



**CO\_OPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR ARAB STATES IN ASIA  
FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING RELATED  
TO NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

# **GUIDELINES AND OPERATING RULES FOR THE ARASIA PROGRAMME**

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<u>Section</u>	<u>Article</u>
<b>SECTION 1: THE ARASIA AGREEMENT</b>	
Nature of the Agreement	4
Responsibilities of States Parties	4
Role of the IAEA	6
 <b>SECTION 2: THE ARASIA COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME</b>	
Scope and Categories of Projects	7
Technical Cooperation Projects	8
Coordinated Research Projects	8
 <b>SECTION 3: THE ARASIA BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES (ABR)</b>	
Membership	9
Responsibilities	9
ABR Meetings	11
 <b>SECTION 4: ARASIA CHAIR AND SECRETARIAT</b>	
ARASIA Chair	13
ARASIA Secretariat	14

**SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT OF THE ARASIA PROGRAMME**

Cooperative Project Development	15
Cooperative Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation	17
ARASIA Annual Report	19

**SECTION 6:**

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL COORDINATORS AND PROJECT LEAD COORDINATORS**

National Coordinators (Technical Working Group)	19
Project Lead Coordinators	22

**SECTION 7: ARASIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS**

Criteria and Considerations for the Identification of RRCs	23
Designation of RRCs	25
	26

# **GUIDELINES AND OPERATING RULES FOR THE ARASIA PROGRAMME**

## **SECTION 1: THE ARASIA AGREEMENT**

### **Nature of the Agreement**

The Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA) is an intergovernmental agreement established under the auspices of the IAEA. Any Arab Member State of the IAEA in Asia may become a party to this Agreement by notifying its acceptance thereof to the Director General of the IAEA. States Parties participate in any cooperative activity agreed upon, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, and in conformity with their respective plans, priorities and capabilities and have the same rights and responsibilities under the Agreement. The text of the Agreement provides the fundamental policy framework to govern the cooperation amongst the States Parties. It constitutes the frame of reference for any guidelines, operating rules and working procedures needed for the implementation of the Agreement.

### **Responsibilities of the States Parties**

1. Each State Party has the responsibility to:
  - (a) Make available to the ARASIA programme, and in particular to each cooperative project in which it participates, such physical infrastructure and personnel as it may have initially proposed and as is necessary to achieve the stated objectives;

- (b) Take the necessary measures to ensure that personnel from other participating States and from the IAEA are able to take part effectively in the cooperative activities carried out on its territory, and to ensure as well that its own personnel are able to participate in activities that are to be carried out in other States;
- (c) Take the necessary measures to ensure the participation of representatives of its interested national institutions and other relevant organizations in the ARASIA cooperative activities;
- (d) Take the necessary measures to ensure that any national institution and/or personnel designated by it (the State Party) to take part in any ARASIA cooperative activities shall not reveal to any non-participating party any information related to ARASIA cooperative activities without the concurrence of other States Parties;
- (e) Contribute financially or in-kind to the effective implementation of the ARASIA cooperative programme, in particular those activities in which it participates, and to notify the IAEA annually of any such contribution;
- (f) Submit to the IAEA, through the ARASIA Board of Representatives, in accordance with an agreed format, an annual report on the technical and financial aspects of the activities it has carried out in the framework of the ARASIA programme;
- (g) Decide upon the internal arrangements that will best enable it to execute its part of the co-operative projects and, to this end, designate:
- A national Representative, who shall act on behalf of his/her Government on all policy and programmatic issues relating to ARASIA activities and who shall serve as a member of the ARASIA Board of Representatives;
  - A national coordinator for each cooperative project and coordinated research project in which it

participates and who shall act as the representative of his/her State in the corresponding Technical Working Group.

## **Role of the IAEA**

2. The IAEA Director General is the depository of the Instruments of Acceptance of the ARASIA Agreement by Member States. The IAEA has the following roles and functions:

- (a)** Support, subject to the availability of resources, under the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme and other relevant programmes, ARASIA cooperative projects established in accordance with this Agreement, and approved by the IAEA Board of Governors.. The rules, practices and procedures that are applicable to the IAEA's technical cooperation or other programmes shall apply as appropriate.
- (b)** Provide the necessary secretariat support for the projects approved by the IAEA, in conformity with its relevant rules, practices and procedures;
- (c)** Invite, as appropriate, with the prior consent of the ARASIA Board of Representatives, any Member State other than the States Parties or appropriate regional or international organizations to contribute financially or otherwise, or to participate technically in a cooperative project approved by the IAEA Board of Governors. The IAEA shall inform the participating States Parties of any such contribution or participation;
- (d)** Administer, in consultation with the ARASIA Board of Representatives, the contributions made pursuant to Article IV.3 and Article VII.1of the Agreement, in accordance with its financial regulations and other applicable rules. The IAEA shall keep separate records and accounts for each such contributions;

- (e) Inform each State Party to the ARASIA Agreement of any notification received by the IAEA's Director General of acceptance of the Agreement by any Arab Member State of the IAEA in Asia;
- (f) Assist and advise as necessary in the preparation of proposals for cooperative projects in accordance with the IAEA Guidelines for programme preparation.;
- (g) Review and approve cooperative projects submitted for IAEA's support taking into consideration the IAEA's rules, practices and procedures, in particular those described in INFCIRC/267.
- (h) Attend to the extent possible the meetings of the organs foreseen in the ARASIA Agreement.
- (i) Undertake necessary measures to ensure that project allotted resources are used in accordance with the agreed upon project work plans and in compliance with the IAEA's relevant financial regulations and;
- (j) Report to ARASIA Board of Representatives on all Extra-budgetary contributions received in support of ARASIA cooperative projects;

## **SECTION 2: THE ARASIA COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME**

### **Scope and Categories of Projects**

3. The objective of the cooperative programme under the ARASIA Agreement is to promote, co-ordinate and implement cooperative activities for training, research, development and applications of nuclear science and technology according to the priorities defined by the States Parties. Cooperative activities may cover, inter alia, the areas of isotope and radiation applications in food and agriculture,

human health, industry, water resources management and terrestrial and marine environments, nuclear power, nuclear and radiation safety, and radioactive waste management.

4. The Co-operative Programme consists of the following two categories of Cooperative Projects: Technical Cooperation Projects and Coordinated Research Projects.

### **Technical Cooperation Projects**

5. Technical Cooperation Projects are a set of activities with clear objectives designed to meet the needs for the development and the practical applications of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.
6. Inputs to the Technical Cooperation Projects may include one or several of the following components:
  - services of experts, consultants and exchange of scientists;
  - fellowships, scientific visits and study tours;
  - training courses, technical workshop, seminars, and meetings;
  - provision of equipment and supplies.

### **Coordinated Research Projects**

7. Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) are undertakings essentially implemented by networks of national research institutions which work within an operational framework for research on a similar and well defined theme or problem focus that is relevant to, or can be resolved through, nuclear science and technology. CRPs are carried out through research agreements, research contracts and technical contracts.
8. Inputs to the coordinated research activities include one or several of the following components:



- participation in research coordination meetings
- provision of supplies and reference materials.

## **SECTION 3: THE ARASIA BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES (ABR)**

9. The ARASIA Board of Representatives (**ABR**) is the highest decision-making body of the ARASIA Agreement.

### **Membership**

10. The ABR is composed of national representatives designated by the States Parties to the Agreement. They are empowered to make commitments and take decisions on behalf of their respective Governments in connection with the implementation of the Agreement. They are, as such, the principal points of contact for ARASIA programme in their respective countries, and with the ARASIA Secretariat and the IAEA.

11. It is expected from ABR Members to have a good knowledge of national development priorities, programmes and relevant policies as well as familiarity with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

### **Responsibilities**

12. The ABR shall be responsible for:

- (a) establishing the policies, guidelines and strategies of ARASIA;
- (b) establishing rules and procedures for implementing the ARASIA Agreement;

- (c) considering and approving cooperative projects proposed by States Parties
- (d) reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the cooperative projects approved in accordance with the Agreement;
- (e) determining the conditions upon which a State that is not party to the Agreement or an appropriate regional or international organization may participate in a cooperative project;
- (f) Considering any other matter related to or connected with the promotion and coordination of the Agreement.
- (g) Serving as the interface between the government, the ARASIA Secretariat and the IAEA in all matters related to planning, programming, successful programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ARASIA activities.
- (h) taking part in the decision-making process on all issues related to the implementation of the cooperative programme of the Agreement, and convey the views of his/her respective Government;
- (i) submitting, proposals for Cooperative Projects on behalf of his/her respective Government;
- (j) ensuring the submission to the IAEA, through the ARASIA Board of Representatives in a timely manner and in accordance with an agreed format, an annual report on all aspects of the activities carried out in the framework of the ARASIA programme, particularly the technical and financial aspects;
- (k) taking appropriate steps to secure the necessary financial and otherwise support for ARASIA programme, in consultation and close co-ordination with the other Members in the Board of Representatives, his/her respective national authorities and the Agency;

- (l) ensuring the availability of the necessary required resources, scientific and technical facilities and personnel for the efficient and effective implementation of the cooperative projects;
- (m) Notifying the ABR of the nomination of qualified counterparts for each of the ARASIA cooperative project his/her respective country participates in, and ensures, to the extent feasible, that they are available for the entire period of the project, and that they are provided in a timely manner with the necessary information for their activities;
- (n) ensuring participation of his/her country nominees in ARASIA activities;
- (o) Ensuring that the decisions taken at the ABR meetings are implemented and reported on, as appropriate;
- (p) Ensuring that no information related to ARASIA projects is revealed to non participating parties without the concurrence of other Participating Parties.

### **ABR Meetings**

13. Pursuant to Article II of the ARASIA Agreement, the Board of ARASIA Representatives shall hold two ordinary meetings per year:
- The Regional ABR Meeting; and
  - The General Conference ABR Meeting.

Additional meetings of the ABR may be called by the Chair of the ABR, if and when required, at the request of an ABR Member or the IAEA, after consultation with all other ABR Members.

The cost of attendance of the meetings of ABR shall be borne by the Participating States Parties.

14. **The Regional Meeting of the ABR** shall usually be held in the first quarter of the year at venues in the region, upon

agreement by the ABR. During the meeting, the ABR, as appropriate, may:

- (a) Review the overall implementation of the ARASIA programme and take appropriate decisions for improving its effectiveness and efficiency;
- (b) Review the ARASIA Annual Report which will be based on the annual reports submitted by States Parties;
- (c) Consider and approve ARASIA policy issues; Medium Term Strategies, including, overall management and planning approaches as well as development and co-ordination of funding strategies;
- (d) Examine and consider projects concepts for the development of new projects every other year;
- (e) Approve the portfolio of projects to be proposed and establish priorities for the forthcoming TC cycle;
- (f) Examine and take follow-up actions on conclusions and recommendations made during meetings organized in the framework of cooperative projects;
- (g) Decide on the future priority areas of the ARASIA Programme; and
- (h) Consider any other matters related to the implementation of the ARASIA Agreement.

**15. The General Conference ABR Meeting** shall be held during the week of the ordinary session of the IAEA General Conference, or during the week prior to the General Conference, usually in September at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna. During the meeting the ABR shall:

- (a) Approve the project concepts for the new projects (every other year) and decide on their priorities;

- (b) Take decisions on the issues outstanding from the Regional Meeting or referred to it by the Regional Meeting;
  - (c) Consider any other matter related to the implementation of the ARASIA programme, and the financial status of the programme.
16. The minutes of the ABR Regional Meeting and the ABR General Conference Meeting shall be distributed to ABR Members within a month after the Meeting. The ABR Members shall provide their comments on the minutes within two weeks to the ARASIA Secretariat. The revised minutes shall be circulated within two weeks after receipt of comments. This version of the minutes shall be considered as the adopted report of the meeting if no further comments are received within one week.

## **SECTION 4: ARASIA CHAIR AND SECRETARIAT**

### **ARASIA Chair**

17. An ARASIA Chair, who will also be the ABR chair, shall be elected among the ABR Members and shall hold office for a period of five consecutive years.
18. The ARASIA Chair shall have the following roles and responsibilities:
- (a) Convene and chair the ABR Regional and General Conference Meetings;
  - (b) Address invitations to ABR Members to attend ABR meetings;
  - (c) Ensure that ABR meeting documents are prepared in time, finalized and circulated to ARASIA States Party and the IAEA;

- (d) Submit to the IAEA, on behalf of the States Parties, the project proposals approved by the ABR
- (e) Seek guidance from the ABR Members and the IAEA on policy matters that may arise between ABR meetings;
- (f) Undertake designated duties in representing ARASIA States Party;
- (g) Guide and supervise the work of the ARASIA Secretariat;
- (h) Ensure that the ARASIA Secretariat has sufficient resources and qualified administrative staff to fulfil the tasks assigned to it.
- (i) Consult with the ARASIA States Parties on the extension and Initiate the process for the extension of the ARASIA Agreement and submit, in accordance with article XII.2 of the Agreement, to the IAEA's Director General as the depositary of the Agreement, the decision of the Agreement extension taken by ARASIA Board of Representatives (ABR).

### **ARASIA Secretariat**

23. An ARASIA Secretariat shall be established and attached to the Chair of ARASIA.
24. The ARASIA Secretariat, under the supervision of the ARASIA Chair, shall have the following duties:
- (a) Prepare and circulate, in coordination and consultation with ABR members and the IAEA Secretariat, all documents related to the ABR meetings, in particular, agenda of the meetings, documents to be reviewed and discussed at the meetings, reports of the meetings and any other relevant information;

- (b) Keep records of all the cooperative projects, policy and strategic documents, and documents concerning other matters relating to the work of ARASIA;
- (c) Keep on file, electronically or otherwise, all information relating to the ARASIA Agreement and its implementation;
- (d) Maintain and update the ARASIA website, with the support of the IAEA and States Parties.

## **SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT OF THE ARASIA PROGRAMME**

25. The management of the cooperative projects constituting the ARASIA programme follows the operating rules described in the following paragraphs. Programme management includes strategic planning, programme development, project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting at the different stages of the projects. It also includes ensuring availability of adequate resources.
26. The ABR and the IAEA Secretariat should make every effort to secure the funding necessary to the successful implementation of the ARASIA Programme.

### **Cooperative Project Development**

26. Cooperative project development includes project concept formulation and design. The following criteria shall be taken into

consideration when formulating Cooperative Projects and deciding on relative priorities:

- (a)** The relevance to ARASIA Vision, Mission , Medium Term Strategy, and the Regional Programme Profile;
- (b)** The relevance to the development needs and programmes of individual States Parties (identified through consultations with relevant stakeholders) and the expected impact.
- (c)** Commitment at national levels to maximize sustainability.
- (d)** Potential benefits and advantages of using nuclear techniques.
- (e)** Benefits deriving from undertaking a regional cooperative approach, including potential complementarities and synergies among States Parties .
- (f)** Potential for improving the utilization of established regional networks and resources;

27. In addition, the Coordinated Research Projects submitted for ABR consideration shall also meet the following criteria:

- (a)** The research should be problem driven and contribute to the objective of the relevant ARASIA Programme;
- (b)** The research should be oriented towards the achievement of one clear and specific objective of significance to the participating States Parties; and
- (c)** Indicators for monitoring research progress should be definable and the anticipated results should be achievable within a 3-5 year time frame.

28. The procedure for Project Development shall consider and meet the requirements of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme and/ or of any other potential sponsoring agencies.



29. For the Coordinated Research Projects to be supported by the IAEA, the Research Contract Programme policies and procedures of the IAEA shall apply.

### **Cooperative Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation**

30. The IAEA Secretariat shall inform the ARASIA Chair of the approved projects for implementation under the Technical Cooperation Programme, together with the descriptions of the projects, as soon as the Technical Cooperation Programme for the following programming cycle is finalized.
31. Any State Party may participate in an IAEA approved cooperative project by notifying the IAEA and the ABR of its participation
32. States Parties intending to participate in any cooperative project should take in due consideration the relevance of the project for the national development priorities, and the availability of the physical infrastructure and human and financial resources needed for implementation of the project.
33. Each State Party participating in a project shall implement the relevant project components assigned to it and shall make available the necessary facilities and personnel for the implementation of the project and take all reasonable and appropriate steps for receiving experts, fellows, participants in training events and meetings. The ARASIA Board of Representatives shall take measures, as may be necessary, to ensure smooth overall project implementation.
34. The IAEA Secretariat will arrange for the technical inputs for the project from IAEA technical officers, in the form of regional training courses, project planning and review meetings, expert missions, Fellowships /Scientific Visits and equipment to be delivered to the States Party

35. The ARASIA Board of Representatives shall take measures to ensure the availability of national resources for project implementation.
36. To further ensure the successful implementation of ARASIA programme, the ARASIA Board of Representatives appoints among the National Coordinators a Project Lead Coordinator (PLC) for each cooperative project.
37. Coordination at project level is done principally through regular meetings attended by National Coordinators and the IAEA's relevant staff. These meetings will be convened separately for each project at regular intervals, preferably every 2 years.
38. In accordance with Article IV of the ARASIA Agreement, for the National Coordinator each State participating in a project shall submit to the Project Lead Coordinator (PLC) before 31 January of the year following the year under review an annual report on the progress of the implementation of the components of the project assigned to the participating State during a given year. The report should describe the activities foreseen and those implemented during the year under review, highlight the results achieved, the constraints encountered that might impact negatively on the project and impede on the achievement of project objectives.
39. A consolidated project report, including all inputs received from National Coordinators, shall be prepared by the PLC and submitted to the IAEA Secretariat and the ARASIA Secretariat before 15 February of the year following the year under review.
40. Following the completion of each cooperative project, an end-of-project report shall be prepared by the respective PLC.
41. Cooperative projects selected by the ABR for evaluation shall be evaluated according to the evaluation procedures of the supporting organizations, in order to assess the achievement of the objectives and draw any lessons to be used in future ARASIA programmes.

42. Reports on Cooperative Project evaluation conducted by ARASIA should be reviewed by ABR for follow up on any conclusions and recommendations.

## **ARASIA Annual Report**

43. The ARASIA Annual Report shall reflect all activities and matters relating to the ARASIA Agreement and its implementation. It shall contain information on all what has been undertaken and/or achieved in the framework of the ARASIA Agreement in terms of (i) policies and strategies, (ii) Cooperative Projects development, monitoring and evaluation, and (iii) ARASIA Programme Management.
44. The ARASIA Annual Report shall be prepared by the ARASIA Secretariat. Any needed information on project finances, statistics and factual data retrievable from the IAEA's databases shall be provided by the IAEA Secretariat to the ARASIA Secretariat as required.

## **SECTION 6: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL COORDINATORS AND PROJECT LEAD COORDINATORS**

### **National Coordinators (Technical Working Group)**

45. There shall be for each cooperative project a Technical Working Group composed of the National Coordinators.
46. States Parties shall appoint the National Coordinators on the basis of their sound technical knowledge of the project and the ability to provide leadership on the project implementation. The duration of the appointment shall be for the duration of the project.
47. Members of the Technical Working Group may agree among themselves to meet as often as required for an effective coordination of the project implementation. The IAEA may convene an annual meeting of the Technical Working Group to review the progress of the IAEA approved project and amend the work plan as appropriate.
48. The National Coordinator leads a Project National Team comprising of personnel with required qualifications and expertise, and assign tasks for the members of the project team. The end-user institutions shall be integrated in the project teams as appropriate. The persons nominated to attend regional events scheduled under the project shall be members of the project teams.
49. National Coordinators shall have the following roles and responsibilities:
  - (a) Provide leadership for implementation of the projects at national level;
  - (b) Provide information on the progress of the projects to the respective Project Lead on a regular basis;
  - (c) Provide information concerning the national status of projects past and present so that the project team can have an overview and analysis of their national status and requirements.
  - (d) Provide information to the ABR on national status and needs of the ongoing projects, and information needed

for project design when requested by the ARASIA Representative;

- (e)** Establish and maintain links with relevant national institutes, and potential end-users in consultation with the ABR.
- (f)** Establish a Project National Team with the approval of the ARASIA National Representative, and assign responsibilities for each member;
- (g)** Recommend to his/her ARASIA National Representative the members of the National Teams who could be nominated for ARASIA events and activities and ensure their timely nomination;
- (h)** Prepare work plans for implementation of the project at national level (National Work Plans), and monitor the progress of implementation ;
- (i)** Submit the national progress report on project implementation and the end- of- project report to the IAEA Secretariat and the ARASIA Secretariat through their respective ARASIA Board of Representative.
- (j)** Determine details for the implementation of the respective cooperative project in accordance with its objectives;
- (k)** Establish, and amend as necessary, the work plan for the cooperative project
- (l)** Supervise the implementation of the cooperative project; and
- (m)** Make recommendations to the ABR and to the IAEA with respect to their respective projects approved by the IAEA, and to keep under review the implementation of such recommendations

## **Project Lead Coordinators**

50. To further ensure the successful implementation of ARASIA programme, the ARASIA Board of Representatives appoints among the National Coordinators a Project Lead Coordinator (PLC) for each cooperative project.
51. The PLC shall be selected from among the National Coordinators for each proposed and/or newly approved Cooperative Project at one of the ABR meetings.
52. The PLC shall have the following roles and responsibilities:
- (a)** Provide leadership for the efficient and effective planning, designing, preparation and implementation of the project to achieve its stated aims and objectives;
  - (b)** Develop detailed design of the project using the Logical Framework Matrix, based on the positively appraised and recommended Concept in consultation with the National Coordinators stakeholders, the relevant technical staff of the IAEA and the ARASIA Secretariat.
  - (c)** Monitor the implementation of the projects and progress in participating States Party through reports of and correspondence with the National Coordinators;
  - (d)** Submit annually Progress Reports to the ARASIA Secretariat and to the IAEA secretariat summarizing the status of implementation of the project in all the participating States Parties;
  - (e)** Submit the end-of-project report to the ARASIA Secretariat and to the IAEA secretariat within six months after the completion of the project.

53. Coordination at project level is done principally through regular meetings attended by National Coordinators and the IAEA's relevant staff. These meetings will be convened separately for each project at regular intervals, preferably every 2 years.
54. In accordance with Article IV of the ARASIA Agreement, the National Coordinator in each State participating in a project shall submit to the PLC before 31 January of the year following the year under review an annual report on the progress of the implementation of the components of the project assigned to the participating State during a given year. The report should describe the activities foreseen and those implemented during the year under review, highlight the results achieved, the constraints encountered that might impact negatively on the project and impede on the achievement of project objectives.
55. A consolidated project report, including all inputs received from National Coordinators, shall be prepared by the PLC and submitted to the ARASIA Secretariat before 15 February of the year following the year under review.
56. Following the completion of each cooperative project, an end-of-project report shall be prepared by the respective PLC

## **SECTION 7: ARASIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS**

57. ARASIA States Party recognize that efforts have been made by Member States across the region to develop and strengthen scientific and technical organizations/institutions and human capabilities in the different fields of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. These organizations/institutions, along with the scientific and technical expertise that have been accumulated over the years need, not only to be recognized, but also to be utilized, to the extent possible and as agreed by States Parties, in the development and implementation of the ARASIA Cooperative Programme for the benefit of ARASIA States Parties.

58. The existence of a recognized scientific and technical expertise, in terms of physical facilities and human resources constitute a valuable regional resource for the ARASIA Cooperative Programme. This has the potential to increase the sustainability of the ARASIA Cooperative Programme focused on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and provide an effective and efficient mechanism for the implementation of the ARASIA cooperative activities. These regional facilities, which shall be called ARASIA Regional Resource Centres (RRCs), can make a significant contribution to Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC).

59. An ARASIA RRC may include any of the following:

- (a) A national scientific and technical institution/organization carrying out activities in one or more of the fields of the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes;
- (b) Any part or segment of a scientific and technical institution/organization (such as an institute, a department, a laboratory, a unit, or other sub-structure) carrying out activities in one of the fields of the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes;
- (c) A well-established group of experts within a national scientific and technical institution/organization.

60. An ARASIA RRC shall provide, for the benefit of the ARASIA Cooperative Programme and its States Parties, any of the following:

- Training services;
- Consultant services;
- Analytical, calibration or other types of measurement services;
- Design and/or production and/or maintenance of scientific instruments;
- Scientific and technical information.



## Criteria and Considerations for the Identification of RRCs

61. To be considered as an ARASIA RRC, it must:
- (a)** Be willing to share its expertise and/or facilities and/or knowledge with other ARASIA States Parties;
  - (b)** Be able to exercise a leadership role in one or more areas of the ARASIA cooperation activities through linkage mechanisms, networking and use of TCDC modality.
  - (c)** Have adequate logistics and communication facilities and confirmed reliability in servicing and skills in management;
  - (d)** Be able to deliver appropriate services required by the ARASIA Cooperative Programme in an effective, efficient and timely manner;
  - (e)** Have the required facilities and human and financial resources to satisfy the needs of other ARASIA States Parties as identified in the ARASIA Cooperative Programme.
62. The criteria which shall be used for the designation of an ARASIA RRC are:
- (a)** Scientific and/or technical excellence in one or more of the areas of the ARASIA Cooperative Programme demonstrated by the publications record, scientific and technical achievements or any other successful work;
  - (b)** Existence of adequate technical capabilities for the purposes of the ARASIA Cooperative Programme;
  - (c)** Existence of adequately trained staff at different levels to provide the envisaged services to other ARASIA Member States in the framework of the ARASIA Cooperative Programme.

## Designation of RRCs

63. ARASIA States Parties may submit through their respective ABR representative any application for the designation of national scientific and technical structure or group as an ARASIA RRC.
64. The designation of a national scientific and technical structure or group as an ARASIA RRC is declared by the ABR on the basis of recommendations made by a technical committee appointed by the ABR to assess the ability of the candidate structure or group to fulfil the functions of an ARASIA RRC. An application form and associated questionnaire for the purpose of this assessment shall be prepared, and revised periodically by the ABR.
65. A decision on the designation should be made by the ABR within one calendar year after the submission of the application.
66. The designation of ARASIA RRC shall be made public and highlighted in the ARASIA Annual Report and other public information documents, as appropriate.
67. The designation of ARASIA RRCs shall be reassessed every five years. The reassessment shall follow the same procedure as for the designation.
68. The designation of one ARASIA RRC does not exclude the possibility of designating other ARASIA RRCs in the same field of expertise.
69. In selecting the ARASIA RRCs to be used in the implementation of the ARASIA Cooperative Programme, preference will be given to the ARASIA RRCs that are willing to offer services free-of-charge or as an in-kind contribution to the ARASIA Cooperative Programme.