

Summary Report of 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting

The 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting held on March 11-12, 2014, in Tokyo, Japan, was officially hosted by the Cabinet Office of Japan (CAO) and the Japan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC), and co-hosted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan. Chairperson of the Meeting was Dr. Sueo MACHI, FNCA Coordinator of Japan.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from 12 member countries and an international organization; Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the RCA Regional Office. Delegates were comprised of FNCA Coordinators, Project Leaders, Director of RCA Regional Office and Senior Officials.

The summary of the nine sessions of this Meeting is as follows:

Session 1: Opening Session

Dr. Shunsuke KONDO, Chairman of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC) made the opening remarks. After the self-introduction by each participant, the Meeting agenda was adopted without amendments.

Session 2: Summary Report of the FNCA Meetings in 2013

Dr. MACHI first reported on the 5th Study Panel. He then informed the body about the 14th Ministerial Level Meeting, highlighting the Chair's statement and the major decisions, which are to be discussed further in this meeting.

Session 3: Radiation Utilization Development

Dr. Hirohiko TSUJII, Japan, reported on the activities of Radiation Oncology project, including the remarkable results of joint clinical tests. Then, Dr. DANG Huy Quoc Tinh, Viet Nam, reported on the remarkable benefits of using FNCA protocols to treat Vietnamese patients. Prof. Hirokazu NAKAI, Japan, reported on past results of Mutation Breeding Project, and emphasized the importance of the new theme, "Mutation Breeding of Rice for Sustainable Agriculture". Meanwhile, Dr. Olivia P. DAMASCO, the Philippines, reported on their efforts to develop BBTv-resistant Lakatan Cultivar by using mutation breeding, and the remarkable performance of this newly developed variety.

Results of the discussion showed the need for further cooperation among the three FNCA projects, namely Mutation Breeding, Biofertilizer, and Electron Accelerator

Application (Radiation Processing of Natural Polymers) including application of oligochitosan.

Dr. Tadashi YOKOYAMA, Japan, discussed on the progress of its Biofertilizer project including synergetic effect of biofertilizer and oligochitosan. Dr. Khairuddin BIN ABDUL RAHIM, Malaysia, described Malaysia's experience on commercialization of biofertilizer using carrier sterilized by radiation.

Dr. Masao TAMADA, Japan, reported on current status of development and commercialization of Plant Growth Promoter (PGP) and Super Water Absorbent (SWA) in Electron Accelerator Application project. Then Dr. Darmawan DARWIS, Indonesia, introduced their efforts to commercialize PGP using irradiated chitosan, including research and development, field tests (especially in chili plant), and its dissemination.

Session 4: Research Reactor Utilization Development

Dr. Mitsuru EBIHARA, Japan, reported on the outcome of Neutron Activation Analysis project for three targets, namely, geochemical samples, food samples, and marine sediment samples.

Mr. Yoshihiro KOMORI, Japan, summarized activities of Research Reactor Network Project for past 3 years including their strategy for stable supply of Mo-99 for nuclear medicine in the Member Countries.

Session 5: Strengthening Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Infrastructure

Mr. Peter McGLINN, Australia, introduced overall achievement of Safety Management Systems for Nuclear Facilities project, such as dissemination of good practices and points to be improved found through peer review.

Mr. Yuji MATSUZOE, Japan, presented the achievement of its Radiation Safety & Radioactive Waste Management project, including workshop, update of the consolidated report, and newsletter publication.

Mr. Masao SENZAKI, Japan, outlined workshop of Nuclear Security & Safeguards project, and expressed Japan's intention to host a regional training course on nuclear security with IAEA in November 2014.

Dr. Kiyonobu YAMASHITA, Japan, introduced achievements of Human Resources Development project including networking among nuclear HRD related organization, as well as identifying focal points for international cooperation for HRD.

Session 6: IAEA/RCA Activities Reports and the Cooperation between RCA and FNCA
Mr. Kun Mo CHOI, the Director, RCA/RO described the activities and cooperation between RCA and FNCA. It was confirmed that cooperation between RCA and FNCA in the three areas (radiation processing, radiation oncology, and mutation breeding) works well, and should be continued. Dr. Machi briefly reported his view on the current cooperation of FNCA with RCA.

Session 7: Follow-up on Recommendations of the 14th Ministerial Level Meeting

(1) Nuclear Security Culture Development

Dr. KONDO proposed key points for strengthening nuclear security culture, and introduced Japan's efforts for it in his lead speech. Mr. JEONG Honghwa, Korea, presented their framework for nuclear security culture, as well as KINAC's efforts including education and training, assessment on awareness and attitude for nuclear security culture. And Mr. SENZAKI introduced ISCN's training courses for nuclear security culture, actions to utilize FNCA website to share best practices. He also pointed out, the importance of involving top management in nuclear security and proposed to organize Ministerial Meeting in the frame of FNCA focusing on nuclear security culture.

(2) Building a network with potential end users to accelerate the practical use of FNCA achievements in the radiation application area

Dr. MACHI, in his lead speech, showed potential end users of five areas of FNCA projects, namely Electron Accelerator Application, Biofertilizer, Neutron Activation Analysis, Radiation Oncology, and Mutation Breeding. He emphasized needs of strategy to facilitate the technology transfer, as well as information dissemination on technology and products developed by the projects to end users.

(3) Cooperation of HRD among FNCA member countries

Dr. MACHI, in his lead speech, pointed out challenges of HRD project, and then encouraged member countries to dispatch senior officials responsible for HRD strategy in a country to the HRD Project workshop, to support and promote increased information exchange at senior official level. Dr. Cao Dinh Thanh, Viet Nam, showed a forecast of human resources needed in their country up to 2020, and the role of related organization for construction of NPP in Viet Nam. And Dr. Shuichi SAKAMOTO, Japan, detailed MEXT's international cooperation for nuclear HRD, including Nuclear Researchers Exchange Program (NREP), Instructors Training Program (ITP), and

capacity building in nuclear security. During discussion, importance of HRD for nuclear regulation was brought up.

Session 8: Future Policy of FNCA Activities

Dr. MACHI gave a summary of the 10 FNCA projects and proposed plan of activities to be undertaken in JFY2014. FNCA Coordinators also made comments on Dr. Machi's input. The discussion on the future FNCA activities followed.

Session 9: Closing Session

Dr. MACHI provided the Conclusion and Recommendations. After discussion and some changes, the Conclusion and Recommendations were accepted by the meeting. Lastly, Dr. MACHI gave his closing remarks, and officially closed the meeting.