



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY**



REPORT OF
THE 38th RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

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IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

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ACRONYMS

CRP(s)	Coordinated Research Project(s)
DDG-TC	Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation
DDG-NA	Deputy Director General, Nuclear Applications and Research
DIR-TCAP	Director for the Asia and the Pacific Region
DIR-RCARO	Director RCA Regional Office
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GCM	RCA General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
MS(s)	RCA Member State(s)
MTS	RCA Medium Term Strategy
NR(s)	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	RCA Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PLCC	Project Lead Country Coordinator
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RCA FP	RCA Focal Person
RRU(s)	Regional Resource Unit(s)
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Assistance and Cooperation
SH-TCAP1	Head of Section 1 of the Asia and the Pacific Region
TC	Technical Cooperation
TO	Technical Officers
TCAP	Division for Asia and the Pacific
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Development Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MTS-WG	Working Group on extending the RCA Medium Term Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The 38th RCA General Conference Meeting was held on the 11th of September 2009 at the IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria. Twenty nine participants from the 16 RCA Member States; Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), China (CPR), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Republic of Korea (ROK), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), Pakistan (PAK), the Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA), Vietnam (VIE), and four representatives of RCA Regional Office (RCARO) attended the Meeting. New Zealand (NZL) was not represented.

Ms. Ana Maria Cetto, (DDG-TC), Mr. Natesan Ramamoorthy (acting DDG-NA), Mr. Dazhu Yang (DIR-TCAP), Mr. Mokdad Maksoudi (SH-TCAP1) and Mr. Prinath Dias (RCA FP) represented the IAEA. Agency's Technical Officers, Project Management Officers of the Division for TCAP and support staff also attended.

The list of the participants is given in Annex 1.

I. Opening

I.1 Opening Remarks by the RCA Chair

Mr. Tsutomu Arai, the RCA Chairman, and the National RCA Representative of Japan, welcomed the participants and the invitees. He noted that since the last NRM in April in Tokyo, there had been developments in RCA activities based on the decisions made at NRM and this Meeting would discuss the outcomes of these decisions including the reports of the Working Groups appointed at this NRM. He sought the cooperation participants for the smooth conduct of the Meeting.

The Opening Remarks of the RCA Chair are given in Annex 2.

I.2 Messages from the IAEA

The Chair invited Ms. Ana Maria Cetto (DDG-TC) to deliver her message.

Ms. Cetto welcomed all participants to Vienna, and greeted those attending for the first time. She introduced, Mr. Dazhu Yang, the new Director of the Division for Asia and the Pacific, who is now responsible for all policy matters related to RCA.

Following on recent developments in RCA, she noted RCA's efforts to increase the effectiveness of the RCA programme. She appreciated the efforts of the Working Group to extend the current RCA Medium Term Strategy and thanked them for their dedication. She noted in particular the proposal to introduce the concept of supplementary projects, designed to address the specific needs of smaller groups of Member States and that a recommendation on a more flexible system of project participation was included.

She noted that it was encouraging to see RCA's decision to identify the Strategic Priorities for the RCA programme for the next three TC Cycles. She said that the development of a regional strategy for regional agreements was recommended by SAGTAC, and other regional agreements have already developed regional profiles and strategies in line with this recommendation.

She stated that the comparatively high Implementation Rate of 79 % the RCA programme achieved last year was an indication of the efficacy of the measures RCA has introduced. She commended the ongoing efforts by the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) to raise public awareness of successful RCA projects, which was an excellent support for the establishment of partnerships, one of the goals of the TC Strategy. She mentioned that this was highly commendable, and she assured all participants of the fullest cooperation of the IAEA in these efforts, through the Division for Asia and the Pacific.

She took the opportunity to invite all participants to an informal briefing on Monday on results-based management and field-level capacity building.

She expressed the wish that the Meeting would successfully achieve all its objectives and said that she looked forward to learning about the outcome of the deliberations.

The Message of DDG TC is given in Annex 3.

The Chair invited Mr. N. Ramamoorthy, Acting DDG-NA to deliver his message on behalf of Mr. Werner Burkart, DDG NA.

The Acting DDG-NA stated that RCA was of particular importance to the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, since so many participants were users of nuclear technology.

He noted that the project "Strengthening Medical Physics through Education and Training", had substantially contributed to harmonizing education and clinical training requirements in the RCA region. Thanks to the support of all participating RCA Member States, the first IAEA guide for clinical training of medical physicists in radiation oncology had been accepted for publication in the new Human Health Series of the IAEA publications.

He also stated that in the field of radiation oncology, three other projects aimed to improve regional and national capacities for radiotherapy services in RCA Member States by creating a sustainable mechanism for national training programmes on evidence-based applications in radiation oncology. Based on regional and national training programmes and strengthening QA activities, these projects introduced QUATRO audits to clinical practice.

He highlighted the field of nuclear medicine, especially the project "Strengthening Clinical Applications of PET in RCA Member States" with the overall objective of improving cancer management through the effective and precise application of PET in clinical practices for cancer management.

He mentioned that the IAEA Laboratory at Seibersdorf has provided technical backstopping to a regional IAEA/RCA project related to air pollution monitoring by using nuclear analytical techniques (NATs). Considerable progress has been observed in using the data produced by NATs for identification of pollution sources and source apportionment in support of air quality management.

He noted the participation of RCA Member States in a number of projects in the area of food security that address transboundary regional issues. In the area of radiation technology, he mentioned that some countries in the region were now able to produce radiation processed products such as hydrogels with good physical properties for wound dressing, biodegradable polymer for agricultural and industrial applications. Some countries had successfully commercialized these products.

He also highlighted the activities related to non-destructive testing (NDT) technology for industrial quality assurance and advanced digital industrial radiology and computed tomography.

He emphasized the important role of RCA NRs, as their advice to their countries was invaluable, especially in securing resources for the implementation of key nuclear technologies that could accelerate the pace of development. He concluded by wishing the Meeting every success.

The Message of DDG-NA is given in Annex 4.

I.3 Adoption of Agenda – RCANRM(37)/1

The revised Agenda, which was circulated in advance to the participants, was adopted with two revisions to include self-introduction of the participants and a photo secession. The adopted Agenda is given in Annex 5.

The Meeting agreed to adopt the Agenda with the above-mentioned changes.

I.4 Introduction of the participants

At the request of the Chair, all the participants introduced themselves.

I.5 Appointment of rapporteurs

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA FP announced that Mr. J-K Lee, of the RCA Secretariat, would be the rapporteur for the Meeting.

II. Views of the Technical Officers of RCA Projects

The Chair invited the Technical Officers of the RCA Projects to give the National RCA Representatives their views on issues related to the projects for which they were responsible.

Mr. Danas Ridikas, TO RCA project, “Value addition of Materials by Neutron Irradiation (RAS/4/026)” brought the attention of the Meeting to a recommendation made at the consultants meeting on “Strategic planning and regional networking for sustainability of Research Reactors” held in August 2009 in Australia, supporting the implementation of new regional TC project on neutron scattering applications.

Ms. V. Koukolous, TO RCA project, “Sustainability of Radiation Protection” (RAS/9/042) stated that an Asian Cardiologist Network for intervention cardiology, a Forum for the Regulators and an Asian ALARA network (ARAN) had been established under this project. She said that these networks were very important for the continuation and sustainability of the cooperation and to exchange information among RCA countries. She sought the cooperation of the National RCA Representatives to ensure the sustainability of these networks after this project is closed in 2010. She noted that the persons nominated to be the focal points for these networks played a key role in this regard.

Ms. E. Salminen, TO RCA Project, “Improving Image Based Radiation Therapy for Common Cancers in the RCA Region”, (RAS/6/053), stated that this project focused on capacity building and improving the quality of radiotherapy service in the RCA countries. She said that the commitment of the participants of this project was strong and collaboration and communication were excellent. However, as noted in DDG-TC’s remarks, a strong national commitment and

resources to implement the project on national level were required to ensure sustainability. She said that some National Project Coordinators (NPCs) had indicated a lack of support from national authorities for implementation of this project and sought the assistance of the National RCA Representatives to ensure the NPCs received the support and the resources required for the successful implementation of this project as well as to ensure its sustainability.

AUL stated that designing the projects to ensure a high impact was a key issue and sought the views of the Technical Officers on this issue, based on their experience not only with RCA projects but also with the other projects for which they were responsible.

Mr. K-Y Nam, Technical Officer of the previous RCA project, “Energy Planning” (RAS/0/045) stated that the tools developed by the Agency for energy planning had been introduced to the Member States through previous RCA projects on this topic. He said that this had to be an ongoing exercise due to changes taking place and pointed out that there was no RCA project on Energy Planning in the current TC cycle.

Mr. Haji-Saeid Seyed Mohammad, Head of the Section for Industrial Applications and Chemistry, stated that the results of the Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) of the IAEA could be a good basis for starting upstream work for the design of regional projects. He also stated that the expertise of the IAEA collaborating centres could be used for the design of regional projects. He mentioned the Malaysian Nuclear Agency, which was designated as the IAEA collaborating center in radiation technology, as one of the examples.

The Chair thanked the Technical Officers for their contribution.

III. Matters arising from the 31st Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives – Tokyo, Japan 21-24 April 2009 – RCAGCM (38)/2

The Chair invited RCA Focal Person to introduce this item. The RCA FP advised that the status of the implementation of the decisions taken at the 31st NRM was given in tabular form in the Background Paper RCAGCM(38)/2. He also said that, in order to save time, the Meeting might wish to consider seeking clarifications rather than discussing each of the items in this paper.

AUL requested information on its current status of collaboration with FNCA on mutation breeding.

RCA F P said that decision of the NRM had been conveyed to PLCC of the project and following subsequent consultation with the FNCA coordinator they had agreed on future work plan. One of the decisions made was that PLCC and TO should attend the FNCA Workshop on Mutation Breeding to be held in China. The Technical Officer’s participation would be at no cost to RCA. This was an initial step in the collaboration with FNCA and more information would become available with the progress that could be expected.

AUL requested the updated report on this issue at next NRM. AUL also requested the circulation of the report of the last NRM as a Background Paper of future GCMs.

The Meeting decided that the RCA Focal Person include the updated progress on FNCA collaboration on mutation breeding at the next NRM agenda following the FNCA Workshop on mutation breeding to be held in September 2009 in China.

IV. Report of the Working Group on extending the RCA Medium Term Strategy – RCAGCM(38)/3

The Chair requested RCA FP to introduce this issue. The RCA FP said that the 31st NRM decided to appoint a Working Group to prepare proposals for extending the RCA Medium Term Strategy to 2012-2017 and to make recommendations on development of a regional profile that would lead to identification of future strategic regional priorities. He said that the NRM also delegated some other issues related to the RCA programme to the Working Group for its recommendations. He said that the Working Group met in Vienna in July 2009 and had made recommendations on all the issues referred to it by the NRM, which were contained in the Report of the Working Group Meeting. He said that for the ease of discussion and decision making, the recommendations of the Working Group on these three main items were presented in three separate Background Papers for discussion under three sub-items of the Agenda

IV 1. RCA Medium Term Strategy for 2012-2017 and the Implementation Plan – RCAGCM(38)/4-Rev. 1

The Chair invited Chairperson of the Working Group to present the recommendations of the Working Group on RCA Medium Term Strategy.

Dr. Ron Cameron, the National RCA Representative of Australia and the Chair of the Working Group (MTS-WG) made a presentation highlighting the main revisions proposed by the Working Group to the current RCA Medium Term Strategy. He thanked the other members of the Working Group for their contribution. He said that the Working Group decided to retain the current structure of the RCA Medium Term Strategy and improve the key elements such as the vision and mission statements, core values and the strategic content. He also said that the Working Group made the following specific recommendations.

Appointment of the RCA Chair.

The MTS-WG has recommended that the RCA Chair should be appointed for a longer term, in place of the current host country nomination process. Since the MTS had delegated several other tasks to the RCA Chair, in addition to chairing of the Meetings, the RCA Chair needed to have the ability, knowledge, resources and Government support and commitment to undertake this role. The Working Group was of the opinion the appointment should be for a longer period to ensure continuity and retention of cooperative memory. The NRM could still be chaired by the host country.

Thematic Areas

The MTS-WG had recommended Food and Agriculture, Human Health, Environment and Water, and Applications of Radiation to Industry as the Thematic Areas for the RCA Programme. The Working Group had also recommended creation of supplementary projects to meet specific requirements in addition to the core projects in the above four areas.

Participation in the RCA Projects

The MTS-WG had recommended a flexible system of project participation. The criteria to be used should relate to whether the Member State has the necessary infrastructure, expertise and government commitment to enable full participation in the project. For countries without these requirements, but who wish to develop them, they should be able to participate in workshops and

training courses for a limited period of time, but not be part of the technology transfer arrangements.

The MTS-WG Chair said that although the Working Group did not discuss it, consideration also should be given to countries that participate as resource providers. He said that some of the requirements such as progress reporting should not apply to these countries.

RCA Web sites

The MTS-WG had also recommended the integration of the RCA websites. It was recommended that both the RCA Members Only web site and the RCA Public Web-site should be hosted by RCARO.

The Report of the Working Group on RCA Medium Term Strategy is given as Annex 6.

This issue was opened for discussion.

MAL the current host of the RCA Members Only web site, agreed with the recommendation of the working group for the integration of both websites.

IND commenting on the recommendation on appointment of RCA Chair said that this would need careful consideration especially with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the RCA Chair and the duration of the appointment. IND also stated that it supported all the other recommendations.

CPR queried about the source of funding for the RCA Chair. CPR also stated that the performance indicators should be more focused so that they could be applied in a practical manner to assess the performance.

PAK said that there should be criteria for selection of the RCA Chair in the event there was more than one nominee.

MTS-WG Chair, suggested the GCM agrees to the recommendation on the appointment of the RCA Chair in principle, with the understanding the criteria for appointment and other details would be presented to the next NRM for consideration and approval.

PHI said that it supported the recommendation on appointment of RCA Chair but, as suggested by PAK, the criteria for selection should be developed. PHI also inquired of the possibility of considering R&D related projects as supplementary projects. Referring to the sustainability of RCA projects, PHI stated that one of the recommendations of the Working Group on TCDC was for each Member State to have an exit strategy.

Responding to the query of PAK on whether the supplementary projects could be from the core areas, MTS-WG Chair stated that the choice of supplementary project could be flexible as much as possible.

PHI queried the reason for not considering energy as one of the thematic areas. Responding to the explanation of MTS-WG Chair that this was not considered in view of the other programmes of the Agency in this area, PHI suggested the reasons for not considering energy as a Thematic Area should be stated in the MTS.

VIE expressed concern that there was no reference to nuclear power and energy planning in the medium term strategy.

Responding to a query from JPN, MTS-WG Chair said that the numbering of the Thematic Areas in the MTS was not according to a priority order.

The Chair said that there appeared to be an agreement in principle for the recommendations for the Working Group but some issues such as the appointment of the RCA Chair needed further discussion.

The Meeting adopted the Medium Term Strategy for 2012-2017 contained in Annex 6 of this report, subject to further discussion and decision on the modality of appointment and the duties of the RCA Chair.

The Chair invited views of the Meeting on the modality of appointment and the duties of the RCA Chair.

The MTS-WG Chair suggested that the appointment of the Chair could be through a nomination process. He said that the role and responsibilities of the RCA Chair could be circulated to the Member States with a request to nominate suitable persons with experience in RCA matters, who could represent RCA and respond to the IAEA regarding RCA issues. Resources required for the RCA Chair to function effectively should be available.

PAK commented that some developing countries might not be able to nominate a person due to the difficulty in securing funds for the salary of the RCA Chair for a period of 2 or 3 years.

RCA FP stated that the RCA Chair need not be a full time position and the need for the payment of a salary would not arise. However, it should be possible for the RCA Chair to devote sufficient time to attend to RCA activities and other resources such as communication facilities should be available for the Chair to function effectively. RCA FP suggested that modality of the appointment, and the roles and responsibilities of the RCA Chair be discussed and adopted at the next NRM.

The MTS-WG Chair suggested that the development of proposals on the roles and the responsibilities of the RCA Chair and the modalities of appointment could be delegated to the members of the Working Group.

The Meeting requested the Working Group on RCA Medium Term Strategy to develop the role description of the RCA Chair and present proposals on the procedure for appointment of the RCA Chair for the consideration and approval of the next NRM.

IV 2. Development of RCA Strategies Priorities for 2012-2017- RCAGCM(38)/5

At the request of the Chair, the MTS-WG Chair outlined the procedure and the timeframe recommended by the Working Group for the development of the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017, contained in Annex 7 of this report. He said that the Working Group had recommended the development of a Regional Profile by a consultant using the information obtained from the Member States through a survey. Working Groups appointed for each Thematic Area comprising two experts and a National RCA Representative would use the Regional Profile to identify the Strategic Priorities. He said that the Working Group had prepared the questionnaire for the survey, the Terms of Reference for the consultant, the format of the Strategic Priority Document and the timeframe. He said that the Strategic Priorities for 2012-

2017 will be presented to the next NRM so that it could be used for the development of the RCA Programme for the 2012/2013 TC Cycle.

PAK requested clarification on how the NRs to be appointed to the Working Groups would be identified.

RCA focal person stated that the Agency would take action to appoint the Working Groups for the preparation of the proposals on Strategic Priorities.

PHI re-emphasised the need to include energy as one of the Thematic Areas.

MTS-WG Chair stated that the priority areas would depend on the outcome of the survey and need not be limited to the Thematic Areas identified by the MTS.

The Meeting agreed to the procedure and the time frame proposed by the MTS-WG for the development of the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017, given in the Annex 7 of this report.

The RCA FP sought the cooperation of the National RCA Representatives for the implementation of the proposals on the development of the RCA Strategic Priorities.

IV 3. Other Matters Referred to the Working Group – RCAGCM(38)/6

At the request of the Chair, the MTS-WG Chair presented the recommendations of the WG on the other matters referred to it by the NRM. He presented the recommendations of the WG on criteria for high impact of RCA projects, criteria for participation of non-RCA states, TCDC in the RCA programme and project closure.

SH-TCAP1 referring to the recommendations regarding the participation of non-RCA Member States in RCA projects and activities stated that the first two recommendations related to other means of providing support to non-RCA Member States were concerns of the Agency. Regarding the recommendation on the agreement of the host country for the participation of non-RCA participants in RCA events, he stated that according to current procedures, a host country could deny the participation of a particular country in regional events only for security reasons and this recommendation would have to be revised to reflect it.

Responding to the comments of SH-TCAP1, the MTS-WG Chair stated that even though the first two recommendations were not concerns of the RCA Member States, it would be necessary to know whether the other mechanisms for obtaining support to meet the needs of non-RCA Member States had been exhausted before deciding to provide support through RCA. He also said that the comments of SH-TCAP1 with regard to the last recommendation would be taken into consideration.

SH-TCAP1 commenting on the recommendation on project closure stated that it would not be possible to keep a project open for a long time after all the planned activities had been implemented and suggested that due consideration be given to the duration of the projects at the design stage so that the objectives could be met before the project was closed.

RCA FP stated even though the Agency would close a project after all the activities had been completed, the RCA Member States could continue to monitor the progress of the national activities of the Member States. He said to his understanding what had been proposed was continued reporting of the progress of RCA projects to the NRM after the projects had been

closed by the Agency. He said in effect there would be two closures, the Agency closure and the RCA closure. Commenting on the first two recommendations he said it would be difficult for the Secretariat to request a non-RCA Member State to inform whether other mechanisms for assistance had been explored when a request was made to participate in an RCA Project.

PHI stated that the PLCCs and NPCs should be made aware of the need to continue to report on the progress of the projects after they were closed.

The Chair thanked MTS-WG Chair Dr. Ron Cameron for his presentations.

The Meeting accepted recommendations made by the Working Group on the other issues referred to it by the 31st RCA NRM given in Annex 8 of this report.

V. RCA Regional Office

V.1 Report of the Director of the RCARO-RCAGCM(38)/7

At the invitation of the Chair the DIR-RCARO, Mr. M-K.LEE presented his report.

RCA Success Stories

DIR-RCARO stated that nine RCA success stories have been published up to now. Even though they were suitable for public consumption, he proposed the publication of future success stories in a more comprehensive booklet form to make them more suitable for presentation to policy makers and to potential partners. He introduced the new format of the Success Stories. He also proposed the procedure for the development of the Success Stories according to the new format.

Participation in regional conferences to increase the RCA's awareness

Reporting on this topic, the DIR-RCARO stated that the RCARO had participated in the Asian Congress of Radiation Research held in May 2009 in ROK. He said that the RCARO made a presentation on RCA activities and presented posters at the exhibition. He said the RCARO had had consultations with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and had the opportunity to meet the under-Secretary General and provide a brief on the RCA activities, in particular the details of the project on Post Tsunami Environmental Assessment. He said that the RCARO had also participated in the 8th National Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology of Vietnam held in August 2009 in Vietnam and made a presentation on RCA activities. He also stated that there would be three presentations on RCA activities at the East Asia Seas Congress 2009 to be held in November 2009 in Philippines.

RCA Information Service

DIR-RCARO stated that information on RCA activities was being posted on the RCARO web site. He said that the RCARO had also updated the database on stakeholders, end users and potential collaborative partners.

RCA/UNDP Post-Tsunami environment Assessment Project

He said that, as decided at the last GCM, this project had been extended to the end of 2009, with an expanded scope and final review meeting would be held 20-23 October 2009 in Manila, Philippines. The final report would be issued in November 2009 and circulated to the RCA NRs and other targeted readers. As for the development of a follow-up RCA/UNDP programme, he stated that, as Member States had not submitted concept proposals, RCARO identified five candidate concepts through discussion with relevant experts. They were evaluated and prioritized at the RCARO Workshop for the selection of one or two projects to be implemented from 2010.

He added that RCARO would develop a plan for the project document after getting the approval at this 38th RCA GCM.

Preservation of Nuclear Knowledge

DIR-RCARO reported that a total of 18 students graduated from KAIST/RCARO Master's degree programme this year. He also said that the joint KAERI/RCARO regional training programme would be held this year with the participation of 19 participants from the Member States. He said that the joint Training Programme with Asian Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine (ARCCNM) would also be held this year in Jakarta, Indonesia. He also said that up to now 35 Fellows have participated in the RCARO postdoctoral fellowship programme.

Partnerships with other regional organizations

DIR-RCARO stated that based on the recommendations of the Workshop held in July in Jeju Island, RCARO would take action to present candidate projects to potential partners.

Extra Budgetary contributions

DIR-RCARO reported that RCARO plans to make extra-budgetary contributions to the RCA projects in 2009/2010.

He invited Programme Officer of the RCARO Mr. J-S Lee to report on the outcome of the Workshop on Partnership Promotion And Sustainable Development held 7-9 July 2009 in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

The report of Director RCARO is given as Annex 9.

Mr. J-S. Lee presenting a summary of the outcomes stated that the Workshop was divided into 3 sessions; (i) to develop a strategy for the promotion of the partnerships with international organizations, (ii) to set priorities of the concept papers for candidate projects for the purpose of developing new RCARO partnership projects and (iii) to plan a future direction of the RCARO activities.

He provided the details of the presentations made at each session and the recommendations of the Workshop. The report of the Workshop is given as Annex 10.

The Chair suggested that the discussion on the presentation of the RCARO Chair could be taken together with the Report of the RCARO SAC Meeting, since the issues were common.

V2. Report of the Chairman of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee

The RCA Chair, who also functioned as the Chair of the RCARO SAC, presented the report of the 9th Meeting RCARO SAC held on 10 September 2009. The report of the RCARO SAC is given as Annex 11.

Workshop on Partnership Promotion And Sustainable Development

Session 1 – Development of strategies for the promotion of the partnerships with international organizations

The Chair outlined the views of the RCARO SAC on the recommendations of the Workshop on this issue.

AUL stated that it was not in agreement with the 7th recommendation, as it will lead to the loss of the coherence of RCA programme.

PAK and CPR supported AUL comments.

PHI suggested acceptance of this recommendation if the CRPs were funded by the RCARO.

The Meeting accepted the recommendations on session 1 except the last recommendation on implementation of CRPs.

Session 2 – Priorities of the concept papers for candidate projects for the purpose of developing new RCARO partnership projects

The Chair stated that the RCARO SAC considered the recommendations of the Workshop in this regard and recommended the development of projects from the Concept Papers submitted using the fast track mechanism.

During the discussion that followed, the Meeting decided not to support the last Concept Paper on “Development of Productive Strains of Algae by Radiation Mutation” because of its large research component.

As for the recommendations on session 2 on the setting up of the Concept Papers for candidate projects for the development of new RCARO partnership projects, AUL requested clarification whether it was an RCARO SAC recommendation or an RCARO recommendation and added that the 3rd recommendation was related to a CRP.

The Meeting approved the development of the Concept Papers on “Promoting and Accelerating New Evolving Nuclear Nano-Molecular Imaging Technologies and Related Cyclotron Technologies in the Region” and “Electron Beam Applications to Treatment of Environmental Pollutants” according to the fast track mechanism outlined in the RCA GOR.

Session 3 - Future direction of the RCARO activities

The Chair reported that RCARO SAC proposed to revise the second recommendation of this session as “(RCARO) to build up skills and acquire knowledge *to assist MSs in managing and implementing RCA Projects*”.

PAK expressing appreciation of the contribution of RCARO to RCA activities stated that it was the RCA Member States who were responsible for RCA policy matters and decisions related to RCA cannot be taken in other forums.

AUL proposed that recommendation 4 should be revised to as “*seek* involvement in project planning..... “ and recommendation 3 should be revised as “*with the agreement of National RCA Representatives* to have a close involvement.....“. AUL supported recommendation 5.

IND supported the views of AUL.

CPR also proposed the addition of the wording “*with the agreement of National RCA Representatives* “ to the third recommendation.

The Chair, responding to a query made by INS, stated that the agreement of the National RCA Representatives could be either at a meeting or could be obtained through circulation of a request for agreement to the National RCA Representatives.

The Meeting agreed to the recommendations of the Workshop on the future directions of the RCARO subject to the above revisions. The adopted recommendations are given in Annex 12.

RCA Success Stories

The Chair stated that the RCARO had proposed publication of the Success Stories in a booklet form rather than as a two page leaflet as done at present and invited the comments of the Meeting on this issue.

AUL was of the view the success stories were for the purpose of influencing the policy makers and it was unlikely that this could be achieved through their publication in booklet form owing to the time required to read such a document, whereas a two page leaflet would enable a busy policymaker to quickly grasp the achieved successes. He said comprehensive details of RCA projects would be relevant only to technical audiences and such a document could be prepared on a case by case basis, if a need arose. AUL stated that considering the efforts that would have to be made by all concerned, the booklet form should not be considered unless there was a specific need for this form of success stories

Mr. Jin-Hyung Kim Administration Officer, RCARO stated that the proposal was to publish the Success Stories in both booklet and brochure formats. While the leaflet form was meant for the general public, the booklets were intended for technical audiences and policy makers. He said that the potential donors who had been contacted had requested more information than that given in the Success Stories.

The DIR-RCARO was of the view even though a policy maker would not read all the details in the booklet form, it would create a good impression of the work of the RCA, which could not be achieved through the leaflet form of the Success Stories.

AUL proposed publication of one of the Success Stories in the booklet form on a trial basis.

PHI supported the proposal of the RCARO to publish the Success Stories in booklet form.

RCA FP stated that even the publication of the Success Stories in the leaflet form required a significant effort owing to the need for it to be a quality document containing verified facts. He suggested compilation of the nine Success Stories published so far and the four stories to be published, into a booklet.

PAK supported this proposal.

The Chair suggested acceptance of the AUL proposal to publish one Success Story in booklet form.

The Meeting decided that one of the four Success Stories identified at the 31st NRM should be published in booklet form on a trial basis and all four in leaflet form. All Success Stories in booklet and leaflet forms should be submitted to a meeting of the NRs for approval before publication. The Success Story to be published in booklet form will be decided through consultations with the RCA FP and the relevant PLCCs.

VI.1. 32nd RCA Meeting of National Representatives, Philippines 2010

PHI confirmed its agreement to host the 32nd NRM in 2010 and the meeting venue would be in Manila. RCA can choose the proposed dates of 22-26 March or 19-23 April or 26-30 April 2010. PHI requested the feedback on the most convenient dates for RCA NRs.

The Meeting decided to hold the 32nd RCA Meeting of National Representatives in the Philippines on 26-30 April 2010.

VI.2 33rd RCA Meeting of National Representatives, 2011

INS agreed to host the 33rd RCA NRM to be held in 2011.

VI.3 RCA Representations at the FNCA Coordinators' Meeting

RCA FP stated that the last GCM decided RCARO should represent RCA at the FNCA Meeting held this year, but no decision had been taken on RCA representation at future FNCA Meetings.

AUL suggested that at the next year's meeting RCA would be represented by RCARO, while the new RCA Chair would represent RCA at the future FNCA meetings.

The Meeting decided that RCA should be represented by RCARO at the next FNCA Meeting and the new RCA Chair should represent RCA at the future FNCA meetings.

VII. Any other business

RCA FP stated that a questionnaire had been sent to the Member States to obtain information for the recently created database on Regional Resource Units and requested the assistance of the NRs to obtain this information.

Ms. Nathalie Colinet of TCPC stated that a demonstration of this database would be held during the General Conference and invited the delegates to attend this demonstration.

RCA FP referring to the submission for nominations for RCA regional events stated that it was expected the nominations would be signed by the NRs as the persons appointed by the Member States to be responsible for the RCA Programme. He requested the NRs to inform him of the persons who had been delegated the authority to sign the nominations on their behalf, when they were unable to do so.

VIII. Closing

The Chair expressed his thanks to the participants and the RCA FP for their cooperation which had enabled a very smooth passage of the Meeting's business..

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA FP expressed his appreciation to the NRs for their cooperation during the Meeting, the NRs for their cooperation over the past years in implementing RCA programme and to TCAP Division staff involved in the implementation of regional events. He also thanked Mr. Dazhu Yang (DIR-TCAP) and Mr. Mokdad Maksoudi (SH-TCAP1) for their excellent guidance and support for the RCA programme.

The Chair thanked all those who contributed to the success of the Meeting and declared the Meeting closed.