

Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)
Joint Communiqué on the New Direction of the FNCA
adopted at the 25th Ministerial Level Meeting (MLM25),
December 19, 2024

We, the heads of delegation of countries participating in the FNCA: 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 Viet Nam,

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 research and development (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,

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

Noting the potential value of nuclear energy, which can contribute to energy mix solutions, and to reducing and/or avoiding emissions of greenhouse gas,

Acknowledging the importance of securing required human resources in the nuclear science and technology fields, and radiation utilization field and the importance of succession of knowledge, including through promoting gender balance and gender equity, as well as attracting young generation/ diverse professionals,

Commending the winners of the FNCA Award, which was resumed this year, for their outstanding achievements,

Noting the issues and the need for improving them in production and distribution of medical radioisotopes in the member countries, acknowledged through the discussion on "Production of Radioisotopes for Medical Use and Demand" at March 2024 Study Panel,

Sharing the significance of the FNCA, which celebrated the 25th anniversary of its founding, that

the activities have been uniquely demonstrating great achievements for improving “Food and Human Health” through the discussion in this Ministerial Level Meeting, and recognizing that member countries have collaborated on its commemorative events,

Welcoming Singapore’s formal participation in FNCA as a new member country and in FNCA project activities in 2025,

Noting the need for reinforcing cooperation among the member countries in the related fields, acknowledged through the discussion on “Outlook on Next Generation Reactors Including SMRs” at Study Panel in June, 2023, and on “Design Concepts and Users Requirements of Next Generation Reactors including SMRs” at the online Seminar in October, 2024,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation with nuclear international/ intergovernmental organizations such as the IAEA, the OECD/NEA, IFNEC and other relevant national/ international organizations, and having agreed to put in perspective potential cooperation/ collaboration with such bodies,

We have decided to work towards:

1. Sustainable agriculture development and food safety, environmental protection, medical care and human health, nuclear safety and security culture

Continue to expand our activities in the application fields of nuclear science and technology and radiation utilization related to the development of sustainable agriculture and food safety, environmental protection, medicine, and the development of infrastructure for nuclear safety and conservation culture. In doing so, we will promote existing R&D fields, and with an eye to the future, proactively adopt R&D fields that are of broad interest to member countries and that contribute to sustainable development.

2. Cooperation in Human Resource Development (HRD) of the nuclear science and technology field, and radiation use

Depending on the needs and circumstances of each member country, we will hold face-to-face seminars and workshops, as well as webinars and online workshops, on initiatives related to systematic personnel exchange and enhancement of human resources infrastructure, so that we can promote information exchange. Diversity in participation, leadership and representation in FNCA projects and activities is important. We will seek to achieve equality in the nuclear science

and technology field, including through promoting gender balance and age diversity in the workforces.

3. Spread of the R&D results

Encourage the member countries to facilitate uses of the outcomes of projects on mutation breeding, radiation processing, research reactor utilization, isotope production, neutron activation analysis, and those related to nuclear applications, by end-users, taking into account the possibility of their commercialization, which can more effectively contribute to the member countries' socio-economic well-being.

4. Information sharing on next generation reactors including SMRs

In accordance with the discussion on "The Outlook of Next Generation Reactor including SMRs, at the 2023 Study Panel, promote information exchange with related issues, and in order to share development status on new type reactors among member countries, put importance on information exchange about potentialities and outlook on technical, safety, and economic aspects.

5. Other areas and activities to be promoted

Promote the activities prioritized by the member countries related to the applications of nuclear science and technology, particularly in sustainable agriculture development and food security, environment protection, medical care and human health, and infrastructure development for nuclear safety and security culture, by accelerating existing R&D areas and also by adopting possible future R&D areas of a wide spectrum of interests from the member countries to support their sustainable development.

6. Expansion of public communication and public relations functions

Continuously work on building up public trust on nuclear science and technology in the member countries and the Asian region, and endeavours to expand public relations functions through FNCA website and open lectures held in the member countries.

7. Enhancement of relationship with international/ intergovernmental organizations

Make efforts to further reinforce the relationships with relevant international/ intergovernmental organizations, including the IAEA, the OECD/NEA and IFNEC, in the areas where synergy effects

can be expected between FNCA activities and theirs.

For example, explore a future collaboration between FNCA and the IAEA, which launched “Rays of Hope,” expecting that the radiation therapy protocols established by the FNCA project can be widely utilized in the framework of “Rays of Hope.”