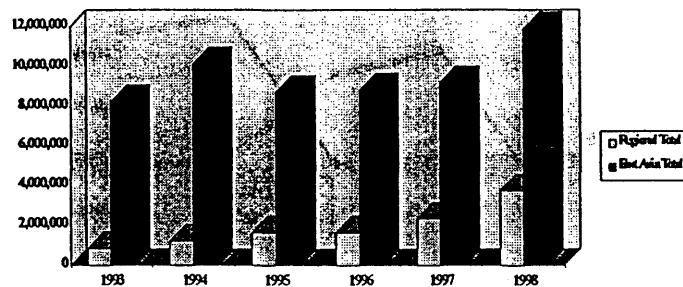
Hard Core Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 1993-1998

Programme	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Regional			432,300	321,700	497,940	1,211,975
RCA	851,250	1,222,600	1,200,600	1,331,900	1,817,700	2,529,367
Regional Total	851,250	1,222,600	1,632,900	1,653,600	2,315,700	3,741,342
National Total	7,421,100	8,926,990	7,118,340	7,183,600	6,871,850	8,194,209
East Asia Total	8,272,350	10,149,590	8,751,240	8,837,200	9,187,550	11,935,551
%Share of Regional of Total	10	12	19	19	25	31

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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

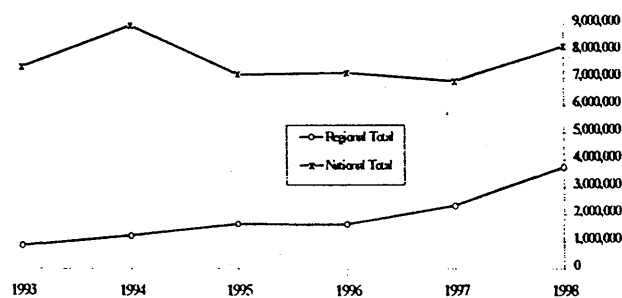
Hard Core Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 1993-1998



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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Hard Core Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 1993-1998



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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

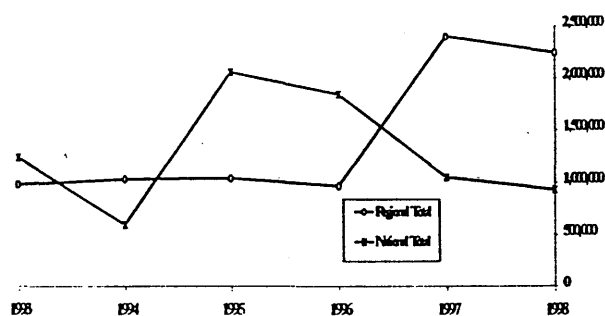
Extra-budgetary Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 1993-1998

Programme	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Regional	157,000	147,000				
HCA	826,900	885,000	1,088,400	964,300	2,394,925	2,243,530
Regional Total	983,900	1,032,000	1,088,400	964,300	2,394,925	2,243,530
National Total	1,240,400	985,700	2,056,840	1,843,080	1,947,745	932,130
East Asia Total	2,224,300	1,627,700	3,085,240	2,807,280	3,442,670	3,175,660
%Share of Regional of Total	44	63	34	34	70	71

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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Extra-budgetary Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 1993-1998



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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

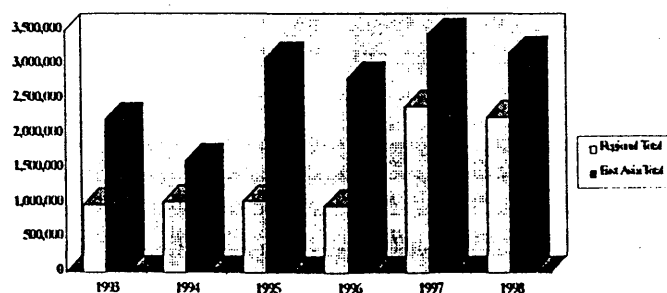
Extra-Budgetary Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 1993-1998

Programme	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Regional	157,000	147,000				
RCA	836,900	885,000	1,038,400	964,200	2,394,925	2,243,530
Regional Total	983,900	1,032,000	1,038,400	964,200	2,394,925	2,243,530
National Total	1,240,400	995,750	2,056,840	1,843,080	1,047,745	932,130
East Asia Total	2,224,300	1,627,750	3,095,240	2,807,280	3,442,670	3,175,660
% Share of Regional of Total	44	63	34	34	70	71

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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Extra-Budgetary Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 1993-1998



CC/DI-VIE PRS

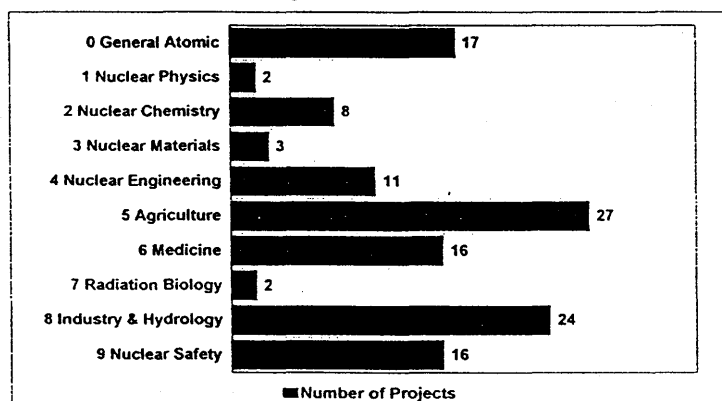
Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Programme Approved for 1999-2000 Cycle

Component	1999		2000	
	All Funds (in US\$ millions)	TCF (in US\$ Millions)	All Funds (in US\$ millions)	TCF (in US\$ Millions)
Expert	3.8 (258.5 m/m)	3.2 (219.6 m/m)	3.0 (194.2 m/m)	2.4 (157.5 m/m)
Group activity	2.0	1.2	2.1	1.5
Equipment	4.8	3.0	3.1	2.0
Fellowship	3.9 (1144.25 m/m)	3.5 (1013.25)	3.3 (905.0 m/m)	2.8 (773.0 m/m)
Sci.Visit	0.6 (59.24 m/m)	0.6 (53.16 m/m)	0.7 (57.21 m/m)	0.6 (53.6 m/m)
Group Training	1.4	1.1	2.1	1.5
Sub-Contract	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4
Miscellaneous	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
Total	17.6	13.0	15.0	11.3

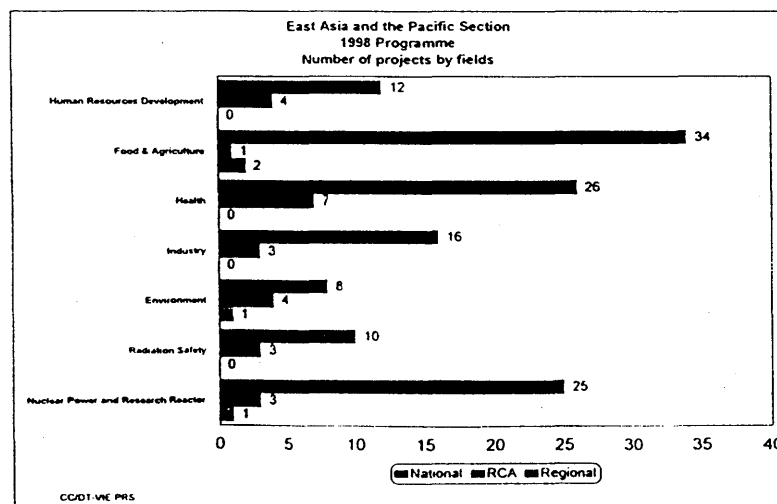
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EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC SECTION
Number of Projects by Field
Programme for 1999-2000



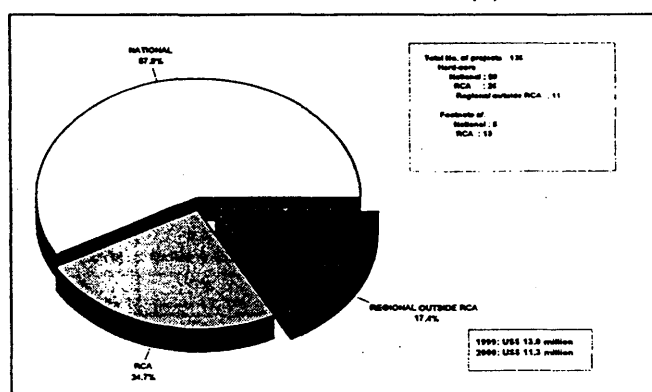
Total number of projects 126

CCDT-VIE PRS



CCDT-VIE PRS

**EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC SECTION
1999-2000 TC PROGRAMME
HARD-CORE IN PERCENTAGE (%)**



CC/DI-VIE PRS

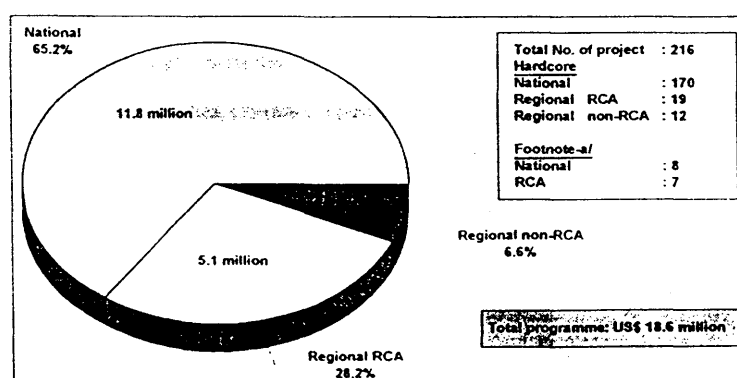
**Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region**

Total Programme

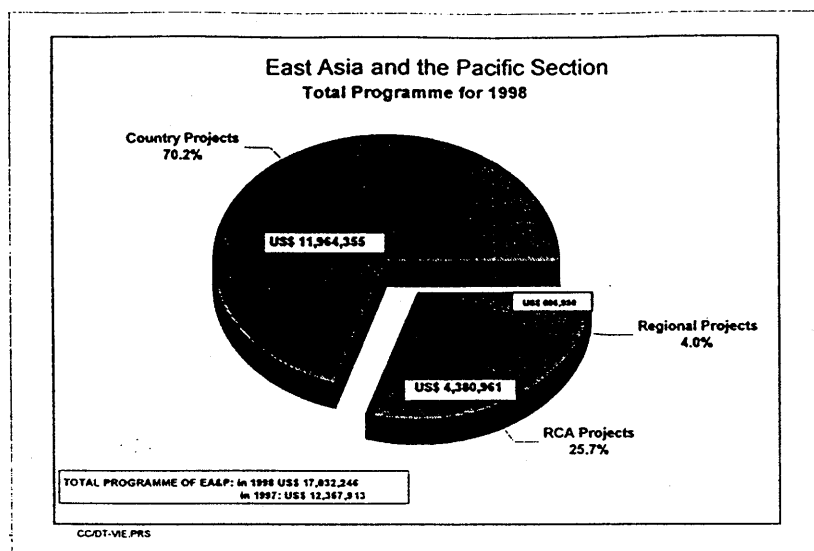
Components	1998		1999	
	All Funds (US\$)	TCF (US \$)	All Funds (US\$)	TCF (US\$)
National	12.6 m	12.3 m	13.5 m	14.3 m
RCA	4.4 m	3.0 m	5.1 m	3.8 m
Total	17.0 m	15.3 m	18.6 m	18.1 m

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**Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region**



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**Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region**

1999 - Total programme Distribution

Component	1998 (as of 31 Jan. 1998) in US\$	Percentage (%)	1999 (as of 31 Jan. 1999) in US\$	Percentage (%)
Expert	5.6 (395 m/m)	34.5	4.8 (306 m/m)	30.2%
Equipment	3.2	20.0	3.0	20.3%
Fellowship	5.0	30.9	5.0	31.5%
Training Course	1.8	11.1	2.3	14.4%
Sub-Contract	0.3	1.9	0.5	3.1%
Miscellaneous	0.2	1.2	0.9	5.7%
Total	16.2	100.0	15.9	100%

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**Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region**

**Financial Implementation Rate for 1998
(as of 30 November 1998)**

Category	All Funds	TCF
National (budget)	65.5% (10.6 million)	66.6% (10.0 million)
Regional RCA (budget)	42.2% (4.2 million)	49.9% (2.6 million)
Total (budget)	58.9% (14.8 million)	63.2% (12.6 million)
Overall	68.5%	70.8%

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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Financial Implementation Rate for Various Components for 1998 (All Funds)

Components	% of Allocation of the Total Programme	Financial Implementation Rate (%)
Expert	34.5	47.3
Equipment	20.0	70.6
Fellowship	30.9	56.7
Training Course	11.1	71.4
Sub-Contract	1.9	57.6
Miscellaneous	1.2	5.4

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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Events* in 1999

Events	National	Regional (non RCA)	Regional RCA	Total
Meetings	0	3	15	18
Training Courses	15	11	20	46
Workshop	5	15	35	55
Total	20	29	70 (35)	119 (70)

* as of October 1998

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Challenges

Up-stream Work

✓ Country Programme Framework

✓ Preparation for 2001-2002 Cycle Programme

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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Country Programme Framework

Pakistan
China
Rep. of Korea

-Operating Nuclear Power Plants

Indonesia
Malaysia
Thailand
Philippines

-Nuclear Application
-Industrialization

Bangladesh
Sri Lanka
Mongolia
Myanmar
Vietnam

- Nuclear Applications
- Agriculture
- Health
- Basic Radiation Protection
- Infrastructure

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Challenges
East Asia and the Pacific Region

MAIN EVENTS FOR 2001-2002 TC CYCLE

- ♦ INVITATION TO SUBMIT - MARCH 1999
- ♦ "WGM" RCA MEETING - MARCH 1999
- ♦ TRAINING OF PROJECT COUNTERPARTS - JUNE 1999
- ♦ GC-RCA MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1999
- ♦ DEAD LINE - 31 DECEMBER 1999

Indications
of Areas
Pre-Project
Missions
Project
Formulation

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Opportunities

Member States

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**Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region**

Mechanisms for the Development of 2001-2002 TC programme

- ✓ National Programme
 - ✓ Preliminary information
 - ✓ Pre-project Missions
 - ✓ Project Formulation
- ✓ Regional RCA
 - ✓ RRU
 - ✓ Thematic Area
 - ✓ Lead Countries

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**East Asia and the Pacific Section
Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA)**

■ THEME	:	LEAD COUNTRY
▶ AGRICULTURE	:	CHINA
▶ HEALTH	:	INDONESIA
▶ INDUSTRY & ENV.	:	JAPAN
▶ ENERGY & RES. RX	:	REP.OF KOREA
▶ RADIATION PROT.	:	AUSTRALIA

CCDT-WE PRS

**East Asia and the Pacific Section
Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA)**

■ ROLES OF LEAD COUNTRY

- ▶ In conformity with RCA guidelines and operating rules and in cooperation with MS to Facilitate:
 - Programme
 - Implementation
 - Evaluation
- ▶ Develop Project Proposals
- ▶ Together with Participating MS Develop Workplan

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East Asia and the Pacific Section

■ REGIONAL RESOURCE UNITS - RRU

RRUs are well established facilities within national organizations.

- ▶ They could act as a resource for TCDC within the region, providing hands-on training for other countries in the region and be attuned to the needs of technology end-users.

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East Asia and the Pacific Section

■ REGIONAL RESOURCE UNITS

ROLES

- ▶ To act as focus for the organization of activities in the region or a sub-region
- ▶ To contribute to the leadership and scientific quality of the outputs
- ▶ To provide a venue for training through provision of experts, fellowships and other training facilities
- ▶ To promote TCDC and national programmes

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Opportunities East Asia and the Pacific Region

Preparation for Country/Regional framework

- ✓ COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
- ✓ RCA NEXT 25 VISIONS
 - Problems Identification
 - Prioritization
 - Nuclear Technology Contribution
 - Social Economic Impact
 - End-usersp

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Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region

ENSURING SYNERGY OF PROGRAMMES FOR ACHIEVING GREATER IMPACT

- ✓ National projects and regional projects
- ✓ National projects and other donors
- ✓ Regional projects and other donors
- ✓ National projects and NGOs
- ✓ Regional projects and NGOs

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Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region

MECHANISMS TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

- ✓ COST-SHARING
- ✓ SUB-CONTRACT
- ✓ REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
- ✓ MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region

INITIATIVES WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT

- ✓ EXPOSURE TO MEMBER STATES IN HEAD QUARTERS
 - ✓ RADIATION SAFETY
 - ✓ RCA ANNUAL REPORT
 - ✓ OUT LOOK FOR AGRICULTURE
 - ✓ MATURED TECHNOLOGY
 - ✓ PREVIOUS PROGRAMMES
- ✓ ATTACHMENT OF OFFICIALS FROM MEMBER STATES
SECRETARIAT

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**Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region**

INITIATIVES WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT (Continued)

OUTREACH TO OTHER DONORS IN THE REGION

- ✓ WORLD BANK
- ✓ UNICEF
- ✓ ASEAN
- ✓ UNESCO
- ✓ NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

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Opportunities

Secretariat

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East Asia and the Pacific

Missions

- ◆ To achieve highest financial implementation rate without compromising on the quality of the input
- ◆ To receive high quality and well designed project requests in the priority areas of Member States for 2001-2002 TC program



East Asia and the Pacific

Goals

- ◆ To implement all the planned activities for all projects
- ◆ To received well designed project requests in conformity with TC strategy from all MSs by 31 December, 1999
- ◆ To identify and to document requirements and priority areas of MSs in the region (CPF)



East Asia and the Pacific

Approaches

General :

- ◆ Communicate with MSs, as early as possible, on programming and implementation issues

Implementation:

- ◆ Gather all expert JDs; fellowship nominations and RFPs
- ◆ Compile all prospectus for training events and workshops; and basic information for meetings
- ◆ Host Government Agreements for all events are sent out and conformation received
- ◆ Standardized Invitation Letters, Award Letters and Instruction Letter to participants

East Asia and the Pacific

Approaches (continued)

Up-stream work

2001 - 2002 cycle TC Programme

- ◆ Identify the priority areas and needs of MSs as early as possible
- ◆ Providing assistant to National LOs and Regional Project Counterparts to formulate, design and prepare projects requests

Country Programme Framework

- ◆ Consultations with MSs on ways and means
- ◆ In collaboration with MSs prepare CPF document

Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region

INITIATIVES WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT (Continued)

- ✓ Action plan for all projects
- ✓ Training Events
 - Host Government Agreement
 - Prospectus
 - Invitations
- ✓ Expert Missions
 - Complication of job description
 - Early contact
- ✓ Fellowship
 - Early submission
 - Group training
 - New host
- ✓ Equipment
 - Early request

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Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region

INITIATIVES WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT (Continued)

- ✓ TRAINING OF LEAD COUNTRIES
- ✓ COMMERCIALIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY
- ✓ TRAINING OF NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICERS
- ✓ TRAINING OF PROJECT COUNTERPARTS

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Opportunities

Future Programme

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Opportunities
East Asia and the Pacific Region

FUTURE PROGRAMMES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC AND FUNDING

✓ **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

✓ **COST RECOVERY**

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SUMMARY
East Asia and the Pacific Region

✓ **Total Programme in 1999 for the Region is US \$18.6 million**

✓ **Secretariat and Member States**

- **Play each other roles**
- **Working closely to implement all activities in 216 projects**
- **Collaborate and cooperate to ensure smooth implementation of 300 m/m expert missions, 5 million for fellowships**
- **Continuous communication to overcome problems to successfully completed 110 events**
- **Covert ideas into reality**

✓ **Resolve to achieve highest financial implementation rate**

✓ **Formulation of good design projects for 2001-2002 cycle timely submission of information**

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CONCLUSIONS
East Asia and the Pacific Region

✓ **IN TRAINING FOR GOOD PROJECT DESIGN AND IN PROJECT FORMULATION MEETINGS, PROJECT COUNTERPARTS AND MEETING PARTICIPANTS WERE GUIDED THROUGH ELEMENTS OF PROJECT MATRIX FRAMEWORK; THEY:**

- **Discuss the background of the problems**
- **Prioritize problems**
- **Action plan of activities**
- **Identify and divide sources of input**
- **Determine the output and end users**
- **Risk and assumptions**

✓ **TODAY WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE SAME STEPS AND HOPEFULLY THE MEETING THIS WEEK WILL CRITICALLY FOLLOW THE STEPS.**

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CONCLUSIONS

- TOTAL PROGRAMME 1998 = \$ 17,032,246
 - RCA = \$ 4,380,961
- TOTAL EVENTS = 70
 - RCA = 35
- 1997 FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION RATE = 68.5%
 - RCA = 50.9%
- FUTURE YEARS COMMITMENTS (TCF) APPROVED WIT
1997/98 PROGRAMME = \$ 2,888,960
 - RCA = \$ 2,226,280

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Overview of the RCA Programme in 1999/2000

Programme: 34 projects

Thematic programme areas:

Agriculture

Health

Industry

Energy/Research Reactor/Waste Management

Environment

Radiation Protection

(General- those that cannot be categorized as above)

Budget: 1999: \$5.13 million(est)

Management: Lead Countries

for each of the thematic programme areas and projects

Meeting of National Representatives: Two major meetings

RCA National Representatives 1-5 March 1999, Singapore

RCA General Conference in September 1999.

RCA Agreement was signed in 1972; it celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1997; it has been extended for another five years to 2002. 17 Member States are participating

RCA PROGRAMME 1999

(As of 15 February 1999)

Total number of projects in 1999	34
---	-----------

Number of projects carried over -17	
--	--

continuing	10
-------------------	-----------

to be closed	7
---------------------	----------

New Projects	17
---------------------	-----------

Programme Areas, 1999

	Number of Projects
Agriculture	5
Health	5
Industry	5
Energy/Research Reactor/ Waste Management	3
Environment	6
Radiation Protection	2
General	1
Projects to be closed	<u>7</u>
Total	34

AGRICULTURE

Project Title (Duration)	Fund (\$)				Total (\$)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	a/ ²	H	a/	
1. RAS/5/037 Mutational Enhancement for Genetic Diversity in Rice Starting date: 1999(4 years)	165,810		193,235		H : 359,045
2. RAS/5/034 Irradiation as Sanitary and Phytosanitary Food Treatment Starting date: 1999(2 years)	128,890	80,000	50,000		H : 178,890 a/ : 80,000 Total : 258,890
3. RAS/5/035 Better Management of Feeding and Reproduction of Cattle Starting date: 1999(3 years)	177,020	86,350	165,920	88,600	H : 342,940 a/ : 174,950 Total : 517,890
4. RAS/5/036 Monitoring Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment Starting date: 1999(2 years)		39,390		64,800	a/ : 104,190
5. RAS/5/038 Improvement Genetic Diversity in Wheat, Oil Crops and Pulses Starting date: 1999(4 years)		105,865		109,340	a/ : 215,205
Sub Total	471,720	311,605	409,155	262,740	H : 880,875 a/ : 574,345
Total	783,325		671,895		1,455,220

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/= Footnote a

HEALTH

Project Title (Duration)	Fund (\$)				Total (\$)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	a/ ²	H	a/	
1. RAS/6/027 Quality Assurance in Radiation Therapy Starting date: 1997(4 years)	220,260		230,660		H : 450,920
2. RAS/7/008 Quality Assurance in Radiation Sterilization of Tissue Grafts Starting date: 1997(5 years)	186,090		144,550		H : 330,640
3. RAS/6/028 Nuclear Medicine Applications Starting date: 1997(5 years)	278,510		256,820		H : 535,330
4. RAS/6/029 Improved Training for Nuclear Medicine Technicians Starting date: 1997(4 years)		150,700		141,800	a/ : 292,500
5. RAS/6/033 Distance Learning in Radiation Oncology Starting date: 1999(2 years)		138,130		52,680	a/ : 190,810
Sub Total	684,860	288,830	632,030	194,480	H : 1,316,890 a/ : 483,310
Total	973,690		826,510		1,800,200

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/ = Footnote a

INDUSTRY

Project Title (Duration)	Fund (\$)				Total (\$)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	a/ ²	H	a/	
1. RAS/8/086 Radiotracers, Sealed Sources & Nucleonic Gauges in Industry Starting date: 1999(2 years)	268,940		422,320		H : 691,260
2. RAS/4/018 Manufacture and QC of Co-60 Brachytherapy Sources Starting date: 1999(2 years)		41,000		65,000	a/ : 106,000
3. RAS/8/085 Non-Destructive Testing and Evaluation Starting date: 1999(2 years)		400,240		476,540	a/ : 876,780
4. RAS/8/077 Thematic Programme on Advanced Techniques for Industry (1 year in 1999) Starting date: 1997(3 years)		90,000			a/ : 90,000
5. RAS/8/087 Radiation Processing Applications for Agrowastes Starting date: 1999(3 years)		100,000		75,000	a/ : 175,000
Sub Total	268,940	631,240	422,320	616,540	H : 691,260 a/ : 1,247,780
Total	900,180		1,038,860		1,939,040

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/ = Footnote a

ENERGY/RESEARCH REACTORS/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Project Title (Duration)	Fund (\$)				Total (\$)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	a/ ²	H	a/	
1. RAS/0/028 Comparative Assessment of Electricity Generation Options Starting date: 1999(2 years)	106,860		157,210		H : 264,070
2. RAS/4/019 Improving Research Reactor Operation and Utilization Starting date: 1999(2 years)	80,000		180,000		H : 260,000
3. RAS/4/016 Disposal of Radioactive Waste from Non-Power Sources (2 years from 1997) Starting date: 1997(4 years)		60,000		60,000	a/ : 120,000
Sub Total	186,860	60,000	337,210	60,000	H : 524,070 a/ : 120,000
Total	246,860		397,210		644,070

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/ = Footnote a

ENVIRONMENT

Project Title (Duration)	Fund (\$)				Total (S)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	a/ ²	H	a/	
1. RAS/8/076 Better Management of Environment and Industrial Growth Starting date: 1997(5 years)	107,440		281,410		H : 388,850
2. RAS/8/082 Isotopic and Related Techniques to the Assessment of Air Pollution Starting date: 1999(3 years)	105,260		67,820		H : 173,080
3. RAS/8/084 Isotope us in Managing and Protecting Drinking Water Starting date: 1999(4 years)	97,440		347,460		H : 444,900
4. RAS/8/083 Management of Marine Coastal Environment Pollution Starting date: 1999(2 years)		122,570		148,520	a/ : 271,090
5. RAS/0/029 Radiation Protection and Networking Starting date: 1999(2 years)		82,800		176,200	a/ : 259,000
5. RAS/8/080 Better Management of Environment and Industrial Through Isotope & Radiation Technology (1 year in 1999) Starting date: 1997(5 years)		440,420			a/ : 440,420
Sub Total	310,140	645,790	696,690	324,720	H : 1,006,830 a/ : 970.510
Total	955,930		1,021,410		1,977,340

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/ = Footnote a

RADIATION PROTECTION

Project Title (Duration)	Fund (\$)				Total (\$)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	a/ ²	H	a/	
1. RAS/9/018 Harmonization of Radiation Protection (2 years from 1997)	252,080	270,000	354,670	85,000	H : 606,750 a/ : 355,000 Total : 961,750
2. RAS/9/024 Environmental Radiation Monitoring and Regional Database (2 years from 1999)		107,210		53,780	a/ : 160,990
Sub Total	252,080	377,210	354,670	138,780	H : 606,750 a/ : 515.990
Total	629,290		493,450		1,122,740

GENERAL

Project Title (Duration)	Fund (\$)				Total (\$)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	F ²	H	F	
1. RAS/0/025 Development of TCDC in Asia and the Pacific (3 years from 1997)	120,100		146,800		H : 266,900
Total	120,100		146,800		266,900

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/ = Footnote a

TOTAL FUNDING OF PROJECTS BY PROGRAMME AREA
(1999-2000)

Programme Areas	Fund (\$)				Total (\$)
	1999		2000		
	H ¹	a/ ²	H	a/	
1. Agriculture	471,720	311,605	409,155	262,740	H : 880,875 a/ : 574,345
Sub Total	783,325		671,895		1,455,220
2. Health	684,860	288,830	632,030	194,480	H : 1,316,890 a/ : 483,310
Sub Total	973,690		826,510		1,800,200
3. Industry	268,940	631,240	422,320	616,540	H : 691,260 a/ : 1,247,780
Sub Total	900,180		1,038,860		1,939,040
4. Energy/Research Reactors/Waste Management	186,860	60,000	337,210	60,000	H : 524,070 a/ : 120,000
Sub Total	246,860		397,210		644,070
5. Environment	310,140	645,790	696,690	324,720	H : 1,006,830 a/ : 970,510
Sub Total	955,930		1,021,410		1,977,340
6. Radiation Protection	252,080	377,210	354,670	138,780	H : 606,750 a/ : 515,990
Sub total	629,290		493,450		1,122,740
7. General	120,100		146,800		H : 266,800
Sub Total	120,100		146,800		266,800
Sub Total	2,294,700	2,314,675	2,998,875	1,597,260	H : 5,293,575 a/ : 3,911,935
Total	4,609,375		4,596,135		9,205,510

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/ = Footnote a

PROJECTS CARRIED OVER & TO BE CLOSED in 1999

Project Title (Year of Start)	Earmarking		Total
	H ¹	a/ ²	
1. RAS/0/021 Nuclear Power Planning (1995)		28,233	28,233
2. RAS/0/023 Energy, Electricity and Nuclear Power Planning (1995)	78,938		78,938
3. RAS/0/024 Project Formulation Meeting (1997)	217,874		217,874
4. RAS/6/022 Strengthening Nuclear Medicine in RCA Member States (1993)		37,348	37,348
5. RAS/8/069 Isotope and Radiation in Industry and the Environment (1993)		41,015	41,015
6. RAS/9/006 Strengthening of Radiation Protection Infrastructures (1997)		124,462	124,462
Total	296,812	231,058	527,870

TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE RCA PROGRAMME:

From continuing & new projects: \$ 4.6 M

From carried over & to be closed: \$ 0.53M
Total **\$5. 13M**

¹ H = Hardcore

² a/ = Footnote a

REPORT OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE STRUCTURE OF THE RCA

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held from 25 to 27 Feb 99 at the York Hotel, Singapore, and generously hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Singapore. The participants were Dr. W Garrett (Australia), Mr A K Anand (India), Dr Tin Hlaing (Myanmar), Dr P Roberts (New Zealand), Dr A de la Rosa (Philippines) and Mr K S Lee (Singapore). The IAEA was represented by the RCA Coordinator, Mr C R Aleta.

Mr Lee welcomed participants on behalf of the host country and the Ministry of the Environment, and Mr Aleta thanked Singapore for offering their facilities and support for the meeting. The meeting agreed that Dr Roberts should act as chairman. The agenda was agreed as shown in **Appendix 1**.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was held in response to the request of the 27th RCA General Conference Meeting on 23 Sep 98 in Vienna to “set up an ad-hoc committee consisting of senior level personnel to study the structure and organisation of the RCA, and to convene a meeting and prepare a report as soon as possible.”

In recent RCA Meetings, a series of papers and initiatives addressed the issue of the management of the RCA. These actions were in response to the mutual desire of Member States and the IAEA to increase regional ownership of the RCA programme. Participants agreed that they should summarise the present position regarding each of the relevant initiatives and make recommendations, where possible, on their future role within the management of the RCA.

INITIAL DISCUSSION

Mr Aleta outlined the present operational links within the RCA, and reminded the meeting about the AFRA¹ and ARCAL² approach to the overall management of

¹ Regional Agreement for Africa

² Regional Agreement for Latin America

programmes. Dr Garrett introduced the paper on the Lead Country concept that was to be discussed at the Meeting of National Representatives scheduled for 1-5 March 1999.

Participants identified the following issues for further discussion, which are not in any priority order:

- ☐ The AFRA/ARCAL models
- ☐ Regional Representative (and/or Project Manager)
- ☐ Regional Resource Units (RRUs)
- ☐ Lead Countries
- ☐ Cost-free experts
- ☐ Outsourcing

Participants agreed that the RCA had operated successfully for over 25 years using the Articles of the RCA Agreement as a guide and consensus as an operating mechanism. However, the meeting decided that a clearer view of how the RCA operated in practice was appropriate for several reasons:

- The changing relationship between Member States and the IAEA, as evidenced by:
 - ☐ restructuring within the IAEA which has resulted in fewer staff resources for the RCA Office
 - ☐ increasing maturity of the RCA and its ability to manage itself
 - ☐ enhancement of regional ownership of the RCA programme
 - ☐ the need to make management decisions more frequently than possible through the twice yearly meetings of National Representatives
- The need for a framework against which new proposals regarding better management may be tested
- Improved accountability

It was noted that funding agencies now require applicants to demonstrate an ability for effective project management and accountability. Both these require clearly defined responsibilities.

GOAL OF AN RCA OPERATING STRUCTURE

The goal of any operating structure is to ensure that the aims and objectives of the RCA are achieved effectively and efficiently. In particular the structure should -

- ☐ Ensure smooth operation of all RCA activities from a project concept through to its implementation and its evaluation and reporting;

- ❑ Complement the strengths of the IAEA in project management;
- ❑ Facilitate the RCA Vision of regional ownership and the RCA as a force for regional development;
- ❑ Strengthen the management skills within Nuclear Science Institutes;
- ❑ Enhance Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries (TCDC);
- ❑ Provide transparency in decision-making.

RECENT INITIATIVES

Participants discussed the present situation and merits of each of the main initiatives taken in recent years. *All have the general advantage of increasing regional ownership and substituting for the present effort required within the RCA office. All have the disadvantage that costs are increased for the supporting country. In the analysis below, these advantages and disadvantages are referred to only if they are thought to be present at an unusually high or low level.*

(1) AFRA/ARCAL Model Within AFRA and ARCAL, 3 Member States undertake extra duties related to management. ARCAL has a managerial group comprising the present President, the President-elect who is the Vice President, and the previous President as Secretary. AFRA has a field management team comprising the Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons.

This model has been recommended by the IAEA for consideration by Member States and debated on several occasions. Member States have not agreed that this model is suitable for the RCA. However, the IAEA has invited the past, present and future chairpersons to participate in pre-planning meetings before the two most recent Meetings of National Representatives.

Advantages

- ❑ Senior Level Commitment
- ❑ Overall Policy/Programme Outlook
- ❑ Transparency through Rotation
- ❑ Continuity

Disadvantages

- ❑ Senior People too busy
- ❑ Not Strong Technically
- ❑ Involves only 3 of the 17 Countries
- ❑ Some countries fully cost time
- ❑ Complexity of RCA programme
- ❑ High Travel Cost/commitment

(2) Regional Representative (and Project Manager) A full time representative in the region was suggested in a 1996 report on the management structure of the RCA. This remains one of the goals within the RCA Vision. The RCA used a Chief Technical Officer in a previous UNDP/RCA/IAEA Joint project (RAS/92/073). A Project Manager for the present UNDP/RCA/IAEA Joint project (RAS/97/030) was considered during recent Meetings of National Representatives. There has been considerable, but not unanimous support for the concept from Member States. In practice, cost and possible legal constraints noted by staff of the TC Department have resulted in no progress being made.

Advantages

- ☐ Clear Responsibility in One Person
- ☐ Rapid Execution of Policy
- ☐ Full Time
- ☐ Good Link to Regional Agencies

Disadvantages

- ☐ High cost
- ☐ Extra Bureaucratic Layer
- ☐ No Financial Authority

(3) Regional Resource Units These are 'pools of expertise' residing within Member States. They were suggested during formulation of the present UNDP/RCA/IAEA Joint project and are considered to be a useful mechanism to enhance regional ownership and TCDC.

Advantages

- ☐ Develops Technical Management Skills in Region
- ☐ Opportunity for Outsourcing
- ☐ Uses and Measures Success of Previous Projects

Disadvantages

- ☐ Not Fully Operational or Tested
- ☐ Operational rather than Policy Focus

(4) Lead Countries The concept was agreed in principle at the 1997 General Conference Meeting. A paper developing the concept is to be discussed at the 21st Meeting of National Representatives in Singapore. In practice, the system is operating already. Lead Countries have been agreed for projects and Thematic Programmes and used in recent Project Formulation Meetings.

Advantages

- ☐ Regional Ownership Very Strong
- ☐ Shares Management Responsibilities
- ☐ Increases Management Skills Widely

Disadvantages

- ☐ Diffuses Management Roles
- ☐ Variability in Skill Levels

(5) Cost-Free Experts This mechanism may be an effective way to provide help to the RCA Office. However, the meeting also agreed that the use of cost-free experts as a means to alleviate present problems of staff reductions within the RCA Office would only be an interim measure for solving the structural and management issues that are the subject of this paper.

(6) Outsourcing The meeting was made aware of an IAEA initiative to outsource the implementation of Technical Cooperation activities to specific institutes, groups or individuals. Outsourcing means that a 'contract' is let to a selected institute, group or individual. The selected agent must then fully complete the task set within a budget provided by the IAEA. Examples of outsourcing could be contracts for the running of a Training Course, the organisation of Fellowship programmes, etc..

In practice, the IAEA has already started to use this mechanism within RCA Programmes. However, the meeting felt that it could not discuss this mechanism in detail as it has not been discussed at a Meeting of National Representatives. The meeting did feel that it was a useful way in which regional ownership could be increased during the implementation of activities.

OVERALL OPERATING MECHANISMS

Participants discussed the present way that the RCA operated, its links with the IAEA and the mechanisms in place for the programming, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects. A diagram showing the various links and mechanisms is attached at **Appendix 2**. The responsibilities of key parts of the RCA and the IAEA are outlined in **Appendix 3**.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There is a need to re-inforce the trend to regional ownership through the use of an RCA operational structure that is as simple as possible, transparent, practical and well understood by Member States and the IAEA.
2. The Ad-Hoc committee found no compelling, new arguments to recommend that Member States re-consider their previous reluctance to use the AFRA/ARCAL model as a management structure.
3. The goal of a Regional Representative remains appropriate, although the initial target date of 2000 appears to be unachievable. The means to adequately fund such a position should be pursued, provided the role is also adequately defined.

4. The concept of Lead Countries as defined in the paper to be revised after its presentation to the Meeting of National Representatives 1-5 March 1999 is the preferred option at this time to transfer further ownership of the RCA programme to the Member States.
5. The paper on the Lead Country concept suggests a role for Lead Countries that is focussed on Programming, with only a monitoring role in Implementation. Under the principle of increasing regional ownership, Member States should consider how Lead Countries can take a more pro-active role in Implementation.
6. However, the Meeting felt that, at present, Member States are still learning about the role of a Lead Country. The focus of Lead Countries should remain on Programming, with Implementation activities being absorbed into the role at a later stage. The Meeting also noted that there are other mechanisms available through which the IAEA can shift responsibilities for implementation into the region (see #9 below).
7. The Meeting felt that there may be a better term for the role than "Lead Country". This carries an implication that the country selected already is, or is expected to become, the technical leader in a specific field.
8. The meeting felt that more information was needed about the IAEA's proposals on how regional ownership could be extended to implementation of projects. There is a need to decide clearly the roles in implementation that could be effectively carried out by Member States, and the roles that must be retained by the IAEA. The value obtained from the involvement of the IAEA in Implementation was felt to be considerable. This value came from the advantages of its "Privileges and Immunities" provisions, its financial accountability, its links with other major international agencies and from the general consistency of practice that comes from a UN IAEA. It was also noted that any major change from present practice may require the Guidelines and Operating Rules and possibly the Articles of the RCA Agreement to be reviewed.
9. Implementation within the region can be increased through the use of RRUs, cost-free experts and outsourcing of tasks. These mechanisms are seen as helpful operational mechanisms, but not as a fundamental part of the formal structure of the RCA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ad-Hoc Committee **recommended** that the 21st Meeting of National Representatives should take appropriate action on the above conclusions.

In particular, that meeting should -

- **endorse** the paper on Lead Countries as the ‘blueprint’ for their role, after any required modification;
- **confirm** the use of Lead Countries as a primary mechanism to increase regional management of RCA Programmes;
- **agree** in principle that the role of Lead Countries may be extended further in the implementation of projects;
- **invite** the IAEA to provide details on those aspects of implementation that it feels could be most effectively carried out by Member States;
- **encourage** the use of RRUs, cost-free experts and outsourcing to make an immediate impact on implementation rates and regional ownership of implementation;
- **invite** the IAEA to explain the principles and advantages of “outsourcing” from the IAEA perspective;
- **consider** the suitability of the attached diagrams (**Appendix 2**) and list of responsibilities (**Appendix 3**) as a means of presenting the basic operating mechanisms and links within the RCA.

Appendix 1

Agenda for Ad-Hoc Meeting 25-27 February 1999

1. Opening; Welcome by Host and Response by IAEA
2. Election of Chairperson: Terms of Reference
3. Present RCA Structure (RCA Coordinator)
4. Presentation on Lead Country Paper (Dr Garrett)
5. Review of Management Structure
 - need for structure
 - goals of a management structure
6. Consideration of Options and Issues
7. General Discussion
8. Conclusions & Recommendations

- ← 10. Adoption of Meeting Report

Appendix 2

Member States

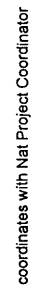


Chart 2- IMPLEMENTATION

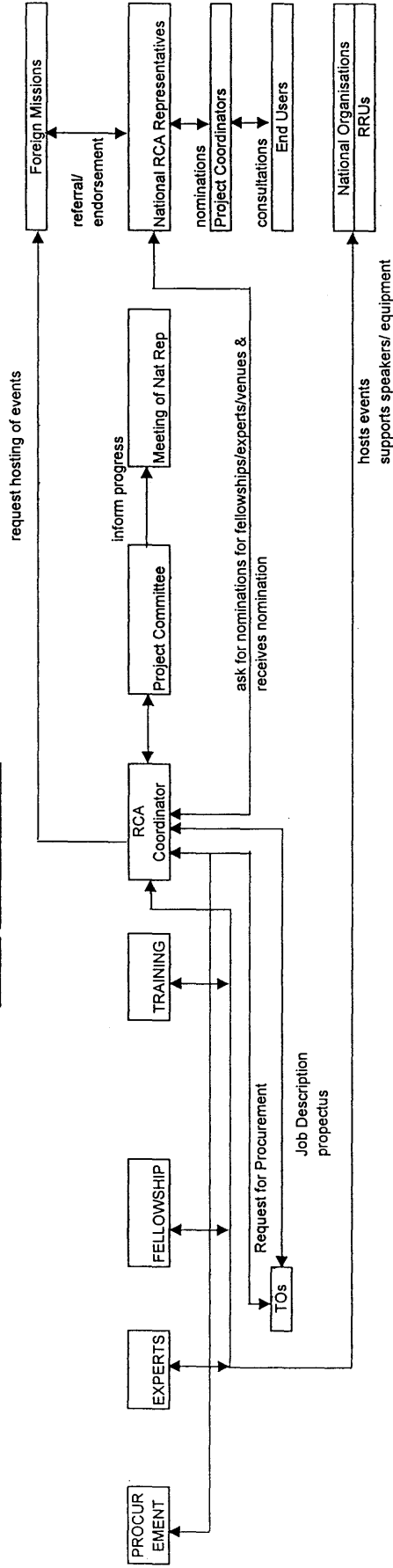


Chart 3 - REPORTING

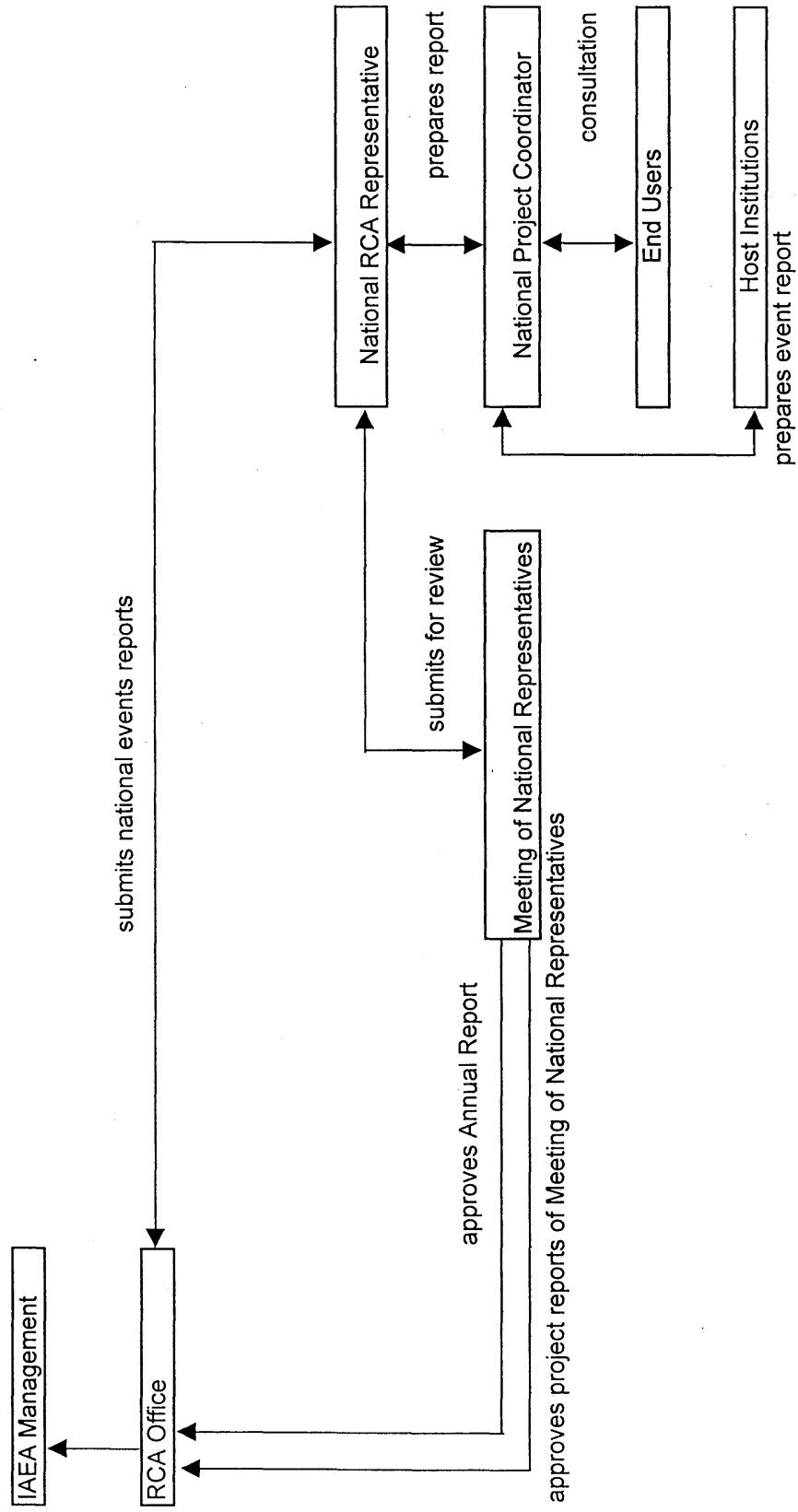
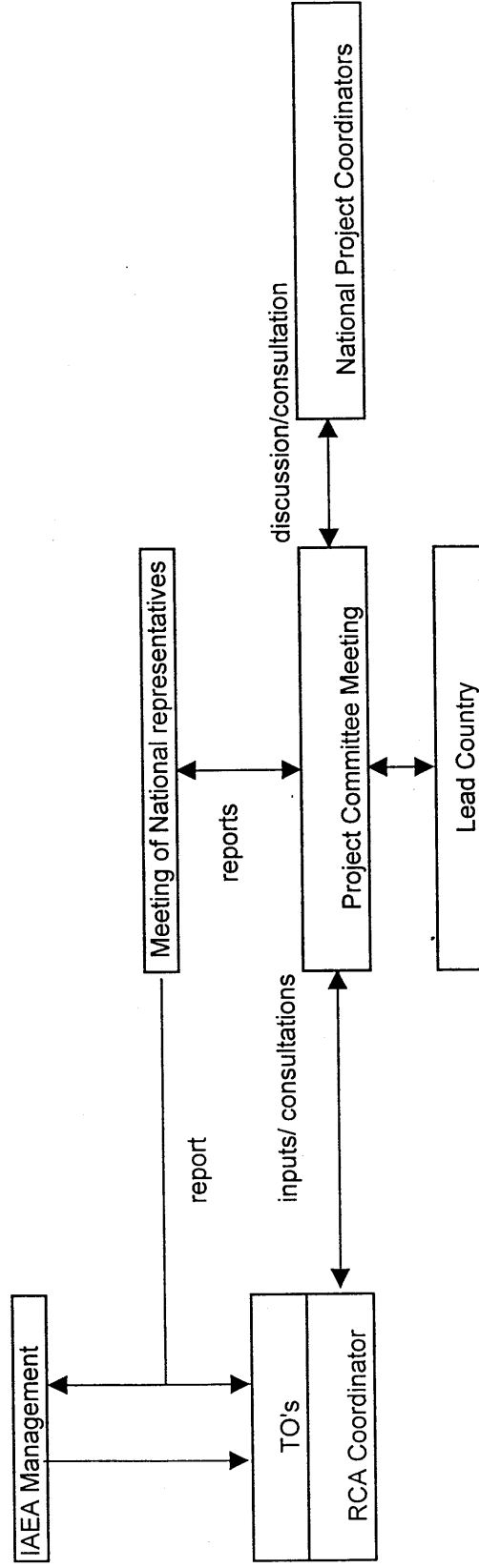


Chart 4 - EVALUATION



Appendix 3

Key Responsibilities within the RCA

The following list of responsibilities is for guidance only. It is subservient to the Articles of the RCA Agreement and the Guidelines and Operating Rules of the RCA.

The responsibilities of Lead Countries and Lead Country Coordinators can be found in more detail in the relevant document describing their role.

Meeting of National Representatives

General

- ☐ Oversee entire RCA programme
- ☐ Set and approve policy and operating guidelines
- ☐ Approve programme of activities and sector themes and set priorities
- ☐ Receive & approve Annual Report
- ☐ Receive and approve Reports of GC and National Representatives meetings

Review

- ☐ Receive & approve project concept
- ☐ Authorise Project Committee
- ☐ Approve Lead Countries and Lead Country Coordinators
- ☐ Receive fully formulated programmes from Project Committees
- ☐ Forward endorsed programmes to RCA office
- ☐ Receive regular reports on progress from Project Committees or Lead Country Coordinators
- ☐ Direct action on problems/opportunities
- ☐ Endorse Evaluation and Final Project Reports from Project Committees

Accountability: to individual Member State Governments

National RCA Coordinators

General

- Prime responsibility for liaison within the Member State
- Co-ordinate National Development plans and RCA activities
- Brief delegates to Meetings of National Representatives

Activities

- Liaise with -
 - ❖ Other National RCA Coordinators
 - ❖ National Project Coordinators
 - ❖ Vienna Mission/Embassy
 - ❖ National Agencies and Research Institutes
 - ❖ RCA Office
- Submit national event reports to RCA office as material for the Annual Report
- Review major RCA reports
- Nominate Project Committee members
- Nominate trainees, fellows, venues
- Co-ordinate hosting of RCA events nationally

Accountability: to individual Member State Governments

National Project Coordinators

- Development of project concepts & proposals
- Ensure delivery of national commitments
- Liaise with –
 - ❖ National RCA Coordinator
 - ❖ Other National Project Coordinators
 - ❖ Lead Country Coordinator
 - ❖ End users
 - ❖ Technical Advisor
 - ❖ Scientists/engineers/etc in relevant national agencies
- Participate in Project Committees
- Act as Lead Country Coordinator as appropriate
- Develop national activities in training, fellowships, experts
- Forward nominations for national participants in events to National RCA Coordinator
- Report on RCA events

Accountability: to National RCA Coordinator

Project Committee

- ❑ Select Lead Country
- ❑ Refine proposal concepts
- ❑ Formulate detailed workplan & seek funding sources
- ❑ Liaise with RCA Office & Technical Advisor
- ❑ Submit final proposals to Meeting of National Representatives & IAEA at appropriate time
- ❑ Monitor and review project progress
- ❑ Report to Meeting of National Representatives on the projects
- ❑ Supervise implementation of projects

Accountability: to Meeting of National RCA Representatives

Lead Country Coordinator

- ❑ Facilitate development of detailed workplan & funding sources
- ❑ Liaise with –
 - ❖ Project Committee/National Project Coordinators
 - ❖ RCA Coordinator & Technical Advisor
- ❑ Identify responsibilities for agreed activities
- ❑ Assist RCA Office in Implementation of activities
- ❑ Monitor project progress
- ❑ Coordinate meeting reports for delivery to Project Committee

Accountability: to Project Committee

RCA Coordinator

General

- ❑ Overall co-ordination of all activities undertaken in the framework of the RCA Agreement
- ❑ Secretary and advisor to Meetings of National Representatives
- ❑ Prepare and submit Annual Report to Meeting of National Representatives
- ❑ Seek financial support for RCA programmes
- ❑ Ensure that RCA, Regional and National programmes are complementary

Programming

- ☐ Co-ordinate Agency input into programming & funding cycles
- ☐ Liaise with –
 - ❖ Section Head, APS
 - ❖ Technical Advisors & Technical Officers
 - ❖ National RCA Coordinators
 - ❖ National Project Coordinators
 - ❖ Lead Country Coordinators
- ☐ Appoint Technical Advisors to Project Committees

Implementation

- ☐ Request permission from host governments to host events
- ☐ Seek and approve nominations for training, fellowships etc.
- ☐ Liaise with –
 - ❖ Lead Country Coordinator
 - ❖ National Project Coordinators
 - ❖ Host institutions
 - ❖ Agency Procurement, Experts & Training sections
- ☐ Forward requests for equipment, expert job descriptions & course prospecti, and ensure delivery of service
- ☐ Inform Meeting of National Representatives of programme progress

Evaluation & Reporting

- ☐ Consult with Lead Country Coordinator, Project Committee & Technical Advisor
- ☐ Receive and distribute progress reports
- ☐ Co-ordinate Agency evaluations
- ☐ Report to Meeting of National Representatives

Accountability: to the Section Head, East Asia & Pacific, IAEA

I.A.E.A

General

- ☐ Convene Meetings of National Representatives at least annually
- ☐ Receive notification of the intent of an eligible country to be a Party to the Agreement

- ❑ Receive notification from Member States of intentions to participate in a project
- ❑ Administer the contributions in accordance with the applicable IAEA regulations and other rules
- ❑ Ensure that secretariat duties are carried out
- ❑ Provide a Technical Advisor to each Project Committee

THE LEAD COUNTRY CONCEPT WITHIN THE MANAGEMENT OF RCA PROJECTS

1. The Lead Country Concept

The Lead Country concept within the RCA Programme is a logical extension of the initiative by Member States to accept more management responsibility for Programme Activities. The Lead Country concept enhances regional ownership and the accountability of Member States from the formation of a project concept through to its final evaluation.

The implementation of the Lead Country concept will assist regional manpower development and allow key personnel from Member States to gain experience in the design, management and implementation of technical projects at a regional level. This is consistent with Recommendation 9 from the Working Paper on "A Review of the Management Structure of the RCA Programme and Proposals for the Future". This recommended that the RCA, with the assistance of the Agency, develop a strategy to enhance skills within the region for R&D management.

The Lead Country concept described in this paper is based on the following principles:

- it would operate within the Articles of the RCA Agreement and accepted RCA practice and in conformity with the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules;
- each project (sub-project in the case of large projects) would have one Lead Country responsible from the initiation to the implementation stage of the project;
- the IAEA would be responsible for the implementation of project activities and for all financial aspects of the project expenditure;
- the Project Committees would maintain their roles in reviewing and evaluating projects, with the Lead Countries taking a facilitating role; and
- Lead Countries could be assisted by other Participating Countries, which would volunteer to carry out defined tasks;

2. The Role of a Lead Country

The role of a Lead Country is to :

- Provide leadership and take the initiative in all aspects of the project cycle;
- Take action on behalf of the Participating Member States to achieve a completed design, formulation and programming of an RCA project/sub-

project or Thematic Programme and oversee its implementation, technical progress and evaluation by the IAEA.

A Lead Country is not obligated to carry out all of the above actions itself. Where appropriate, the Lead Country should encourage other Participating Countries to assist with specific tasks. This assignment of an "assistant" role to Member States will help to develop a valuable management resource within the region by preparing other Member States to be future Lead Countries, especially but not restricted to Least Developed Countries.

The Lead Country concept cannot be effective unless Member States provide and support suitably qualified individuals who have the demonstrated ability to provide the leadership, organisational and managerial skills for the particular project. In accepting the role of Lead Country, a Member State makes a commitment to the other Participating Member States to ensure that the project momentum is maintained and that the project aims, objectives and outputs are achieved on time and within the allotted budget.

It is recognised that accepting the role of a Lead Country will carry a resource commitment in supporting the Lead Country Co-ordinator. It is therefore recommended that the Lead Country role is spread around the various Member States who can meet the selection criteria.

3. Nomination of Lead Countries

The initial development of a project involves the preparation of a concept project proposal by one or more Member States. As set out in the RCA Agreement and in Section 4.1 of the Guidelines and Operating Rules, a Project Committee is established following agreement to the concept proposal by a Meeting of National Representatives, with at least three Member States signifying their intention to participate.

A Lead Country is nominated once a Project Committee is formed.

4. Selection Criteria for Lead Countries

Any participating Member State of the Project Committee may volunteer to be a Lead Country. A Lead Country must however meet the following minimum criteria:

- ☐ Nomination of a suitably qualified and experienced person to be responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to a Lead Country; this person will be designated as the Lead Country Coordinator;
- ☐ Guaranteed support from its own resources for the Lead Country Coordinator to carry out their duties;
- ☐ Ready access for the Lead Country Coordinator to good communication links for rapid contact with National Project Coordinators and the RCA Coordinator.

It is desirable that the Lead Country has demonstrated expertise in several significant technical aspects of the Project or Thematic Programme, or a major National Development Programme related to the Project or Thematic Programme. However designation as a Lead Country does not imply that a country has the highest technical capability in the region within the particular project field.

It also has to be emphasised that no additional funds will be forthcoming for Lead Countries. This was agreed similarly for the RRU concept.

5. Appointment of a Lead Country

The Project Committee is responsible for reviewing all offers from Participating Countries to act as the Lead Country.

The Lead Country recommended by the Project Committee must then confirm in writing to the RCA Coordinator its agreement to accept the responsibilities set out for the role. The RCA Coordinator will forward the recommendation on the Lead Country, together with the written confirmation, to a meeting of National Representatives. Under the RCA Agreement only the National Representatives have the authority to make such decisions on behalf of the Member States.

6. The Duties of a Lead Country / Lead Country Coordinator

The Lead Country acts on behalf and with the authority of the Project Committee and also reports to it at appropriate times.

A Lead Country will guide a project after acceptance of the original concept, through the project formulation process, and up to the implementation stage. The full project document is prepared by the Lead Country Coordinator and will have all the implementation arrangements timetabled, draft terms of reference for meetings, expert missions and draft prospecti for training courses.

6.1 Prior to a Project Formulation Meeting

The Lead Country must consult with other Participating Countries and draft :

- ☐ A definition of the problem to be solved, suggesting possible aims, objectives and outputs to be the basis of the Project;
- ☐ A list of the available expertise in the region and outside the region;
- ☐ A list of likely end-users in each of the Participating Countries;
- ☐ Likely inputs in cash or in-kind;
- ☐ Possible outside sources of funding.

The Lead Country must also consult with the RCA Office for the Agency to :

- ❑ Assign a Technical Adviser and seek his / her input;
- ❑ Seek approval to host a Project Formulation Meeting (PFM) in either the proposed Lead Country or another suitable venue;
- ❑ Solicit nomination of participants, who should include representatives of end users, where feasible, and the Agency's assigned Technical Adviser.

6.2 At the Project Formulation Meeting

At the PFM, the Lead Country Coordinator must ensure that participants :

- ❑ Identify and agree on the regional problem(s) to be solved;
- ❑ Agree on the overall plan (aims, objectives and outputs) to solve each aspect of the problem;
- ❑ Agree on the appropriate technical solutions to achieve the objectives;
- ❑ Define and agree on the resources available from each Participating Country;
- ❑ Determine and agree on the training needs;
- ❑ Establish and agree on a detailed workplan of activities and outputs, including schedules and budgets;
- ❑ Agree on responsibilities for each activity;
- ❑ In consultation with the Host Country, prepare a brief Meeting Report;
- ❑ Identify committed and potential funding sources; and
- ❑ Ensure that the project document meets the requirements of the IAEA or other funding bodies for both presentation and time scheduling into the applicable budgetary cycles.

6.3 Following the Project Formulation Meeting

Following the PFM, the Lead Country Coordinator must ensure that participants :

- ❑ Finalise a proposal, including a detailed prospectus for each training event;
- ❑ Obtain written confirmation from each of the Participating Countries to carry out their agreed roles;

- Submit the proposal to the RCA Office to meet TC and other any other funding Agency deadlines;
- In consultation with the Project Committee and funding agencies, refine the proposal for final approval by the Meeting of National Representatives and by funding agencies.

6.4 Implementation of the Project

The IAEA is responsible for implementing the project to the agreed project plan. This will utilise the necessary benefits from Agency infrastructure, “privileges and immunities provisions”, links to UNDP Country Offices, etc. These implementation activities are undertaken by the RCA Coordinator who is responsible for the use of Agency funds. The RCA Coordinator has a responsibility to each Lead Country to ensure that all activities are initiated in good time and that the necessary Agency administrative requirements are met. In addition the RCA Coordinator should provide an overview and ensure that the implementation procedures are occurring on schedule. The RCA Coordinator must inform a Lead Country Coordinator of any matters likely to cause problems in implementation.

The Lead Country Coordinator has the responsibility to ensure that meaningful reports are received from the RCA Coordinator for all implemented activities and that these are distributed to the Project Committee. The feed back on the implementation will form the basis of the yearly project evaluation by the Project Committee.

The Lead Country Coordinator must be in regular contact with the RCA Coordinator and the RCA Office to monitor the activities being implemented. In addition there should be consultation with the Technical Adviser to monitor the technical progress of the project.

The Lead Country Coordinator must report to the Project Committee on all aspects of project implementation.

In the event of problems within a project, the Lead Country should raise these issues in the first place with the Member State(s) concerned or the Agency, as appropriate. Then, if there are matters of substance arising, these should be communicated to the Project Committee.

6.5 Evaluation of the Project

The Lead Country Coordinator must arrange for the project to be formally reviewed by the Project Committee at agreed intervals (normally annually as required under the Agreement); and, similarly, must facilitate a final evaluation and report from the Project Committee at the end of the Project.

Any Agency project evaluation process should be conducted outside of this internal RCA process.

7. Relationship between the Lead Country and a Regional Resource Unit (RRU)

There is no automatic linkage between a Lead Country and an RRU, since the selection criteria for the Lead Country are not based on that country necessarily being at the highest level of technical standing for that topic.

The assignment of RRUs will be on the basis of agreed transparent guidelines and criteria. Like the assignment of Lead Country status, RRUs will not receive any financial or other benefit from being given such a designation. On the contrary such a position would normally result in the RRU donating resources to the project and thereby enhancing the TCDC contribution from that country.

In parallel with the need for Lead Countries to have written government guarantees of full support from their own resources for their duties, it would be appropriate for designated RRUs to be treated in the same way.

8. Tenure of a Lead Country

Normally the term for the appointment of a Lead Country is the agreed life of the Project or Thematic Programme and/or the period for which funding has been guaranteed. However, for on-going parts of the RCA Programme, such as the Thematic Programmes, it may be appropriate for the project Committee to review the status of a Lead Country every two years.

Should a Lead Country wish to relinquish its responsibilities, at least 6 months notice in writing would be expected to be given by the National Representative to the other RCA National Representatives and to the RCA Coordinator.

9. Evaluation of the Performance of Lead Countries

The decision making organ for RCA is the Meeting of National Representatives. The Lead Country concept is an exercise in self-regulation and the long history of the RCA has shown that the RCA Member States have always been able to reach consensus agreement on issues. Therefore it would seem inappropriate to evaluate formally the performance of Lead Countries unless it proved to be impossible to work within the transparent criteria presently developed.

10 January 1999

Annex 13

**List of Follow-up Actions from the
21st Meeting of RCA National Representatives**

Item no. of Report	Action	By
3.6	Prepare Executive Summary for Annual Report	RCA Office
3.6	Provide country activity report for Part 3 of the draft 1998 Annual Report to RCA Coordinator	MS
3.6	Draft a standard format for submitting reports on project accomplishments	Australia Indonesia
3.8	Assist RCA Coordinator to draft reply to Yemen	Australia
3.8	Streamline documents/reports issued or printed by the three Regional Agreements to give consistency regarding the use of IAEA logo	IAEA
4.1	Work closely with the IAEA to implement all activities in 216 projects as well as formulate well-designed projects before 31 Dec 99 for inclusion in the 2001/2002 cycle	MS
4.2	Identify which projects need to be funded for 1999/2000, whether there were funding problems and investigate possible funding sources	RCA Office
5.2	Send questionnaires or audits to MS seeking information on the benefits and outcomes of the project RAS/9/018	RCA Office/ Australia
5.2	Formalise the offer to donate US\$100,000 for the project RAS/9/024	Korea
6.0	Simplify and distribute the questionnaire for collection of information on agriculture in MS	RCA Office/ China
6.0	Consider the means of supporting projects RAS/5/036 and RAS/5/038	MS
7.0	Liaise with the RCA Office and TO on the Project Formulation Meeting to redefine the project RAS/4/019	Korea
8.0	Take up with IATA the air transportation of radioactive kits	IAEA
9.5	Convene an EAGM consisting of senior experts with broad industry background to consider overall policy directions and management of all aspects of industry-related projects	RCA Office

9.8	Compile list of RRUs nominated either by MS or by Project Committees	RCA Office
10.1	Provide comments to IAEA on the procedure of nomination of candidates for participation in IAEA meetings/workshops/courses	MS
10.2	Revise Operating Rules and Guidelines document after finalisation of Lead Country Paper	Australia/ Philippines
10.3	Submit success stories for RCA publicity documents as well as sent the Silver Jubilee publication and the RCA Annual Report to all relevant ministries	MS
10.4	Provide any further comments on the paper on Role of Lead Country to Australia	MS
10.4	Submit list of Thematic Project Coordinators to the IAEA, to review national policies to assist the sectoral approach, and to send proposals to the RCA Office on the various themes under each sector	MS
10.6	Submit any comments on the RCA Vision Paper and on the papers prepared by Dr Nahrul and Dr Manoon	MS
11.1	Develop the proposal on the use of isotopes in dam safety and sustainability	Pakistan