



ARCAL

**ACUERDO DE COOPERACIÓN PARA LA PROMOCIÓN DE LA CIENCIA Y LA
TECNOLOGÍA NUCLEARES EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE**

**MINUTES OF THE QUADRIpartite FORUM
AFRA/ARASIA/ARCAL/RCA
VIENNA, 23 SEPTEMBER 2004
(Versión Original en Inglés)**

**VI REUNIÓN DEL ÓRGANO
DE COORDINACIÓN TÉCNICA**

(XXII REUNIÓN DE COORDINACIÓN TÉCNICA)

**SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA, BOLIVIA
23 AL 27 DE MAYO DE 2005**

**OCTA 2005-04
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Report of the AFRA/ARASIA/ARCAL/RCA Quadripartite Forum

23 September 2004, IAEA Headquarters, Vienna

The Quadripartite Forum of the Regional Agreements AFRA, ARASIA, ARASIA, and RCA was convened at the VIC on 23 September 2004. The participants included Representatives from AFRA, ARASIA, ARCAL and RCA and concerned staff of IAEA. The list of participants is attached in Annex-1.

The IAEA was represented by the Directors Mr. B-K Kim Director TCPB (on behalf of Ms. Ana Maria Cetto - DDG-TC) and the Regional Coordinators: Mr. M. Maksoudi (AFRA), Ms. M. Zednik (ARCAL) and Mr. P. Dias (RCA) and other Agency Officials.

The main objectives of the forum were:

- To share views of the Member States on their exceptions from the Quadripartite Forum and
- To exchange information on experiences that could be of benefit to other regions

1. Opening Remarks

The Chairperson of ARCAL Ms. Sandra Noriega (Guatemala) opened the Forum and after welcoming the participants handed over the Chair to the Chairperson of RCA Mr. Munim Awais (Pakistan). The Chair, thanked the out-going Chair for her leadership and interest in the quadripartite activities during her tenure. He invited Mr. Byung-Koo Kim, Director TCPB, to make an address on behalf of Ms. Ana Maria Cetto, the DDG-TC.

2. Remarks on behalf of DDG-TC

Mr. Byung-Koo Kim Director TCPB, thanked the Forum for inviting him to participate. He conveyed the apologies of the DDG-TC for her inability to participate on account of her presence being necessary at the Plenary Session of the 48th General Conference of the IAEA. He conveyed the best wishes of the DDG-TC for the success of the Forum.

Mr. Kim informed the Forum that action is being taken to strengthen coherence between the Medium Term Strategy of the IAEA for 2006-2011 and the TC Strategy. He further noted that Member States are key players in addressing many challenges and opportunities such as cross-border issues, emerging global issues, increased demand for cooperation among Member States, project fund raising for sustainable development and partnership building.

He requested the views of the Member States on their expectations from the Quadripartite Forum, the role of the IAEA secretariat at this Forum, and how the good success stories can be made more meaningful and applicable. In concluding, the Director of TCPB said that the Agency has initiated an evaluation of the projects and activities supported by the Agency within the frameworks of the regional agreements and the results of this exercise would contribute to gaining further insights into the added values of TCDC arrangements.

The Chair stated that the Agency's endeavors are underlined on the socio-economic development of the regions through TCDC. He appreciated the Agency for initiating the evaluation and said that the Member States would be looking forward to further improvement in the TCDC activities as a result of this evaluation.

3. Designation of the Bureau of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair named three Vice Chairs, from AFRA, ARASIA and ARCAL. The Chair also appointed representatives from Sri Lanka and the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) as the Forum rapporteurs.

The participants introduced themselves at the request of the Chair.

The Chair proposed the Forum to adopt the revised Agenda that was consented by the three coordinators of the regional cooperative agreements. The Forum adopted the revised Agenda.

The Agenda is attached as Annex –2.

4. Matters for Discussion

i) Expectations of Member States from the Quadripartite Forum

The Chair invited comments from the participants on the expectations from the Forum.

Representatives of AFRA stated that the Forum is useful and important because the Forum provides opportunities for exchange of information and experience amongst the Agreements on matters of common interest including procedures and best management practices, for sharing innovations and scientific information, for promoting joint ventures, and in particular, promoting inter-regional TCDC.

The representative of ARASIA stated that as the most recent regional agreement, ARASIA can learn from the experiences of other Agreements regarding regional planning, implementation processes, attraction of financial resources, use of facilities, and training opportunities.

The Chair expressed wish that from next year ARASIA could enjoy regional cooperative projects and requested other Agreements and the IAEA Secretariat to help this new Agreement in fulfilling their goals.

Representatives from ARCAL reiterated that this Forum is an important tool for discussion among the four Agreements to help technical cooperation each other. ARCAL stated that they now have entered into full maturity and an analysis of past activities in order to identify areas for the future is in progress. ARCAL suggested that sharing of results of similar analysis of other agreements at the Quadripartite Forum would be commonly beneficial.

Representatives of RCA viewed that the Forum could focus on a common theme that the four Agreements perceive as an immediate challenge. RCA explained that attraction of funds for regional cooperative projects, development of good success stories and their use,

earning better recognition of regional cooperative agreements by regional and international development communities, and promoting better partnerships could be possible themes.

The Chair suggested the Forum should be on one theme every year while continuing to exchange information and success stories together with failure stories would be equally welcomed norm. The Chair then invited comments from the floor on this RCA's proposal.

The RCA Coordinator commented that in addition the four Agreements meeting once a year, necessary information could be exchanged through the coordinators since they have opportunities to meet each other quite frequently. He suggested that the Coordinators could be the focal points for exchange of information among the Agreements.

A representative from RCA (Malaysia) emphasized that now is the time for the regional cooperative agreements to move one step forward and expressed the need to conduct the Forum with themes. However, regarding the management issues, he also expressed reservation on what the RCA Coordinator mentioned that the coordinators of the Agreements would serve as the window for information exchange. He questioned about the expectations from the secretariat on successful information exchange.

The ARCAL Coordinator reminded the Forum that this Forum is not the secretariat's meeting but Member States' meeting like the meeting of the Group of 77. Therefore, she urged that this Forum should be prepared and done by the four Agreements

The AFRA Coordinator commented on the RCA's proposal to have thematic discussion. While explaining that during the past coordinators' meeting, they also tried to identify constraints of the Forum and the roles and responsibilities of the secretariat. He recalled that the first Forum in 1996 was organized by the secretariat and the report of the first Forum was also what would be the expectations from the Forum. He viewed that the thematic meeting would be one of the important issues that the Agreements would consider. But he also expressed concerns that this Forum may lose opportunity to exchange information if we only stick on the thematic topics.

The Chair requested the RCA Coordinator to reflect all the comments from each Agreement when preparing the Forum Report.

The representatives from AFRA requested the Chair to clearly define the characteristics of this Forum. They viewed that this Forum should deal with TCDC. AFRA also asked the participants what this Forum expects from Agency secretariat.

The Chair reiterated that the basic function of this Forum is to exchange information and experiences. The Chair added that it is a technical forum and not a political meeting like Group of 77. He further requested three coordinators to arrange this Forum on behalf of the Agreements.

ii) Exchange of information on the experiences

The Chair invited each Agreement to make presentation on good achievements and experiences that would be mutually useful.

AFRA introduced their endeavors on NDT programme that is one of the success stories developed this year within AFRA framework. AFRA explained that the NDT contributed

to the self-reliance of nuclear institutions. They further explained that two centers of excellence for NDT have been established in the region and the number of personnel certified to Level III has significantly increased.

ARASIA said at present they do not have significant activities but hoped next year to present a good success story. The Chair requested other Agreements to cooperate and coordinate with ARASIA in providing necessary information and experiences.

ARCAL presented on the successful use of nuclear techniques in early diagnosis of helicobacter pylori infection in the region. ARCAL underlined that the helicobacter pylori is becoming serious worldwide concern, particularly in most developing countries. To this end, the impact of this project will provide policy makers to make necessary measures to prevent the helicobacter pylori infection. ARCAL further urged the need to develop and strengthen inter-regional networking.

The Chair, as National RCA Representative of Pakistan said he would send Pakistan's experience in this area to ARCAL. The ARCAL Coordinator added that a new step is being taken to joining helicobacter pylori issues on nutritional aspect and hoped to continue exchange of information in this area.

RCA presented on the success stories in agriculture project. RCA's Lead Country for Agriculture (CPR) introduced various achievements in animal production, plant breeding and genetics, soil sciences, food irradiation to help infrastructure for commercialization and other areas of endeavors.

RCARO presented on the experiences of promoting RCA visibility and viability through awareness increasing activities and partnership promoting programme. RCARO mentioned that RCA achievements are not properly recognized by the regional and international development communities and it is imperative than ever to increase awareness of RCA so that good partnerships can be established between RCA and other development organizations. RCARO viewed that there are a wide range of possible and potential partners not only in the region but also worldwide that more orchestrated and dedicated efforts should be made with those development organizations so that RCA's viability can be attained.

ARCAL wished to learn RCA's effort to promote partnerships. ARASIA also wished to learn other Agreements' rich experience.

5. Conclusion

The Quadripartite Forum should be a platform for exchange of information on matters relevant to the Regional Agreements to promote inter-regional cooperation in applications of nuclear science and technology. The information exchanged could cover technical and managerial aspects, including success stories and lessons learned.

6. Closing

The Chair thanked all participants for their active and useful discussions and presentations during the Forum.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE QUADRIPARTITE FORUM:
AFRA, ARASIA, ARCAL, RCA & IAEA OFFICIALS**

AFRA

Prof. Fortunat Lumu Badimbayi-Matu
Commissariat Général à l'Energie Atomique
Dr. Messaoud Baaliouamer
Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique
Prof. Laila Fikri Fouad
Atomic Energy Authority
Ms. Vuyolwethu Msutwana-Qupe
Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa Ltd. (NECSA)
Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Hassan El Tayeb
Sudan Atomic Energy Commission
Prof. Christian Sina Diatta
Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique

ARCAL

Ms. Angelina Díaz García
Agencia de Energía Nuclear y Tecnologías de Avanzada
Ms. Maria Cristina Lourenço
Instituto de Radioproteção e Dosimetria
National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN)
Ms. Sandra Noriega Urizar
Permanent Mission of Guatemala
Mr. Sergio Olmos
Permanent Mission of Bolivia
Ms. Cecilia Urbina Paredes
Comisión Chilena de Energía Nuclear (CCHEN)

RCA

Mr. Munim Awais
RCA Chair and National RCA Representative for Pakistan
Mr. M.N. Razley
Representative of the National RCA Representative for Malaysia
Ms. R. Hewamanna
Atomic Energy Authority of Sri Lanka
Mr. Mr. SUN Guoqing
Coordinator for Agriculture (China)
Mr. J. K. Chung
RCA Regional Office
Mr. Q. Farriduddin
National RCA Representative of Bangladesh

IAEA OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT

Mr. B-K Kim -DIR-TCPB
Mr. Mahendra Prinath Dias - RCA Coordinator
Mr. Mokdad Maksoudi- AFRA Coordinator
Ms. Najat Mokhtar-NAHU
Mr. Mauro Valencia-NAHU
Ms. María Zednik-ARCAL Coordinator

QUADRIPARTITE AFRA/ARASIA/ARCAL/RCA FORUM

23 September 2004, Vienna, Austria

V.I.C., Room C07/V

15:00-17:30

AGENDA

- 15:00 1) Opening remarks by Chairperson: ARCAL Representative.
Hand-over to new Chairperson, RCA
- 15:10 2) Remarks by the DDG-TC
- 15:20 3) Designation of the bureau of the meeting by the new Chairperson:
RCA Representative
- Three Vice Chairpersons: AFRA, ARASIA and ARCAL
 - Rapporteur: RCA
 - Introduction of participants by the Agreement Coordinators
 - Adoption of Agenda
- 15:30 4) Matters for Discussion
- Member States' expectations from the Quadripartite Forum and role of the Secretariat (10 minutes for each region and 15 minutes discussion)
- 16.25 • Exchange of information on experiences that could be of benefit to other regions (10 minutes for each region, followed by 15 minutes discussion)
- 17:20 5) Adoption of major Conclusions and Recommendations of the meeting.
- 17:30 6) Closing

**Early Diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori*
Infection in Latin America through the use of
Nuclear Techniques
RLA/6/042**

**Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia,
Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua,
El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala,
Cuba and Mexico**



**Bacteria that colonizes and infects
the gastric mucosa**

**Is best detected by isotopic
techniques**

^{13}C / ^{14}C Urea Breath Test

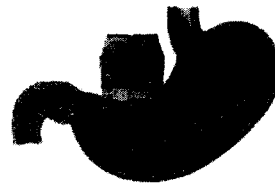
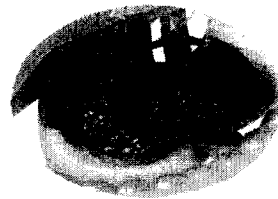


Worldwide Prevalence of H. Pylori Infection



Main Pathologies H Pylori is associated with:

- ➔ Gastritis
- ➔ Ulcers
 - ➔ peptic
 - ➔ gastric
 - ➔ duodenal
- ➔ Gastric Cancer
- ➔ Nutrients malabsorption and underweight



Risk Factors for Infection

- **Low socioeconomic status**
- **Poor hygienic conditions**
- **Water and food**



RLA /6/042 Objectives

- Enhance capability in the region for *Helicobacter pylori* diagnosis using isotopic technology
- Strengthen institutional capacities
- Develop self reliance and leadership
- Decrease prevalence and improve nutrition status

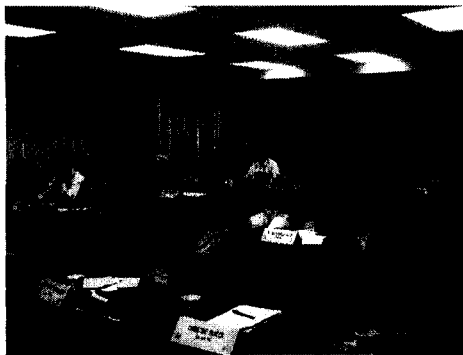


^{13}C / ^{14}C Urea Breath Test Advantages

- ◆ It does not need endoscopy.
- ◆ It has high sensitivity.
- ◆ It has high specificity.
- ◆ It evaluates the whole gastric surface.
- ◆ It can be used for initial diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection as well as control after treatment.



Advanced regional trainings

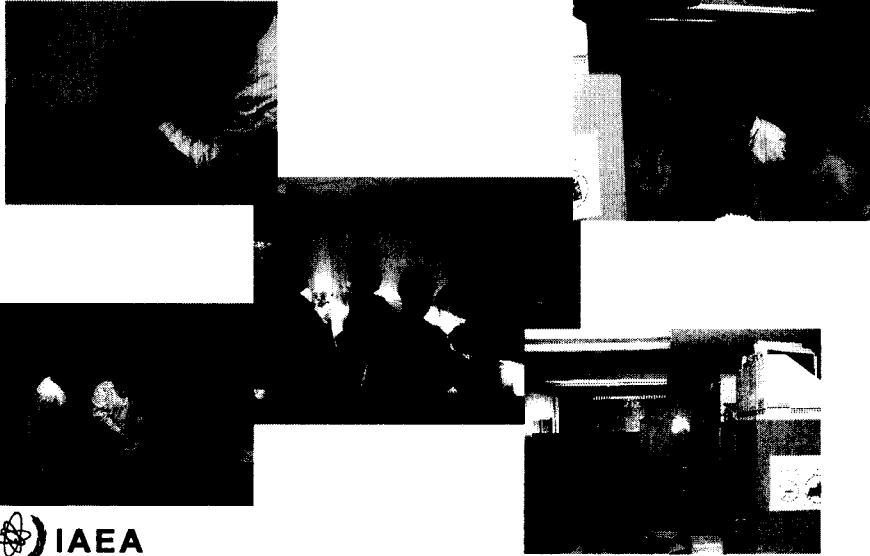


**Regional Course:
12 Countries 25 Participants**

In the Classroom



Regional Course: In the laboratory



Developing institutional capacities

Two functional established
stable isotopes laboratories
in the region



Sample Throughput



Impact on program implementation

Provide data to policy makers for strategy design and implementation to reduce *Helicobacter pylori* in the region



Development of inter-regional networking

- Consultants from LA have participated in the regional training course on *HP in Asia involving 10 young scientists.*
- Consultants from LA will participate in the regional training course on HP in Africa involving 25 young scientists from 12 Countries.



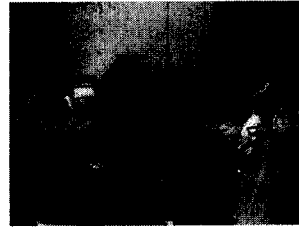
Looking ahead



- ***Coordinated actions for effective nutrition programs***
- ***Strengthen existing leadership and develop new institutional capacities***
- ***Strengthen the Inter-regional networking***
- ***Interaction with Africa and Asia regions***



The people that are making it happen



Thank you

