

**Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the  
Special Task Force for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA  
25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**1. Introduction**

During the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of The National RCA Representatives held on 28-29 April 2021, the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Special Task Force (STF) was presented as details in **Annex 1**, and a general agreement has been reached on the activities and estimated budget proposed in the action plan. The STF was tasked to refine the action plan for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA, including the planning of the Ministerial Conference. The Meeting endorsed THA to take the role as the new Chair of the STF and approved the STF to have a meeting prior to the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA GCM.

Consequently, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the STF for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 via video conferencing. The Agenda of the Meeting is in **Annex 2**.

The Meeting had 12 participants comprising representatives from CPR, JPN, MAL, ROK, THA, VIE, RCARO, and the RCA-FP, with the RCA PAC Chair's attending upon invitation. The meeting was chaired by the NR of THA, and MAL, VIE and THA were appointed as rapporteurs. The List of Participants is included in **Annex 3**.

The main purpose of the meeting was to update the detailed programme work plan, concrete financial budgeting and recommend any revisions especially on the work plan that has been presented in 43<sup>rd</sup> NRM for consideration of the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA GCM.

THA, in its capacity as the Chair of the STF, opened the meeting and gave welcome remarks to the participants.

**2. Review and Refinement of the Action plan for the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA Anniversary**

At the 43<sup>rd</sup> NRM, RCA Chair delivered a presentation on the preparation of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA, on a) the update on the action plan for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA; and b) the discussion on the preparation of the Ministerial Conference. The Meeting took note of the report of the Special Task Force on the preparation of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA, and recommended any GP interested to make Extra Budgetary

(EBT) contributions should inform the STF Chair of their possible intention for the EBT contributions in order that the STF can start the actual preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Meeting welcomed and appreciated the ROK's intention to contribute extra-budgetary funds for supporting the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> NRM reviewed the first draft of the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference and recommended the NRs to give preliminary comments to the STF Chair.

The Meeting took note of the official letter by VIE in regard to the hosting of the RCA Ministerial Meeting. Taking into consideration that the COVID 19 pandemic would continue until the first half of the year 2022, the Meeting agreed that the RCA Ministerial Meeting be held in Vienna, Austria, on the occasion of the 51<sup>st</sup> RCA GCM and 66th IAEA General Conference in September 2022.

### **3. Update on the Preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA Anniversary Activities**

#### **A) Ministerial Conference**

VIE presented updated information on the work plan for the RCA Ministerial Conference including the preliminary plan, tentative agenda, assignment of Roles & Responsibilities, Cost Estimation and Action Plan, etc. It was proposed that one-day Ministerial Meeting would be held on the first day of the IAEA General Conference week to attract a big attention of stakeholders for this important event. The presentation was concluded as **Annex 4**. RCARO suggested that the Opening of the RCA Exhibition be held during the luncheon time at the Rotunda, IAEA, and relevant keynote speakers are invited to the panel discussion. The cost of USD 15,000 should be adjusted to include this cost.

MAL suggested a montage video on the RCA and its programme to be prepared during the Opening of the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA Anniversary Ceremony. JPN and MAL also suggested the STF review the proposed date and schedule of the RCA Ministerial Conference as necessary in view of the IAEA GC taking place in Vienna. The Meeting agreed to identify the moderators and speakers for every session in the proposed agenda of the RCA Ministerial Conference.

The meeting also suggested that VIE provides in written the detailed work plan and

activities of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony, and RCA Ministerial Conference, and roles and responsibilities of the GPs, IAEA -FP and STF Members.

The Meeting noted that the proposed agenda by VIE needed to be adjusted with more specific assignment of responsibilities and estimate cost in consideration of Opening time of Exhibition and cost for keynote speakers to be invited.

**It is recommended that the NRs approve the updated preliminary work plan of the RCA Ministerial Conference, including the tentative agenda, assignment of roles & responsibilities, cost estimation and action plan.**

#### **B) RCA Exhibition and Other Activities**

RCARO presented an updated action plan on the RCA Exhibition and other activities for RCA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The presentation is included as **Annex 5**.

The meeting took note of the budget and cost estimation, lead parties and work plan of the RCA Exhibition for the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA Anniversary.

The meeting took note of the contribution by the ROK to the 50th RCA Anniversary (a total of 170,000 USD). The meeting agreed that the RCARO will take the lead party in preparing for the RCA Exhibition and developing the dedicated website and RCA video.

**It is recommended that NRs approve the work and budget plan, and the roles and responsibilities of the RCA exhibition and other activities.**

**The Meeting took note that ROK would contribute a total of 170,000 USD including 100,000 USD to be sent directly to the RCARO for the preparation of the RCA Exhibition and other activities (developing the website and video), and maximum of 70,000 USD to the IAEA for the preparation of the RCA Ministerial Conference.**

**The Meeting agreed with this point of only one publication for the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA Anniversary should be developed to attract potential sponsors for the RCA, including the highlights of the RCA, and the RCA History should be only part of the**

**document. JPN presented the willingness to draft the outline and contribute to the contents of the documents. The IAEA is requested to assign experts to collect the success stories to be included in the publications.**

#### **4. Any Other Business**

##### **A) Draft Ministerial Declaration for the 50th Anniversary of RCA**

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RCA Foundation in 2022, the Ministerial Meeting of RCA Government Parties (GPs) is planned, for the first time over 50 years of the formation and development of the RCA. The Ministerial Meeting is expected to make a declaration to affirm the political will, strong determination and commitment, and solidarity of RCA State Parties to work together, invigorate the RCA and make the RCA more dynamic and innovative, more effective, efficient, and impactful, be widely appreciated and recognized as an effective partner in providing nuclear technologies that enhance socio-economic wellbeing and contribute to sustainable development in the region. In view of the importance of this document, the RCA collective effort and intelligence are needed to further enhance the draft declaration, especially to propose future plan, and strategic solutions/thrusts for the RCA.

In this regard, JPN took the initiative and proposed a draft declaration. After the 43<sup>rd</sup> NRM, the RCA Chair circulated the summary of comments on the draft ministerial declaration for NRs' kind consideration. AUL, PAK, and some RCA GPs provided valuable comments and recommendations on the draft, as well as the sketch of declaration on future visions and plans drafted by ROK (Annex 6).

VIE, as the Chair country of year 2022, consolidated the comments by the GPs on the first draft and made a revised draft (Annex 7). VIE recommended that the current draft has quite much quotation from the TC Resolution, and no quotation should be placed in the future directions of the RCA. It was suggested that the Joint Declaration of RCA Ministerial Meeting need to focus on RCA's future directions and/or strategic solutions/initiatives which must be developed and decided by all GPs.

The latest version document (Annex 7) will be submitted to the 50<sup>th</sup> GCM for the NR's further review.

**It was recommended that GPs review the latest version of the Ministerial Declaration and provide comments to the STF Chair within three weeks of the conclusion of the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA GCM.**

**The Meeting requested more supports to VIE in finalizing the draft Ministerial Declaration.**

## **B) Publication**

The Meeting took note of Dr Prinath Dias, RCA PAC Chair, as requested by the RCA Focal Person, prepared the document on the 50-year history of the RCA to be used in the anniversary celebrations in 2022. The document (Annex 8) describes how RCA progressed in each of the past five decades and contains information on improvements made to the RCA management, information on the projects implemented and the achievements in each decade, RCA Government parties, list of RCA Chairpersons and details of IAEA staff involved.

The STF Chair expressed her thankfulness to Dr Dias for his contribution.

JPN inquired whether the Brief History of the RCA prepared by the PAC Chair is meant to be the 50th Anniversary publication which was already endorsed by the NRs and is also planned to include the history of the RCA. The RCA FP explained that four publications are being prepared by the IAEA Secretariat on the RCA: i) Brief history of RCA, the first draft was disseminated to GPs; ii) Social and economic impact assessment of mutation breeding in crops of the RCA programme, that has been published in 2020; iii) Social and economic impact assessment of the RCA programme in radiotherapy and iv) Social and economic impact assessment of the RCA programme in NDT, and the development of these publications will be financially supported with the TC Fund. RCA FP also suggested that each GP submit a salient or success story under the RCA programme to be documented and published for the Anniversary.

JPN noted that since the NRs has already endorsed to prepare a document to mark the 50th Anniversary, which also includes the history of the RCA as one part, it would not be a good idea to prepare different documents with almost the same contents for this special occasion, and suggested that only one publication be prepared for the RCA 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary to provide comprehensive information to the Ministers. In this regard, the meeting agreed that JPN prepares the outline of the said document for the consideration and approval of the NRs, after circulating it to the STF members (Annex 9). The STF agreed to the suggestion and that the History of the RCA prepared by the PAC Chair be one part of it. It was noted that this 50th Anniversary Publication be financially supported by the TC fund.

**The Meeting agreed that there should be one publication document for the RCA Anniversary including the history prepared by the IAEA, and that NRs to approve the detailed outline of publications for the 50th RCA Anniversary and endorse that the STF initiate drafting it.**

### **C) RCA Awards**

The concept of the RCA Awards was raised in the 1<sup>st</sup> STF Meeting and it was agreed that the Award would be only for this occasion. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> STF Meeting, JPN noted that taking the fifty years of long history into consideration, it would not be appropriate to select only a couple of organization or person to be honoured and suggested that the STF make a comprehensive list of the person/institutions which had contributed to the RCA in the last 50 years and were nominated by the GPs.

JPN commented that each RCA GP should provide the list of national RCA Awardees who have contributed to the RCA.

ROK suggested that considering the authority and value of the RCA Awards celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RCA, those who have significantly contributed to the RCA over the past 50 years should be selected for the Awards.

MAL suggested that more details on the RCA Award be provided, including the categories and criteria. It is also recommended that RCA Award be given to the young scientist to motivate the younger generation in the development of science, technology, and innovation.

VIE suggested to defer the discussion to the next meeting as there is still time to consider and decide on the issue.

RCA FP suggested to establish a committee to prepare the category and criteria of the RCA Award. The committee will be responsible for providing the brief idea and concept of the RCA Award for NRs consideration.

## **5. The Way Forward**

The STF Chair will deliver the Meeting report to the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA GCM for NRs' consideration for the way forward accordingly.

The STF noted the necessity to further discuss the detailed plan, budget and relevant schedule of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and agreed to convene again between the 50<sup>th</sup> RCA GCM.