

Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)
Joint Communiqué
on the New Direction of the FNCA
adopted at the 21st MLM, held virtually on December 10, 2020

We, the heads of delegation of countries participating in the FNCA: the Commonwealth of 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, 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 of greenhouse gas as stated in the Communiqué of the G20 Ministerial meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in June 2019,

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

Appreciating the progress made by the FNCA clinical research project 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 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,

Noting the impact on FNCA project activities during the year 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world,

Welcoming the initiative proposed by IAEA Director General Grossi to establish the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project to strengthen the capacity of Member States in combating zoonotic diseases through the use of nuclear and nuclear-derived techniques and the Agency's network of international research institutions,

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

Appreciating the progress of the FNCA project activities in agriculture, industry, medicine and environment, and commending the winners of the 4th FNCA Awards for their outstanding achievements,

Welcoming the continuous efforts being made by the IAEA to advance the safe and peaceful utilization of nuclear science and technology for the development of the socio-economic well-being of the world,

We have decided to work towards:

1. The normalization of FNCA project activities and regular meetings

Maximise efforts to promptly normalize FNCA project activities and the several regular meetings in response to the constraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring the safety of the project researchers and participants as a prerequisite and subject to national health policies,

Request the coordinators to conduct the CDM for coordination to proceed with the existing projects and evaluate the new project proposals by making the best use of virtual means such as online meetings where appropriate,

2. Future cooperation between the FNCA and the IAEA in the area of human health

Anticipating that the IAEA will strengthen its coordination with the relevant international

organizations including the WHO without duplicating existing mandates in combating zoonotic diseases including COVID-19, explore possible collaboration between the FNCA and the IAEA on the ZODIAC project in the future when the role and responsibility of the IAEA have been clearly defined in such cooperation,

3. Promotion of cancer treatments with radiation technology in Asia,

Accelerating the FNCA project in the member countries according to the policy established by the project leaders and endorsed by the member countries during the Round Table Discussion in the 2019 Ministerial Meeting to enhance cancer therapy with radiation technology in the Asian region,

Continue and intensify the efforts also through the cooperation with the relevant international organizations to develop and disseminate innovative technology related to radiation therapy,

4. 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 the adoption of “Nuclear Isotopic Technology and Climate Change” as the topic of the 2021 Study Panel,

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

Adopt “The Enhancement of Utilization of Research Reactors and Accelerators” as the topic of the Round Table Discussion of 22nd FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting,

Encourage the member countries, to utilize the outcomes of projects on mutation breeding, radiation processing, research reactor utilization, isotope production 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 countries’ socio-economic well-being,

6. Other areas and activities to be promoted

Promote activities related to the applications of nuclear science and technology, particularly in sustainable agriculture development and food security, environmental protection, medical care and

human health, and infrastructure development for nuclear safety and security culture, by accelerating existing R&D areas, and by adopting possible future R&D areas to support their sustainable development,

7. 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 the individual demand and situation of the member countries by utilizing virtual means such as webinar and/or online workshops where appropriate,

8. 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 further reinforce the relationships with relevant international institutions, including the IAEA and the OECD/NEA.