Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)
Joint Communique
on the New Direction of the FNCA
adopted on 5 December 2019 at Tokyo

We, the heads of delegation of countries participating in the FNCA: Australia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Recalling that the FNCA's objective is to promote social and economic development through active regional partnerships for the peaceful and safe utilization of nuclear technology, and that R&D, knowledge and information sharing, and capacity building are, inter alia, the main roles and activities of the FNCA, which will lead to social and economic well-being of the member countries,

Noting that nuclear energy can contribute to energy security, access to baseload power and reducing and/or avoiding emissions as stated in the Communique of the G20 Ministerial meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in June 2019,

Acknowledging the potential of radiation technology and the worthiness of FNCA projects in such areas as sustainable agricultural development; food safety; eco-friendly industrial development, mitigation of the effects of climate change; and conservation of natural ecosystems,

Recognizing the effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) in protecting the environment and in raising public awareness of, and building public trust in nuclear technology through its incorporation in the relevant legal framework for nuclear safety, as was discussed in the 2019 Study Panel

Appreciating the progress made by the FNCA clinical research projects in radiation therapy and the associated ongoing clinical trials for cervical, nasopharyngeal, and breast cancer, as well as the importance of technical cooperation and interaction between industry and academia with respect to radiation therapy equipment and related cutting-edge technology,

Recognizing the difficulties in securing required human resources and succession of knowledge and technology in the nuclear science and technology field arising from an ageing workforce,

Recognizing the importance of research reactors and their application for the development of member countries including in neutron activation analysis (NAA), boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT), neutron radiography (NR), material studies and radioisotope production,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation with nuclear international organizations such as the IAEA and the OECD/NEA, and other relevant national organizations including NRC of the US,

Appreciating the progress of the FNCA project activities, and commending the winners of the 3rd FNCA Awards for their outstanding achievements,

Appreciating the tireless efforts of Mr. Amano, the former Director General of IAEA, particularly his strong leadership in the peaceful and safe utilization of nuclear science and technology for the promotion of socio-economic well-being of the world, and extending condolences to his family, friends and colleagues

We have decided to work toward:

1. Promotion of radiation therapy

Promote cancer treatments with radiation technology widely in Asia,

Accelerate the FNCA project in the member countries according to the topic established by the project leaders and endorsed during the Round Table Discussion in the 2019 Ministerial Level Meeting to promote cancer treatments with radiation technology widely in Asia,

Strengthen efforts to develop and disseminate innovative technology related to radiation therapy,

2. Cooperate in addressing issues of environmental protection and countermeasures to climate change

Encourage the member countries to reinforce their cooperation in the issues of environmental protection and the countermeasures to climate change including by adopting “Nuclear Isotopic Technology and Climate Change” as the topic of the 2020 Study Panel,

3. Enhance the practical use of R&D results in agricultural and industrial production

Encourage the member countries to utilize the outcomes of projects on mutation breeding, radiation processing, research reactor utilization and neutron activation analysis with end-users, including the private sector, taking into account the possibility of their commercialization, which can more effectively contribute to the member country's socio-economic well-being,

4. Other areas and activities to be promoted

Promote the activities prioritized by the member countries related to the applications of nuclear science and technology, particularly in sustainable agriculture development and food security, environment protection, medical care and human health, and infrastructure development for nuclear safety and security culture, by accelerating existing R&D areas and also by adopting possible future R&D areas of a wide spectrum of interests from the member countries to support their sustainable development,

5. Cooperation in HRD of the nuclear technology and science field

Activate organizational exchange of human resources among universities and research institutions, and of information related to the reinforcement of HRD infrastructure in accordance with individual demand and situation of the member countries,

6. Enhancement of public communication and public relations functions, and relationship with international institutions

Continue to promote public communication to raise an awareness of, and build public trust in, nuclear technology through the public relations functions of the FNCA such as its website and open lectures in the member countries, and make efforts to reinforce further the relationship with relevant international institutions, including the IAEA and the OECD/NEA.