

Report of the 5th RCARO Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, September 13, 2007

1. (Introduction)

The 5th RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was held at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria on September 13, 2007, prior to the 36th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM). The participants were Mr. Chouvana Rodthongkom (Immediate past RCA Chair, THA NR), Mr. Ron Cameron (Current RCA Chair, AUL NR), Mr. Tran Viet Hoang (on behalf of VIE NR, Immediate next RCA Chair,), Mr. Chang-Ho Park (ROK, the host country of the RCARO, on behalf of ROK NR), and Mr. Prinath Dias (RCA Focal Person, IAEA). A quorum was constituted with the participation of 5 SAC members. The observers were Ms. Jindarom Chvajarernpun (THA), Ms. Prapaipit Suprarop (THA), Mr. Hiroshi Rikihisa and Mr. Jeong-Kong Lee (IAEA TC). The RCARO served as the secretariat of the SAC Meeting.

2. (Opening)

The Chair, Mr. Ron Cameron, opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants. He expressed appreciation to the RCARO for its activities of undertaking its missions. The Meeting appointed Mr. Jay H. Lee as the rapporteur. After a brief review of the tasks ahead for the Meeting, the provisional Agenda was adopted with the addition of an item, the RCA brochure, under Other Issues. The Agenda is given in Annex 1.

3. (Discussion and Recommendations on the Outcomes of the RCARO Meetings)

The RCARO reported to the Meeting on three items needed for advice and recommendations from the SAC, resulting from the 3 consecutive meetings held last July in Seoul, namely, the Selection Committee Meeting for the Director of the RCARO, the RCARO Workshop on Future Strategies, the Working Group Meeting on the Roles and Status of RCARO, and some other matters including the RCA Success Stories and Surveys on End-users and International Conferences.

3.1 (Selection Committee Meeting for the Director of the RCARO)

With regard to the revised Guidelines drafted by the Selection Committee Meeting for the Director of the RCARO, the Meeting agreed that the revised version of the Guidelines be circulated to the 36th GCM by the RCA Focal Person after reflecting the following conclusions and recommendations:

1) Regarding the extension of the term of the Director of RCARO, the Meeting understood that

the current Director did not have intention to extend his term.

2) Concerning the revision of the Roles and Functions of the Director in the Job Description and Terms of Conditions for the Director, some minor wording changes were made, namely;

- a) First, revise the 2.e by inserting “including” between “the RCA” and “regional,” and deleting “at” in that sentence,
- b) Second, reverse 2.d to the original sentence, which was “To promote the application of nuclear techniques to assist in addressing regional and national needs, and”
- c) Third, add 2.f, which is “To liaise on a regular basis with the RCA Focal Person” and
- d) Fourth, to be consistent, the roles and functions in the Vacancy Notice for Post of the Director be revised accordingly.

3) The designated channels for announcing the Vacancy Notice should be through NRs, RCARO websites, RCA Members Homepage and the IAEA TC website.

The SAC Chair will report the outcome of the Selection Committee Meeting for the Director of the RCARO with these recommendations to the 36th GCM. The Meeting also requested the RCA Focal Person to circulate the revised version of the Guidelines on the Selection and Appointment of the Director of RCARO to the 36th GCM.

3. 2 (RCARO Workshop on Future Strategies)

The RCARO reported to the Meeting on the outcomes of the RCARO Workshop on Future Strategies that was endorsed by the last NRM in Sydney in March 2007. The following recommendations were suggested:

- 1) Minor wording changes be made to the Recommendations 2.1.a, “consistent” to “consistency”, 2.3.a, “their” to “them”.
- 2) Assistance from the NRs of THA and PHI was requested to the help of organizing contacts between the RCARO and the international organization offices in the two countries at the end of October in line with the recommendations of the Workshop, and the result would be reported back to the next NRM.
- 3) In the context of the 6th International Conference on Radioisotopes (ICI) next year held in May 2008 in Korea, the Meeting requested the RCARO to report on the interactions with the 6thICI Meeting since these interactions would be a good opportunity for the RCARO to increase RCA awareness and to promote RCA partnerships.

With these recommendations, the Meeting expressed satisfaction to the RCARO over the outcomes of the Workshop and recommended RCARO to report the outcome of the Workshop to the 36th GCM.

3. 3 (Working Group Meeting on the Roles and Status of RCARO)

With regard to this issue, RCARO reported the background of the Working Group Meeting on the Roles and Status of RCARO. The Chair revisited the outcomes and options of the Working Group Meeting, including the result of the RCA Focal Person's consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) of the Agency regarding option 3 and 4, which was followed by lengthy discussion on the requirements, difficulties, and necessities as to the RCARO becoming an international organization. The Director stressed that the issue of the roles and status of the RCARO ought to be approached from the idea on how the Member States could make the best use of the RCARO.

Regarding the Resolution, the Meeting recommended that the GC Resolution which was prepared by the Working Group could be best discussed from the item 1 to 4 in a step-by-step measure at the 36th GCM considering some concerns raised by other Member States on the Resolution.

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4. (Other Matters)

Other Matters included three items, namely, RCA Success Stories, the Survey of End-Users and International Conferences for raising awareness of the RCA, and the RCA Brochure.

4.1 (RCA Success Stories)

RCARO reported to the Meeting with a summary on the status of the second batch of the RCA Success Stories of which drafts have been received from the PLCCs (or TOs). The Meeting reviewed the 7 drafts of the RCA Success Stories and then made the following recommendations:

- 1) Guidelines for the Success Stories be refined for future preparation of drafts
- 2) Statistics be included in all success stories if possible
- 3) Specific accomplishments or impacts of these success stories be clearly mentioned
- 4) A template for the draft be prepared for use by PLCCs or TOs. Australia offered to contact Mr. Tim Hayden to prepare this template.
- 5) The following comments were made on the 6 drafts collected for the second batch of the Success Stories:

- Plant Breeding (Story 1): too long so it should be edited by a technical writer

- Marine Pollution (Story 2): close to be useful after the benefit of some editing

- Tracer Application in Industry (Story 3): not suitable because substantial rewriting is needed

- Energy Planning (Story 4): undefined, and details on achievements required
- Non-Destructive Testing (Story 5): rather short but good and specific
- Geothermal Exploration (Story 6): seemed to have potential

Regarding the previously published leaflet on the DAT, the RCA Focal Person agreed to provide the relevant photos for re-printing.

Concerns were raised by the RCA Focal Person that technical reports and success stories require a different approach, and the PLCCs found it hard to acquire relevant information from NPCs. Given the recommendations, the Meeting was of the view that four success stories would be prepared as soon as possible.

The Meeting viewed that the 4 Success Stories on Plant Breeding (Story 1), Marine Pollution (Story 2), Non-Destructive Testing (Story 5), and Geothermal Exploration (Story 6) could be submitted for editorial review. The editorial review work may be assigned to technical writer (Tim Hayden).

The Meeting also decided that the RCARO and the RCA Focal Person should communicate further with the PLCCs with regard to the other Success Stories to make the drafts suitable for publication after editorial corrections. The Meeting further decided that for the future Success Stories the PLCCs should be asked to submit the information required for the Success Stories according to a template.

4.2 (Survey of End-Users and International Conferences for raising awareness of the RCA)

With regard to this issue, the RCARO reported the outcome of the Survey of End-Users and International Conferences for raising awareness of the RCA, and informed the Meeting that 6 out of 17 countries responded. After further review of the survey results, the Meeting agreed to report it to the 36th GCM for future action.

Concerning the partnership promotion activities for the year 2009, after the 2008's participation in the 6ICI in May in Seoul, and possibly in the 16th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference (16PBNC) to be held in October in Japan, the Director of RCARO commented that the plan to participate in one or two international conferences would be assessed in detail after consultation with the SAC.

The Meeting agreed to report the outcome of the Survey of End-Users and International Conferences for raising awareness of the RCA to the 36th GCM for future action.

4.3 (RCA Brochure)

With regard to the RCA Brochure, the Meeting was informed that the RCA Focal Person would send the draft to the relevant TOs and forward the revised draft to the RCARO by the end of September or early October for printing, so that the RCARO could use it for promotional activities with international organizations in time.

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5. (Next Meeting)

The Meeting was informed that the 6th RCARO SAC meeting would be held prior to the Next RCA NRM in April 2008 in Viet Nam.

6. (Closing)

The Chair of the Meeting thanked all the SAC members for their contribution to the advice and recommendations given to the RCARO.

The 5th RCARO Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

13 September 2007, Thursday (3:00-6:00 pm)

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks (Chairman)
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Discussion and Recommendations on the Outcomes of the RCARO Meetings
 - a. Selection Committee Meeting for the Director of the RCARO
 - b. RCARO Workshop on Future Strategies
 - c. Working Group Meeting on the Roles and Status of RCARO
4. Other Issues
 - a. RCA Success Stories
 - b. Survey of end-users and international conferences for the awareness of the RCA
 - c. RCA Brochure
5. Next SAC Meeting
6. Closing