

# **RCARO'S ROLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RCA: MEMBER STATES' POINT OF VIEW**

**By**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The approval by the 27<sup>th</sup> National RCA Representatives Meeting in April 2005 of the full operation of the RCARO was a time of jubilation and relief – the uncertainty that has hovered over the RCARO for the past three years was gone, and more importantly, a time of looking ahead to the future. I suppose this strategic planning workshop was conceived for this purpose.

We cannot, however, plan for the future of RCARO without going back in time and analyze the purpose and vision of the RCA.

## **RCA: ITS PURPOSE AND VISION**

The membership of the RCA has grown from 10 member countries in 1972 to the present 17 member countries. Projects have become greater in number and complexity, and management tools have become more sophisticated.

Notwithstanding these developments over the past 33 years, the fundamental principles that governed the IPA project in the mid-60's still guide the RCA, and which should also govern the RCARO. What are these principles?

- a) sharing of knowledge in nuclear science and technology through research and training;
- b) solution of regional problems in a cooperative manner
- c) this cooperation should work for the benefit of the people of the region

At the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the United Nations brought into focus serious problems that confront the world, and solicited the commitments of member nations to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and to sustainable development. The

**the RCA must respond to these problems (hunger and poverty, ravages of diseases, access to clean drinking water, deteriorating environment) as the affected population in the Asia-Pacific region comprises almost half of the world's population.**

**As the RCA matures, it aspires to become a visible and respected part of the region's science and technology community, establish itself as a leader in nuclear science and technology, and participate in shaping S & T policies in the region.**

**As the RCA programme takes on a wider leverage in terms of planning, implementation, funding and management, the RCA must adopt to new modes of partnerships and to modern tools of management, and exploit the maximum utilization of ICT for efficiency and cost-effectiveness. RCA is gaining momentum in managing its program within the region, and is qualified to provide the platform for facilitating dialogue of common issues and problems in the region.**

**With a growing capacity for research and training, RCA is experiencing a greater level of TCDC. There is a need to manage the utilization of the available expertise as well as the exchange of expertise to reap greater returns from such an important resource.**

**From the Member States' point of view, the RCARO should support the RCA attain its aspirations and vision.**

## **RCARO: ITS ROLE**

### **1. Public Relations Agent for RCA**

**RCA is a good product, but it lacks the know-how and the time, perhaps, to project itself as an important, at times, pivotal, engine of regional development. The RCARO can utilize the information on the success stories and the RRUs in the RCA Member States to undertake this task. The ENO project has created a program to compile a database on the RRUs. A complete file of RCA regional experts and the capabilities of the RRUs will be a powerful tool for the RCARO to advertise the RCA.**

### **2. Facilitator for TCDC**

**Through its database of experts and RRUs, the RCARO may work hand in hand with the Secretariat in farming out fellowships to the RRUs and deploying experts to the region or to other regional agreements. Its proposed linkage with the other agreements will link it to the needs of the latter.**

### **3. Fund raiser for the RCA**

**Having considered the available human resources and scientific infrastructures in the RRU's, the RCARO would be in a better position to link with international funding agencies and explore possible partnerships and funding for RCA. The RCARO should study the profiles of these development agencies in order to develop proposals attuned to the priorities and thrusts of these funding agencies.**

### **4. Training center for RCA support staff**

**A well-informed staff is a critical change agent. The RCARO has already initiated this activity, and should be encouraged to continue training the RCA support staff.**

### **5. Facilitator for knowledge management and knowledge preservation**

**The RCARO can coordinate a committee to make plans for knowledge management and knowledge preservation needed by the RCA member states.**

### **6. Regional programming**

**The RCARO can orchestrate the regional programming in coordination with the lead country coordinators and RCA Coordinator.**