



IAEA/RCA Mid-term Progress Meeting on the Development and Applications of Advanced Radiography and Tomography Technique, Hanoi, Vietnam, 24-26, March 2008

IAEA/RCA Mid-term Progress Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 24-26 March 2008. The recommendations, suggestions and other issues raised in the Meeting are summarized as:

Recommendations:

The Regular Radiographic Testing (RT) Training Curricula currently in practice has no significant contents on Digital Radiography and other online Imaging Techniques. The Science & Technology behind current Digital Radiography (DR) & Computer Tomography (CT) imaging techniques are entirely advanced and different than the conventional radiography. Most of the current faculty members appear to lack hands-on experience and technical knowledge in film-less electronic imaging techniques. Practitioners engaged in RT services require interaction with R&D. Professionals in advanced imaging techniques. Linkages and Interactions among RT practitioners, Regular RT Faculty and R&D Professionals in the RCA region is a must if we are serious for propagation and amalgamation of advanced Imaging Techniques for true societal benefits and industrial growth.

- There is a need to train the trainers (TTT) for general RT. In addition specific TTT for DR&CT is also required.
- Among RCA Member States in the Asia Pacific Region, some have achieved considerable progress as a result of their sustained endeavor in establishing National Programmes and excellent linkages under the broad objectives of the current Project cycle. Some Member States are at a threshold of achieving harmonization with the regional developments. However, a few of them appear to have lacked behind in their programme implementation due to financial and technical constraints and they would need special attention.
- It would be worth planning if IAEA

coordinates a multi-prong strategy by pulling regional resources and expertise to bring them also in the mainstream. There is a big transition taking place world over in new NDT techniques and for thorough propagation of necessary technological advancement among all RCA countries.



Suggestions:

1. IAEA under RCA programmes should initiate and support new programmes under project cycle 2009-2011 and beyond in specialized NDT techniques using nuclear radiations for sustained industrial and manpower growth, safety and synergy among all the RCA Member States. This approach will prove very positive for the region for the next few decades.
2. Compilation of a list of regional experts in specialized Techniques
3. Identification of Regional Centres for specialized NDT techniques for Fellowship programmes/Bilateral Training programmes and pulling regional experts for extending technical expertise to other Member States requesting such help.
4. For finalization of the current project (RAS/8/105) under the 2007-2008 cycle, it is suggested to organize the "Final Review Meeting" to be attended by all National Project Coordinators (NPCs) by the end of 2008 or early January 2009. Bangladesh and Indonesia offered to host this meeting. Progress on development of QAM will also be reviewed at the same event.
5. New Regional/Inter-regional CRP on

- advanced radiation based Imaging Techniques to address increased demand of specialized NDT technologies.
- It is strongly recommended that the position of designated Technical Officer, NDT at the IAEA be retained. This was unanimously supported by the meeting participants of the Project Midterm Review Meeting at Hanoi, Vietnam. This reiterates the previous recommendation made at the Project Planning Meeting in Goa, India (July 2007)

Examination question data bank:

Considerable discussion was held on the establishment of a common question data bank for all member states. It was agreed that the following options be explored:

- Mr. L.J. Dick (New Zealand) to raise this issue with the Policy and General Purpose (PGP) Committee of ICNDT at its meeting at the WCNDT in Shanghai in August this year. The object of the discussion at the PGP meeting is to explore the possibility of ICNDT supporting IAEA/RCA in the procurement of an examination question data bank that meets international requirements. It was also recommended that IAEA be approached following the ICNDT meeting to provide financial support for the purchase of common examination data base.
- With reference to the objectives of the Colombo Meeting in 2005, all member states to supply a minimum of 2 examination papers for all 5 sectors (UT, PT, RT, MT, ET) at level 2 following the ICNDT meeting (if required)

Communication:

All member states raised the issue of problems with communication regarding the fact that the minutes for both the Auckland and Goa meetings had not been received by NPC. IAEA is requested to look into the existing communication channel. Correspondingly, delegates will check to see if problems exist in communicating information within their own country

It was recommended that shorter communication channel be developed within RAS-8-105 member states. Mr. Yong Moo Cheong was nominated as a focal point for the distribution of information, such as draft documents for the minute.

Practical Examination Test Samples

Performance of the respective member states was reviewed against the objectives agreed at the Colombo Meeting:

Australia:	Achieved
Bangladesh:	In progress (2012)
Sri Lanka:	in progress (2009)
Mongolia:	in progress (2009)
Indonesia:	in progress (2009)
Malaysia:	in progress (2009)
Philippines:	in progress (December 2008)
Vietnam:	in progress (2009)
Korea:	in progress (2010)
India:	in progress (2009)
Myanmar:	in progress (2012)
Thailand:	in progress (2009)
New Zealand:	Achieved
China:	Achieved
Singapore:	Achieved
Pakistan:	in progress (2010)

Progress of all member states has been in accordance with the objectives set in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

IAEA/RCA/RTC on Quality Management System and Strategic Planning, *Bali, Indonesia, 21-25 April 2008*

IAEA/RCA Regional Training Course (RTC) on "Quality Management System and Strategic Planning" was held in Bali, Indonesia, in 21-25 April 2008. 20 participants from 12 RCA countries and 5 local participants were attended. Mr. D. Barnett from Australia took part in most of the lecture. The purpose of this training course is related to development of Quality Management System and preparation of Strategic Plans, which should be established by each member countries in order to follow the international standards including authorization of examination centres and qualifying body to ISO 9712 and ISO 17024.



17th WCNDT postponed to 25-28 October, 2008

17th World Conference on Non-Destructive Testing (WCNDT) originally scheduled to 27-30 August, 2008 has been postponed to 25-28 October 2008. Because of the demolishing earthquake happened in Si Chuan province, which has caused and shall cause big problems of transportation, communications and hotel reservations in China, the authority of Chinese government asked to postpone to some other date due to its being conjunct too closely to the 29th Olympic games take place in Beijing in August. In fact, any international conference and activities of large scale in China shall be possibly stopped during that period and be shifted to other suitable date, according to the authority.

News from RCA Countries

Korea, Republic of:

2008 Annual Spring Conference of the KSNT held in Daejeon

Annual Spring Conference of the Korean Society of Nondestructive Testing (KSNT) was held in 22-23 May 2008 in Korea Electric Power Research Institute (KEPRI), Daejeon. 55 technical papers in the various field of NDT were presented by oral and posters. Special topics in the Conference were on the NDE of nuclear industries and certification scheme by ISO standards.

ENDE 2008 Workshop will be held in Seoul

The 13th International Workshop on Electromagnetic Nondestructive Evaluation (ENDE 2008) will be held on June 10~12, 2008 in Seoul Education and Culture Center, Seoul Korea. Approximately 80 papers from USA, Korea, Japan, France, Germany, etc. will be presented in the Workshop. More than 100 researchers, engineers and professors will participate and discuss current issues on electromagnetic NDE. For more information visit website: <http://www.ende2008.org> or contact to e-mail at ende2008@gmail.com.

Malaysia

1st Technical Working Group (TWG) of Malaysian Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (MIBAS) on ISO 17024 held 5

March 2008

In respond to the need for the NDT laboratories to be accredited tin accordance with ISO 17020, Malaysian Accreditation Body, namely the Department of Standard has established a TWG. The Group comprises of representatives from Malaysia Nuclear Agency (Nuclear Malaysia), PETRONAS, Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB), Malaysian Society for NDT (MSNT), Intestmal and SIRIM Bhd. The Department of Standard acts as secretariat for this Group. The TWG has its first meeting on 5th of March at the Department of Standards, Putrajaya. It is expected that the Group will produce a supplementary document which will be used by Malaysian members of NDT community in conjunction with ISO 17020 document in their effort to get them accredited.



19th MSNT AGM

19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Malaysian Society for Nondestructive Testing (MSNT) was successfully held on 30th April 2008 at Palm Garden Hotel Putrajaya. The meeting was attended by 63 members representing academic institutions, research institutes, service companies and equipment suppliers. Issues discussed in this meeting include:



1. Remark questioning the reliability of ultrasonic thickness measurement by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health
2. PETRONAS recognition on NDT Certificate issued by the National Certifying Body
3. Attachment of students in NDT related organization
4. Introducing NDT subject in academic institutes at diploma or degree level

Election of Board Members for 2008/2010 was held at the end of this meeting. Results of this election indicated that majority of the old members retained their positions. Major positions elected in Board are as, President: Dr. Abd. Nassir bin Ibrahim, Vice President: Dr. Khazali bin Hj. Mohd Zin, Secretary: Dr. Mohamad Pauzi bin Ismail, Treasurer: Dr. ab. Razak bin Hamzah.

Recognition of NDT Certificate issued by local NCB

During the AGM that was held on 30th April, a member from PETRONAS, Mr. Wan Abdullah Wan Hamat revealed PETRONAS plan to include the requirement for level 2 certification in NDT methods in contracts that involved NDT inspection of PETRONAS facilities. With this plan, it becomes very clear that NDT certificates issued by the Department of Skill Development that act as the National Certification Body (NCB) will gain dye recognition from the bigger paymaster. It is hoped that this announcement will encourage local NDT service providers to send their personnel for training and examination in level 1, 2 and 3 for all NDT methods.

Sri Lanka

Remarkable Increase of NDT Technology in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka now has rapidly developing industrial sector, such as petroleum, steel fabrication, power generation, pressure boilers, high roof building etc., and the new project on oil exploration and construction of off-shore oil wells and highways. Therefore the demand NDT technology during the first two quarters of this year has been remarkably increased. About 40 NDT services have been

provided to government and private sector organizations by the Atomic Energy Authority and most of them are large scale inspections. Two NDT training courses on Penetrant Testing – Level 1 and Radiographic Testing –Level 2 have been completed and Magnetic Particle Testing – Level 1 course has planned to be initiated from 26th May 2008.



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