



TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF IAEA/RCA SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAMME IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND
MATHEMATICS (STEM)
(IAEA RCA SPS)

I. BACKGROUND

The Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) is an intergovernmental agreement established under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The RCA serves as a framework for its Government Parties (GP) to collaborate through programmes and projects focused on the specific shared needs of its members and to promote and coordinate cooperative research, development, and training projects in nuclear science and technology.

Strategic Direction 5 in the RCA 2018-2023 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) states that the RCA will continue building human capacity, including education and training and nuclear knowledge management

The 50th RCA General Conference Meeting (RCA GCM) held during 16-17 September 2021, approved in-principle the establishment of an RCA Scholarship Programme in STEM (RCA SPS) in the areas of applications of nuclear technology to support sustainable socio-economic development in RCA GPs Parties.

Following the formation of the Committee to develop the RCA SPS, comprising members from AUL, PAK, PHI, THA, VIE, SIN, and MAL, the 1st Meeting of the Committee was held on 25 January 2022 via video conferencing. It was decided that VIE shall play the role of Chair of RCA SPS, and SIN as Vice-Chair in a period of three years (2022 to 2025) and can be renewed.

II. FUNCTIONS

The RCA SPS Committee covers the following functions:

- 1) To provide advice and recommendations to the RCA General Conference Meeting on strategic directions, plans, protocols, processes, structures, a range of issues involving

scholars, scholarships, academic activities, termination, withdrawal, disciplinary matters and any other matters the Committee deems significant within its Terms of Reference (TOR);

- 2) To appoint an independent evaluation panel to evaluate and review scholarship applications, and make recommendations on recipients of scholarship to the RCA SPS committee, in a manner that upholds fairness, objectivity and non-discrimination;
- 3) To review any conflict of interest with potential scholarship applicants;
- 4) To approve recommendations on recipients for each assigned scholarship to the RCA SPS committee under the guidance of Guidelines for RCA SPS application, in a manner that upholds fairness, objectivity and non-discrimination;
- 5) To build a strong the IAEA RCA network by finding opportunities for scholars and alumni to ensure exposure to a diverse range of development opportunities;
- 6) To explore ways to mobilize national/regional resources such as high quality of technical and logistical support of the Government Parties in implementing the RCA SPS;
- 7) To provide additional assistance in other matters with regard to the implementation of RCA SPS upon the NRs' requests;
- 8) To coordinate with other RCA-related stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of the Annual Work Plans and provide advice to the NRs with respect to the implementation of RCA SPS;
- 9) To assign Group Leaders to coordinate with the partner universities for each academic year and solicit a designated number of scholarship seats for the RCA scholarship candidates;
- 10) To announce the list of accepted applicants to IAEA PMO of RCA SPS and work with IAEA to arrange the payments to the scholarship recipients.
- 11) To sign the official letters given to recipients of the RCA Scholarship based on the final evaluation and selection criteria of the RCA SPS Committee.

III. MEMBERSHIP

The Government Parties shall via NRs nominate the members to the RCA SPS Committee and closely work with the Chairperson. Additional members shall be invited to address specific issues or skill requirements and endorsed by the NRs upon the request of the Committee.

The total membership of the RCA SPS committee should be 6 to 8 members (not including ex-officio or observers), including TCAP Director, RCA Focal Person and Relevant

Technical Officers, who will demonstrate the necessary skills and experience needed to effectively implement the TOR.

Each GP shall designate a contact point to support the RCA SPS Committee in contact with the host universities of the respective country and in other related issues of the RCA Scholarship Programme.

IV. MEETINGS AND REPORTS

The RCA SPS Committee may have meetings as necessary as requested of RCA SPS Committee to review and evaluate the candidates for application.

The RCA SPS Committee shall prepare Annual Work Plans and Annual Progress Reports for submission to RCA NRMs and/or GCMs in 2022-2025 as required.

V. AMENDMENT

This TOR may be amended, varied or modified in writing after discussions are made and consensus is reached by IAEA, RCARO and the RCA's GPs.