

December 6, 2018

Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)

Joint Communiqué

On the New Direction of the FNCA

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 utilisation of nuclear technology,

Acknowledging the potentiality of the utilization of radiation technology, based on its R&D results, which can contribute to areas such as: sustainable agriculture development; food safety; mitigation of the effect of the climate change; and, conservation of natural eco-systems, as well as the economic development of the member countries,

Recognizing the urgent need to reinforce nuclear security, including nuclear forensics and cyber security in nuclear facilities, through adequate preparations that deal with such potential risks as: terrorism threats and other critical security issues for the member countries,

Appreciating the steady progress being made by the FNCA clinical research projects in radiation oncology which can contribute to filling the existing gap in the status of radiation oncology that varies from country to country in Asia and to the mutual development of medical treatment technologies,

Realizing the importance of the Human Resource Development (HRD) in the nuclear energy infrastructure, which is crucial for those embarking on a nuclear energy programme and also for raising more public awareness on nuclear technology in order to build up public trust

Appreciating the steady progress of the FNCA project activities, and commending the winners of FNCA Awards for their outstanding achievements throughout the year of 2017 subsequent to the awards for 2016,

Welcoming international cooperation with those multilateral nuclear-related organizations, such as the IAEA and OECD/NEA, or with the relevant organizations of particular countries such as US Nuclear Regulatory Commission(US-NRC) and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) of the UK, which provides beneficial knowledge and experience of the management and application of nuclear science and technology,

Recognizing the important role of science, technology and innovation in addressing the current challenges and meeting the common goals of achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment in the context of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was further affirmed in the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear, Science and Technology organised by the IAEA in

November 2018,

Noting 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,

Decided to work toward:

1. Themes and activities to be promoted

Furthering the activities prioritized in general by the member countries related to the application of nuclear science and technology particularly in such areas as agriculture development and food security, environment protection, and human health, as well as nuclear security including nuclear forensics and cyber security, and HRD for nuclear safety and security culture which are universal concerns of the member countries, not only by accelerating the existing R&D themes but also by adopting possible future R&D themes of a wide spectrum of interests from the member countries in order to support their sustainable development,

2. Effort to enhance the practical use of R&D results in agricultural production

Encouraging the member countries to bring the R&D products of such projects as mutation breeding, radiation processing and polymer modification to the end-users including the private sector, taking into account the possibility of their commercialization for the member country's socio-economic well-being,

3. Assistance and cooperation for radiation oncology

Encouraging member countries to reinforce the promotion of radiation oncology in transition from experimental phase to practicing phase, which is to be covered during the Roundtable Discussion of 2019 or later with a focus on human health and medical well-being, with dissemination of the published protocols and hands-on training through the cooperation during the workshops in FNCA countries,

4. Cooperation with international organizations

Continuing to promote cooperation with relevant international organizations including the OECD/NEA with which the 2017 and 2018 Study Panel Meetings were organized for the themes related to legal affairs, and the IAEA, with whom the round table discussion of the 2018 MLM was held in the area of sustainable agriculture in cooperation with Joint FAO/IAEA programme,

5. Increase of sponsorship and diversification of financial resources for R&D projects

Increasing sponsorship of each member country to new projects to be adopted in whole or in part, or through other means including leverage on the practical use of the R&D results, according to the fiscal conditions of each country, so as to allow the adoption of more projects covering the various interests of member countries, eventually leading to further vitalization of FNCA activities as a whole.