



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF THE
47th
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
(NRM)
OF THE
REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING RELATED TO NUCLEAR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (RCA)

20-23 May 2025

Nadi, Fiji

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ACRONYMS

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

Introduction

The 47th RCA Meeting of National Representatives convened at the Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort Hotel in Nadi, Fiji from 20-23 May 2025.

The Meeting was attended by 21 RCA Government Parties: Australia (AUL), Cambodia (KAM), China (CPR), Fiji (FIJ), India (IND), Indonesia (INS)*, Japan (JPN), Korea (ROK), Laos (LAO), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA)*, Nepal (NEP), New Zealand (NZE), Pakistan (PAK)*, Palau (PLW), Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN)*, Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA) and Vietnam (VIE)*. Also in attendance were officials from the IAEA, RCARO, FNCA Coordinator and invited Pacific Observers from; Cook Islands, Tonga, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu.

* Virtual participation

Annexed **(1)** are the list of delegates.

Official opening

Ms Lili Xiao, RCA Chair and NR of CPR, opened the meeting.

Dr. Andrew Tukana, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, and as representative of the host country, delivered opening remarks to participants (FIJ) (**Annex 2**).

Mr Deng Ge, DIR-TCAP, delivered his remarks as representative of the IAEA (**Annex 3**).

Mr Gashaw Wolde, SH-TCAP, launched the RCA social and economic impact assessment on air quality.

Designation of New RCA Chair and Rapporteurs

The NR of CPR delivered her remarks as the outgoing RCA Chair (Annex 4). The Meeting endorsed FIJ to be the new RCA Chair. The new RCA Chair, the NR of FIJ, Dr Shalendra Prasad delivered his remarks (Annex 5).

1. Adoption of the Agenda and appointment of Rapporteurs

The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda with one amendment (RCANRM(47)/1) (Annex 6) and appointed AUL, FIJ, JPN, and RCARO to be the rapporteurs.

2. Report on the follow-up actions of the 53rd GCM by the RCA Chair-RCA NRM(47)/2

The meeting noted the report provided by the RCA Chair on the follow-up actions of the 53rd GCM, including the excellent progress on all items from the 53rd RCA GCM (Annex 7).

3. Report on the implementation of the RCA Programme in 2024 by the RCA FP - RCANRM(47)/3

The meeting noted the report delivered by the RCA Focal Person (RCA FP) on the implementation of the RCA TC Programme in 2024 (Annex 8). The meeting congratulated GPs and the IAEA Secretariat on the successful implementation of the RCA TC Programme in 2024. The meeting requested NRs to provide comments on the draft 2024 RCA Annual TC Report by 31 July 2025. The meeting also noted that as agreed at the 45th NRM, gender disaggregated data is being integrated into programme reporting. Recalling the RCA GOR target to mobilise EUR 400,000 annually for the RCA TC Projects, it was noted this target had been achieved in 2024-2025 period. The Meeting appreciated the extrabudgetary (EB) contributions from JPN, AUL and ROK, for the Social and Economic Impact Assessment of RCA Projects.

4. Report on the RCA Project Development– RCANRM(47)/4

The Meeting noted the report delivered by the RCA FP on the RCA TC project development, including on progress for the 2026-2027 TC cycle (Annex 09) and the programmatic approach and resource mobilisation for the 2028-2029 TC cycle (Annex 10).

The Meeting agreed to recommend the six RCA TC project designs contained in RCANRM(47)/4 (HH1, HH2, AG1, AG2, IN, and EN) for funding support by the IAEA, welcoming the efforts of the NRs and LCCs of the GPs as well as the support from the PAC and the IAEA RCA FP and TOs.

The Meeting noted the funding gap between the expected TCF allocation for these projects, against the project cost forecast of approximately EUR 1 million. The Meeting decided to leave portions of the budgets for each project that are expected to remain unfunded as a footnote a (/a), with the understanding that this decision would not significantly affect the effective implementation of the projects.

The Meeting decided to also have a call for pre-concept papers for the 2028–2029 cycle circulated by the IAEA RCA FP by 26 May 2025 and the pre-concept papers be submitted to the RCA FP and RCA Committee of Chair members no later than 15 August 2025. The Meeting recognised the importance for NRs to examine their own projects thoroughly before the submission in accordance with the GoR and RPF to ensure the quality and the feasibility of the RCA projects.

In the absence of the PAC chair and the reduced membership of the PAC, the Meeting decided exceptionally that the Committee of Chairs will conduct the review of the pre-concepts with the support of the IAEA and existing PAC members where relevant. This approach will enable the categorisation and the integration of pre-concepts, under the current transition to align with the IAEA flagship initiatives as decided during the 46th NRM in Beijing, 2024.

The Meeting took note of the plan for the IAEA to organise a workshop to enhance integration of projects early next year, 2026.

5. Report on the activities of the Regional Office (RCARO) – RCA NRM(47)/6

The Meeting noted the report on the activities of RCARO (Annex 11) and the report of the 40th RCARO SAC meeting (Annex 12). The Meeting appreciated the RCARO for its continuous contributions to the RCA through the support of the ROK.

The Meeting welcomed the scheduled hybrid regional workshop on women in the nuclear field from 24-26 June 2025 in Incheon, Korea.

Recalling the role of RCARO under the GoR and bearing in mind the current and increasing financial gap that the RCA TC projects are experiencing, the meeting continued to express its expectations for RCARO to work towards securing external funding for RCA

6. Report on progress of the rapid review of RCA Governance Working Group - RCANRM(47)/6

The Meeting noted the paper and the presentation by the WG Chair and Co-Chair on the RCA Governance in relation to the PAC (Annex 13 and Annex 14) and thanked the contributions of the WG members.

The Meeting highlighted the crucial role of the PAC in providing technical advice on the RCA TC Programme for the NRs and agreed to maintain it as a technical advisory body for the RCA.

The Meeting discussed consideration of PAC composition including thematic diversity, geographical composition and gender balance, with flexibility, and other issues such as duration of appointments and RCA experience. The Meeting also discussed the possibility of the participation of the Committee of the Chairs as the representatives of the NRs to ensure transparency and visibility of the PAC.

The meeting recommended that these elements be included in the draft Terms of Reference, which is to be developed by the RCA Governance WG.

The Meeting decided that the next steps are for the WG to continue its deliberations and circulate the proposed recommendations including draft TOR by 12 August 2025 for discussion and consideration at the 54th RCA GCM on 12 September 2025 in Vienna.

7. Report on the RCA Technical Cooperation Programme by NRs of the Project Lead Countries - RCANRM(47)/7

The Meeting noted the progress of the current RCA portfolio of RCA TC projects in human health, environment, agriculture and industry as outlined in Table 1. The Meeting also noted that gender disaggregated data is being integrated into project reporting as agreed at the 45th NRM (Presentations at Annex 15 – Annex 29).

Thematic Area or IAEA Initiative	Project Title
Industry	RAS1028 (MAL)- Improving the Quality Management Practices in Radiation Processing Facilities for Better Performance and Applications
	RAS1029 (MAL) Enhancing Regional Capabilities in Advanced Non- Destructive Testing Techniques for Improved Safety and Inspection Performance in Industries
Agriculture Atoms4Food	RAS5101(CPR)-Using Mutational Biofortification for Improving the Nutritional Quality of Food Crops
Environment GloWAL	RAS7040 (VIE) Improving Water Resources Management Practices by Enhancing the Regional Collaboration in Environmental Isotope Analysis and Applications
	RAS7043 (IND)- NEW- Evaluating the Efficacy of Artificial Recharge to Groundwater in Water Scarce Regions Using Isotope Techniques
Human Health Rays of Hope	RAS6098(JPN)-Standardizing Radiotherapy in Palliative Care
	RAS6100 (ROK)-Strengthening Clinical Application
	RAS6101(CPR)-Strengthening Cancer Care by Training Radiation Oncology Health Professionals in Consistent and Accurate Data Collection through Oncology Information Systems
	RAS6105(PAK)-Improving Cancer Management through Theranostics by Using Radioisotope-Based Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques
	RAS6108(AUL)-Strengthening Cancer Care by Training Radiation Oncology Health Professionals in Consistent and Accurate Data Collection through Oncology Information Systems
	RAS6109 (AUL)-Improving the Quality and Safety of Diagnosis and Interventional Radiology Services to Benefit Health Care by Enhancing the Status Knowledge and Skills of Medical Physicists
	RAS6110 (JPN)- Improving the Radiotherapy Capacity of Newcomer Government Parties
Others	RAS0092 (ROK) Enhancing the Strategic Management of the Programme under the Regional Cooperative Agreement of Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA- AP)

8. Presentation on behalf of new comer countries on challenges, opportunities and expectations by RCA Chair- RCANRM(47)/8

The Meeting welcomed the insightful presentation delivered by the RCA Chair on the perspective of newcomer countries to the RCA regarding challenges, opportunities and expectations (Annex 30). The NRs recognised that the RCA/TC Programme needs to consider a tailored, inclusive approach to meet the different needs and priorities of differing contexts (not “one size fits all”), such as regulatory frameworks, nuclear law, infrastructure and equipment, and in-country training/expert missions. The Meeting recommended that a workshop be organised for newcomer RCA countries to focus on how the RCA can better develop an inclusive programme with the possibility of preparing a concept paper for consideration.

9. Presentation on FNCA’s activities and suggested area of cooperation with the RCA by the FNCA Coordinator - RCANRM(47)/9

The Meeting welcomed the presentation delivered on the FNCA’s activities (Annex 31) and noted the synergy with RCA projects, particularly in human health.

FIJ expressed interest in becoming an Observer or Member of the FNCA. The FNCA welcomed the expression of interest.

10. Arrangements for the 54th RCA GCM, 48th RCA NRM, and 49th RCA NRM by the RCA Chair - RCANRM(47)/10

The Meeting noted that the 54th RCA GCM will be held on 12th September 2025 in Vienna. IND indicated it is considering hosting the 48th RCA NRM in Mumbai and will update the RCA Chair on its decision in due course. The Meeting deferred discussion on the 49th RCA NRM to the 54th RCA GCM.

11. Any other business

The Meeting discussed other issues as follows;

PHI noted that PHI was considering nuclear power as part of its future energy mix. PHI noted that the RCA does not usually include nuclear energy projects, though suggested perhaps a separate session could be held on nuclear energy developments in the region.

All four observer states, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, expressed their appreciation to the opportunity of the attending the 47th NRM with the support of the IAEA, RCA, NRs, host FIJ and sponsors AUL.

12. Closure

Mr. Deng Ge, DIR-TCAP, delivered his closing remarks, as representative of the IAEA (Annex 32).

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