



**MEETING REPORT**

**35<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE NATIONAL RCA REPRESENTATIVES**

**19-22 March 2013**

**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

DDG-TC	Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation
FNCA	Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia
GCM	General Conference Meeting
GOR	Guidelines and Operating Rules
LCC	Lead Country Coordinator
LFA	Logical Framework Approach
MC	Monitoring Committee
NLO	National Liaison Officer
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NR	National RCA Representative
NRM	National Representative Meeting
PCMF	TC Programme Cycle Management Framework
PMO	Programme Management Officer
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement
RCARO	Regional Cooperative Agreement Regional Office
RCA-FP	Regional Cooperative Agreement Focal Person
TC	Technical Cooperation
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
TO	Technical Officer

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**35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives**  
**19-22 March 2013**  
**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

**Opening Ceremony**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives (NRM) was held at the Aureum Palace Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, from 19 to 22 March 2013 and was attended by 48 participants from 16 RCA Government Parties and the RCA Regional Office (RCARO). The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

The IAEA was represented by Mr Kwaku Aning, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation (DDG-TC), Mr Ali Boussaha, Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific (DIR-TCAP) and Mr Kesrat Sukasam, RCA Focal Person (RCA-FP). Dr Sueo Machi represented the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA).

Dr Dongxin Feng, the RCA Chair delivered the opening remarks of the 35<sup>th</sup> RCA NRM. She thanked Myanmar for hosting and the IAEA for their assistance in coordination and organization of the Meeting.

The Deputy Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, H.E. Dr Zaw Min Aung, made the welcoming remarks. He welcomed all the NRM participants to Nay Pyi Taw, noting that Myanmar was proud to host the Meeting. The Deputy Minister noted the important role the RCA played in helping its members benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, especially by establishing a professional network. He stressed the importance of the RCA strategic priorities – human health, agriculture and food, environment and water resource management, and industrial applications, noting their direct link to the Millennium Development Goals. Myanmar was working to increase awareness of nuclear techniques across all sectors.

The Deputy Minister noted that the 35<sup>th</sup> NRM was a good opportunity to take stock of 40 years of work by the RCA and its contribution to meeting regional needs. He noted that the RCA had been awarded three TC Best Practice awards in 2012, which was recognition of the importance of the RCA's work. He encouraged the RCA to continue, and indeed increase, its efforts towards providing beneficial outcomes for sustainable development. He concluded by wishing the Meeting every success.

The Minister's full statement is given in Annex 2.

Mr Kwaku Aning (DDG-TC) delivered the opening statement on behalf of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Yukiya Amano. He highlighted best practice in implementation of the TC programme, and the leading role played by the RCA in this regard. Mr Aning noted the many accomplishments of the RCA in setting rigorous processes for effective and transparent programme development, including being awarded three TC Best Practice awards in 2012. The establishment of the Monitoring Committee (MC) for the RCA Programme Development was a useful mechanism in this regard, and he encouraged the continued implementation of its recommendations. He emphasized that the RCA Project Design Meeting in February was an important step towards this end.

Mr Aning noted that due consideration of financial resources is an important factor in the successful implementation of the TC programme, and urged the RCA to explore all possible avenues for securing extra-budgetary funding in support of the proposed RCA programme in the next TC cycle.

Mr Aning made particular mention of the on-going Fukushima marine benchmark study project, noting the good progress to enhance national capacity for marine radioactive monitoring. He thanked ROK for joining the group of RCA MSs providing extra-budgetary contributions to this project and the USA for their additional financial contribution.

Mr Aning noted the valuable work of RCARO in promoting outreach and partnerships, in which the activities to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA received particular mention. As to the 5<sup>th</sup> extension to the RCA, he reiterated the importance to become Party to the Agreement and encouraged those countries that had not yet deposited their instrument of acceptance to do so at their earliest convenience, hopefully before the next RCA GCM in September.

Mr Aning's statement is given in Annex 3.

The Opening Ceremony was followed by:

- Presentation of Best Practice award certificates to the RCA by the DDG-TC. National Representatives from AUL, PHI and NZE as well as RCARO, who were designated to prepare the Best Practices proposals, received the certificates on behalf of the RCA.
- A photo session.

## **1. Welcome Remarks of the Current Chair**

Dr Dongxin Feng, Deputy Director General of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, delivered the welcoming remarks as the outgoing Chair of the RCA. She thanked the NRs and the IAEA for their support during her time as Chair of the RCA. She also mentioned that she had enjoyed her time in the position, noting that it was an educational and challenging experience, and was pleased to be able to fulfil the role with support of all Member States.

### **Designation of Chair/ Rapporteurs**

Dr Feng then called for nominations for the new Chair of the RCA. INS proposed the NR of the host country, Dr Khin Maung Latt, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Science and Technology, to be the new Chair of the RCA. IND seconded the proposal. All delegates agreed with the nomination and Dr Latt was unanimously elected Chair.

INS proposed MAL and AUL to be rapporteurs of the Meeting, and this was supported by IND. Mr Abdul Muin Abdul Rahman (MAL) and Mr Mark Alexander (AUL) accepted the appointment. AUL noted that NZE and AUL had acted as rapporteur for a number of recent NRMs and GCMs, and encouraged other countries to take up this role in future meetings to promote wider balance in reporting and distribution of responsibilities.

**INS proposed the NR of the Host Country to be the Chair of the RCA. IND seconded the proposal. Dr. Khin Maung Latt, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Science and Technology, was unanimously elected by the National Representatives.**

**INS proposed MAL and AUL to be rapporteurs for the Meeting, and both agreed to carry out this task.**

### **Remarks of the New Chair**

Dr Latt thanked all delegates for the honour of being elected the RCA Chair and their confidence in tasking him with chairing the Meeting. He thanked Dr Feng for her work as Chair of the RCA, noting her important contributions. He noted that he was honoured to accept the role and looked forward to continuing the important work of the RCA. He said that all the ingredients were in place for a successful meeting, and he was looking forward to working closely with the NRs.

CPR and the RCA-FP took the opportunity to welcome the new Chair and thank the the previous chair for her work. CPR noted the important achievements during Dr Feng's time as the RCA Chair, including establishment of the MC and the three Best Practice awards for RCA projects.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

AUL asked whether the NRM should consider the next 5-year strategy for the RCA. The RCA-FP indicated that the current Strategic Priorities was in place until 2017, but it could be discussed if the NRs wished. IND and CPR supported that this was a good idea and the matter could be discussed under 'Any Other Business'.

AUL indicated that they would also be raising the topic of possible RCA engagement with Pacific Island Countries under 'Any Other Business'.

The Meeting Agenda was adopted with these small amendments. The adopted Agenda is included as Annex 4.

**The Meeting adopted the draft Agenda circulated by the RCA-FP, with inclusion of the 2018-2023 Strategic Priorities for the RCA and possible RCA engagement with Pacific Island Countries under 'Any Other Business'**

### **3. Report on Follow-Up Actions to the 41<sup>st</sup> RCA GCM – RCANRM(35)/2**

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided a summary of the most important follow-up actions arising from the above meeting report.

**The Meeting took note of the report.**

### **4. RCA Annual Report for 2012 – RCANRM(35)/3**



The Chair invited the RCA-FP to provide a brief summary of the Draft RCA Annual Report 2012 which had been circulated to NRs.

The RCA-FP gave a brief overview of the Report, highlighting the activities and the achievements of the RCA programme in 2012 as well as the conclusions and decisions made at the NRM and GCM. He informed that as decided at the 34<sup>th</sup> NRM, the report also included a section on implementation of the RCA programme in 2012. He also indicated that NRs could provide tracked change comments on the draft report until 21 April. His presentation is given in Annex 5.

NZE noted that the information provided in the annual report on a number of activities conducted was useful and suggested that a year-by-year analysis could be beneficial. A summary chart of the details of each project could also be helpful. The RCA-FP clarified that the format and content of the RCA annual report was set by previous discussions of the NRs and any change would require a new decision by NRs.

AUL enquired why the extra-budgetary funds allocated by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) were not reflected in the Annual Report. The RCA-FP replied that the UNDP contribution went to RCARO and not to the IAEA, thus the information was not included in the report.

Given the success of the events held for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA at the 2012 IAEA General Conference, PAK suggested that they could be repeated on a regular basis. AUL and NZE noted that repeat events may not be as successful without a specific occasion, such as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RCA and suggested that RCARO consider RCA program promotion in their outreach programme for future international fora, including the IAEA General Conference. INS and MAL mentioned that the busy schedule and hectic time faced by delegates during General Conference would limit the involvement in such events.

**The Meeting took note of the Draft Annual Report 2012 and asked the National Representatives to provide any written comments in tracked changes to the RCA-FP by 21 April 2013.**

## **5. Implementation of the RCA Programme**

### **Review of the RCA Programme in 2012 – RCANRM(35)/4**

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP provided a review of key issues regarding implementation of the RCA programme in 2012. He stated that the RCA Programme in 2012 comprised 20 active projects, with budget allotment from TC Fund of €1.85 million. The actuals delivery in 2012 was €1.57 million at an Implementation Rate of 84.7%, slightly higher than that of 2011. The extra-budgetary contribution received in 2012 was €188,888.

The RCA-FP drew attention to the following aspects and requested the NRs to coordinate and take necessary actions to improve the implementation:

- provide guidance to NPCs on possible hosting of RCA events;

- ensure that nominations to RCA events are submitted in a timely fashion and are for people directly involved in the respective projects and were made using the InTouch platform, when possible;
- submit six-monthly progress and assessment reports in a timely fashion; and
- specify which footnote a/ projects should be funded when making extra-budgetary contributions.

His presentation is given as Annex 6.

CPR indicated that transferring from the manual system to the InTouch platform would take some time. The RCA-FP understood this but encouraged the use of the InTouch platform where possible.

To promote timely submission of progress reports by LCCs, MAL suggested that PMOs should copy NRs on emails to LCCs and NPCs regarding urgent and important matters as appropriate. AUL also suggested that LCCs be requested to submit consolidated Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPAR) and upload them onto the PCMF by 15 January and 15 July each year (i.e. two weeks after national reports are due from the NPCs).

**The Meeting noted the report provided by the RCA-FP on Review of the RCA Programme in 2012.**

**The Meeting requested that nominations to RCA events be made using the InTouch platform, if and when possible.**

**The Meeting agreed that PMOs should copy NRs on urgent emails to LCCs and NPCs as appropriate.**

**The Meeting requested NRs of the Lead Countries to ensure that LCCs upload Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPAR) to PCMF by 15 January and 15 July each year.**

#### **Arrangements towards Implementing the 2013 Component of the RCA Programme – RCANRM(35)/5**

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA-FP presented the arrangements for management of the RCA projects as well as a tentative plan toward implementation of the RCA events in 2013. He asked that all NRs of the proposed host countries to confirm with him their agreement to host the RCA events as soon as possible, preferably within one week after the NRM.

**The Meeting noted the forward programme and arrangements of RCA events for 2013 and requested the respective NRs to advise the RCA-FP of agreement/ any changes within one week after the NRM.**

#### **6. Review of the Progress of the RCA Programme in 2012 – RCANRM(35)/6**

The progress of the implementation of each RCA project was presented by each respective Lead Country. The specific projects presented and discussed were:

RAS5055 (LCC – Australia): Annex 7  
RAS6038 (LCC – Australia): Annex 8  
RAS6064 (LCC – Australia): Annex 9  
RAS6066 (LCC – Australia): Annex 10  
RAS7021 (LCC – Australia): Annex 11  
RAS5056 (LCC – China): Annex 12  
RAS5057 (LCC – China): Annex 13  
RAS1013 (LCC – India): Annex 14  
RAS6061 (LCC – India): Annex 15  
RAS6053 (LCC – Japan): Annex 16  
RAS6062 (LCC – Japan): Annex 17  
RAS8109 (LCC – Malaysia): Annex 18  
RAS7023 (LCC – New Zealand): Annex 19  
RAS1012 (LCC – Pakistan): Annex 20  
RAS7022 (LCC – Pakistan): Annex 21  
RAS6063 (LCC – Philippines): Annex 22  
RAS7024 (LCC – Philippines): Annex 23  
RAS6065 (LCC – Republic of Korea): Annex 24

After each presentation, there was a discussion on project outcomes and implementation issues, including constraints affecting smooth delivery of the project. Timely submission of the progress reports remained an issue.

AUL noted that in general, resource countries were encouraged not to send participants to RCA training events. However, while resource countries may provide experts to help run some training events, those countries may have a limited amount of expertise in their country and could benefit by sending participants to relevant courses on a self-funded basis. NZE also noted they would like similar opportunities.

**The Meeting observed the good progress and satisfactory implementation and results of the RCA projects, and encouraged the LCCs and NPCs to continue the good efforts for successful implementation. The importance of engaging end users and strengthening partnership collaborations was emphasised and encouraged.**

**The Meeting agreed that the National Representatives would engage with their National Project Coordinators to ensure that the reporting obligations are implemented in full and on time.**

## **7. Preparations of the Proposed Programme for the 2014-2015 TC Cycle**

### **Update on Preparations of the Proposed RCA Programme by the RCA Chair – RCANRM(35)/7**

RCA Chair presented an overview of the proposed RCA projects, referring to the background document which had been circulated before the meeting. He invited the RCA-FP to provide an update on the preparations for submission of the RCA Programme for the 2014-2015 TC cycle.

The RCA-FP gave a review of the seven projects that had been endorsed for potential submission to the Department of TC, along with one Category B project to support

RCA Programme Management, being suggested by the IAEA Secretariat. He also recapped on the project design process, including the RCA Project Design Meeting held in Vienna in February.

The RCA-FP drew attention that 13 on-going projects would continue in 2014-2015. Considering the RCA decided to have a maximum of 15 projects per each calendar year, and, if all seven proposed projects were submitted, it would exceed the maximum. Yet, as the on-going projects would continue with obligated funding, the remaining TCF allocation for the new RCA programme would be insufficient. His presentation is given as Annex 25.

There was significant discussion on how to prioritise the proposed projects submitted. AUL suggested that if two projects were submitted for commencement in 2014 and the rest for 2015, the number of RCA projects for both 2014 and 2015 would meet the target, given five existing projects would end in 2014. Budget allocations would also appear to be sufficient for both years of the biennium. JPN, INS, ROK, IND and MAL also supported this proposal.

The RCA-FP noted that the proposed submission approach would obligate some budget for the 2016-2017 biennium as well. AUL noted that given projects were 3 to 4 years in duration, a certain amount of budget would always be obligated for existing projects in any given biennium. NZE queried whether this approach would maintain balance across the priority areas noted in the RCA 2012-2017 Strategy, with “Human Health” potentially becoming dominant. AUL noted that while the Strategy outlined priority areas, it did not require an equal distribution of projects across all areas and furthermore, under the proposed submission approach, “Human Health” would peak at a maximum of 7 projects in 2014 before returning to a lower number in subsequent years. Following the discussions, the Meeting agreed to submit all seven projects, with two to start in 2014 and the rest in 2015.

The Meeting then discussed which projects should be selected for commencement in 2014. ROK, MAL and AUL suggested that the discussions from the 34<sup>th</sup> NRM should be used as a criterion to select the two projects. PHI and the RCA-FP said that the selected projects should also avoid duplication with projects carried over into the new biennium.

Using these two criteria, the NRs selected RAS2012006 and RAS2012012 for proposed commencement in 2014.

- Strengthening the effectiveness and extent of medical physics education and training (RAS2012006)
- Improving cancer management through strengthening CT cancer staging process (RAS2012012)

Projects RAS2012009, RAS2012010, RAS2012011, RAS2012013 and RAS2012014 were proposed to commence in 2015.

- Capacity building in applications of advanced NDE technologies for enhancing industrial productivity (RAS2012009)
- Strengthening Radionuclide Therapy for high impact cancer treatment strategy in RCA member states (RAS2012010)
- Development of Bioenergy Crops to Optimize Marginal Lands Productivity through Mutation Breeding and Related Techniques (RAS2012011)

- Strengthening Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) Capability in the RCA Region (RAS2012013)

Upon further analysis of the proposed RCA programme for the 2014-2015 TC cycle, the RCA-FP advised the meeting that the proposed indicative budget would actually still be in excess of the expected TC allocations. He noted that these funds could be made up through either cuts to the proposed project budgets or as of yet unspecified extra-budgetary contributions. If the latter were pursued, the RCA-FP noted that it would be important that any contributions be clearly identified for specific RCA projects. He indicated that record of the extra-budgetary contributions to the RCA in previous years would typically be sufficient to cover the shortfall, but noted that there was significant variation in the contributions from year to year. RCA-FP indicated that the savings or extra-budgetary contributions should be identified prior to the PCMF submission date of 28 March.

Recalling the support for the RCA noted by the DDG-TC in his opening remarks, IND enquired whether there was scope for the Department of TC to allocate further funds to the RCA to meet the shortfall. The RCA-FP clarified that resources had to be balanced across all regions and the RCA allocation was unlikely to change. MAL asked whether the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) could be used to make up the shortfall. The RCA-FP responded that the PUI was actually extra-budgetary in nature.

The RCA-FP enquired if the NRM would be able to set the annual target for extra-budgetary funding for the RCA programme in proportion of the TCF funding. The NRs stated that they had difficulties to do this as they are not in the position to indicate such commitment. AUL noted that it was up to the NRs to identify the necessary savings or additional resources. To this end, AUL suggested that:

- NRs of the Lead Countries discuss potential savings in project designs with the relevant LCCs by 28 March;
- All NRs investigate possible sources of extra-budgetary resources by 28 March;
- The Meeting request the IAEA to consider all feasible means to provide additional support to the RCA.

**The Meeting decided to submit seven projects for the proposed RCA Programme in the TC 2014-2015 cycle. Of these projects, RAS2012006 and RAS2012012 would be proposed for commencement in 2014, and RAS2012009, RAS2012010, RAS2012011, RAS2012013, and RAS2012014 for commencement in 2015.**

**The Meeting authorised the RCA Chair to submit the proposed RCA programme to the IAEA by 28 March.**

**The Meeting agreed to take the following actions to address the projected shortfall in the proposed budget before the project submission deadline of 28 March:**

- **NRs would discuss with LCCs of all proposed projects to assess whether the budget could be reduced without jeopardising the technical integrity or impact of the projects**

- NRs would seek advice from their governments if potential sources of extra-budgetary funds could be made available
- Request the IAEA to consider all feasible means to provide additional support to the RCA.

#### **Report of the Review of the Proposed RCA Programme by the MC – RCANRM(35)/8**

The Chair invited Dr John Easey to provide a report on behalf of the MC of its review of the proposed RCA Programme for 2014-2015. He described the process in which the MC reviewed the draft project designs in November 2012, and the updated project designs at the Project Design Meeting in February 2013. Dr Easey informed that the MC made a number of observations on the RCA project design process, and provided detailed clarification. He also outlined the advice of the MC for the project design process for the 2016-2017 cycle. His presentation is given in Annex 26.

The Meeting took note of the report and expressed appreciation to the good work undertaken by the MC. The Meeting deliberated the MC's observations and recommendations point by point before reaching an agreement and follow up actions.

#### **With regard to the MC's observations on the 2014-2015 project design process, the Meeting made the following decisions:**

- LCCs and NPCs should increase their knowledge of RCA and IAEA project design processes, including LFA and e-learning modules initiated by TC.
- When designing projects, LCCs and NPCs are encouraged to consider ways in which to acquire extra-budgetary sources of funding in addition to TCF resources.
- NRs of countries self-assessed as resource states should avoid nominating participants for basic training courses to free resources for recipient states, unless the resource state does not have broad capability in the technical area and nominates self-funded participants.
- Future correspondence regarding project design sent from the IAEA to the Chair of the RCA should be copied to the MC to help facilitate timely review of designs.
- Request the IAEA to grant the MC read-only access to PCMF for new projects. Access should be terminated when projects are approved by the Board of Governors.
- NRs should increase engagement with LCCs and NPCs during the project design process.
- LCCs and NPCs should set project designs to comply with all RCA and TC requirements, with outcomes and objectives that are realistic and appropriate to the resources available.

**Regarding the advice of the MC for the 2016-2017 project design process, the Meeting made the following decisions:**

- **Agreed to update the terms of reference for the MC to reflect the expanded scope of the MC responsibilities.**
- **Endorsed the NR of SRL as a member of the MC for the next term.**
- **Decided that the size and composition of the MC be reviewed at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM.**
- **Designated the NR of NZE, with the assistance of the NR of INS, to review recommendations made at previous NRMs and GCMs relevant to the RCA GOR, and draft an updated version of the GOR for presentation and discussions at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM.**
- **Requested NRs to ensure LCCs and NPCs have access to relevant content from the member-only section of the RCARO website.**
- **Requested LCCs, through their NRs, to use the member-only section of the RCARO website for uploading project materials such as training materials.**
- **Encouraged NRs to liaise with LCCs to ensure that they can identify appropriate NPCs and access regional needs data during project design.**
- **Requested the IAEA TOs and PMOs to advise LCCs and NPCs during project design, while recognising that LCCs and NPCs lead the process.**
- **Requested the MC to meet prior to the 36<sup>th</sup> NRM to review and analyse concept proposals, and provide a report with recommendations to the 36<sup>th</sup> NRM.**
- **Requested the IAEA to support a Project Design Meeting with LCCs, relevant NPCs, TOs, PMOs and the MC for approved concepts for the 2016-2017 cycle. The meeting should be well ahead of the deadline for submission of project designs.**
- **Requested the MC to report the findings and recommendations of its review of the 2016-2017 biennium project designs to the 37<sup>th</sup> NRM.**

#### **8. Remaining Recommendations of the MC for RCA Programme Development – RCANRM(35)/9**

The Chair invited Dr John Easey to present, on behalf of the MC, the remaining recommendations, which were left outstanding from the 41<sup>st</sup> GCM.

Dr Easey indicated that of the initial 33 recommendations made by the MC, only 13 remained outstanding. Specifically, these were recommendations 1, 5, 6, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, 26 and 27. All other recommendations were either addressed at or since the 41<sup>st</sup> GCM or had been superseded by subsequent recommendations made

elsewhere. He elaborated the recommendations one by one providing clarification for effective deliberations at the Meeting. His presentation is given in Annex 27.

The Meeting deliberated and considered the recommendation in detail, and salient points of the discussions are highlighted below.

The RCA-FP noted that Recommendation 1 was addressed to the IAEA and did not need to be considered by the NRM.

AUL expressed support for Recommendation 5 and suggested that:

- NRs be more directly involved in future project concept designs from their countries to ensure design criteria were addressed prior to submission
- the MC continue the process of reviewing project concept designs for future programme cycles.

There was lengthy discussion on how Recommendation 6 could be implemented. VIE and CPR agreed in principle to forming a technical advisory committee, with the MC as a basis, as long it reported its findings to the respective NRM, which would then make any subsequent decisions. ROK asked whether the MC would need to be enlarged to fulfil this expanded role, but IND, INS and MAL noted that technical experts could be brought in as needed. The Meeting agreed to ask the MC to review technical aspects of future project concept submissions and report to the subsequent NRM, using other technical experts as required. The Meeting requested the MC to report to the 36<sup>th</sup> NRM on its experience with this process.

CPR queried whether Recommendation 8 was needed, as NLOs and NRs were often the same. AUL noted that non-TC recipient states did not have NLOs and therefore could not attend NLO meetings, even if there were an RCA item on the agenda. The Meeting agreed to request the Secretariat to invite representatives from all RCA MSs to relevant future NLO meetings.

CPR supported the concept of recording in-kind contributions made under Recommendation 13. The RCA-FP suggested that the MC could be tasked to prepare draft guidelines in this regard, and this was accepted by the Meeting.

NZE suggested deferring discussion on how to provide consolidated feedback to the IAEA on project evaluations to a future NRM or GCM. This was accepted by the Meeting.

While welcoming Recommendations 16 and 17 on establishing commercialisation and intellectual property guidelines for RCA projects, CPR noted that commercialisation was not the central role of the RCA. PHI and MAL suggested that advice from the Office of Legal Affairs should be sought on this point. The RCA-FP and CPR suggested that this issue could be deferred to a future NRM or GCM, and the Meeting agreed.

MAL supported Recommendation 19 for the MC to use video-conferencing where possible, and the recommendation was adopted by the Meeting.

JPN noted that Recommendation 20 was in effect redundant as MSs were already required to submit project proposals ahead of the NRM two years prior to the relevant TC programme cycle, but agreed on adopting the Recommendation to reinforce this process. The Meeting agreed to this proposal.



NZE noted that Recommendation 24 was addressed to the IAEA and did not need to be considered by the NRM. This was accepted by the Meeting.

CPR expressed concern at the language of Recommendation 26 requiring LCCs to “ensure” cooperation with organisations did not compromise, duplicate or overlap other projects. NZE suggested changing the language to “taking every reasonable effort”, and this was agreed by the Meeting.

NZE and MAL suggested that RCARO was best placed to implement Recommendation 27 and this was agreed by the Meeting.

Based on the above discussions, the Meeting decided to review and update the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the MC, which is included as Annex 28. The Meeting also agreed to review the ToR again at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM to determine the future size and composition of the MC.

**The Meeting noted the report of the MC and reached the following conclusions in regard to the outstanding recommendations:**

- **Recommendation 1:** The Meeting noted that this recommendation was addressed to the IAEA and did not need to be considered by the NRM.
- **Recommendation 5:** The Meeting encouraged NRs to be more directly involved in future project concept designs from their countries to ensure design criteria were addressed prior to submission. The Meeting also requested the MC to continue the process of reviewing project concept designs for future programme cycles.
- **Recommendation 6:** The Meeting endorsed the MC to review technical aspects of future project concept submissions and report to the subsequent NRM, using other technical experts as required. The Meeting requested the MC to report to the 36<sup>th</sup> NRM on its experience with this process.
- **Recommendation 8:** The Meeting requested the Secretariat to invite representatives from all RCA MS to relevant future NLO meetings.
- **Recommendation 13:** The Meeting requested the MC to draft guidelines for recording of “in-kind” support provided by RCA Member States. The draft guidelines should be presented to the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM for discussion.
- **Recommendation 15:** The Meeting deferred discussion of a mechanism for providing consolidated feedback to the Agency on their project evaluations to a future GCM or NRM.
- **Recommendations 16 and 17:** The Meeting deferred discussion of any commercialisation and IP issues surrounding RCA projects to a future GCM or NRM.
- **Recommendation 19:** The Meeting agreed that project review meetings should not assume either a cost or an implementation burden, and that video-conferencing facilities should be used for MC project review activities where possible.

- **Recommendation 20:** The Meeting encouraged NRs to ensure project proposals were prepared as early as possible, and no later than the NRM two years before the relevant TC programme cycle.
- **Recommendation 24:** The Meeting noted that this recommendation was addressed to the IAEA and did not need to be considered by the NRM.
- **Recommendation 26:** The Meeting encouraged LCCs to investigate participation/funding options with other international and regional organisations in project concept design, taking every reasonable effort to avoid duplication of, overlap with or compromise of other projects.
- **Recommendation 27:** The Meeting encouraged RCARO, with the support of Member States, to publish success stories about the RCA's positive role as a partner for regional organisations.

The Meeting modified the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the MC and agreed to further review the ToR again at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM to determine the size and composition of the MC.

#### **9. Report of the Director of the RCARO – RCANRM(35)/10**

At the request of the Chair, the Acting Director of RCARO presented a report covering RCARO activities in 2012 and the work plan for 2013. His presentation is appended as Annex 29.

**The Meeting noted the report provided by the Acting Director of the RCARO. The National Representatives commended the RCARO on its successes in promoting the RCA.**

#### **10. Report of the Chairman of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee**

The Chair presented the report of the meeting of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee held on 18 March 2013, which was attended by CPR, MYA, NZE, ROK, DIR-TCAP and RCA-FP. The Acting Director of the RCARO and staff also attended. The SAC report is included as Annex 30.

The Meeting endorsed the recommendations contained in the SAC Meeting report, except for Recommendation 5.6 regarding the 2013 RCARO Workshop. It was noted that the proposed theme for this workshop was similar to that of 2012 and recommended the RCARO to develop an alternative theme for the workshop. This could be identified through consultation with SAC, considering the needs of RCARO and RCA Member States.

With regard to recruitment of the new Director of the RCARO, the Meeting took note of the recruitment processes and approved SAC's endorsement for the appointment of Mr Kun Mo Choi as the new Director of RCARO by acclamation. Mr Choi thanked the NRs for their approval.

The Chair emphasized the need to review and consider the recommendations of the 2012 Workshop on Enhancing Strategic Goals of RCARO, which had been deferred from the GCM. After long discussions, the Meeting endorsed the recommendations as reported, with the following decisions.

- Legal status of the RCARO: the Meeting recalled that the RCA Members did not provide the RCARO with a legal status when revising the RCA Agreement in 2012, and agreed that the issue of the legal status could be considered in the context of any future revisions of the RCA Agreement. In line with this consideration, NRs may table any proposals for revision of the RCA Agreement at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM for decision at a subsequent Meeting.
- Review of GOR: the Meeting requested the NRs of NZE and INS, as part of the review of the GOR under Agenda item 7b, to review the respective roles and responsibilities of the IAEA, RCA-FP and RCARO.
- The recommendations regarding project management support for the thematic approach and provision of information for the RCA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary General Conference exhibition were no longer relevant.

**The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the SAC report and commented that the RCARO could hold its workshop in areas which meet the needs of the RCARO and RCA Member States.**

**The Meeting approved the appointment of Mr Choi as the new Director of RCARO by acclamation.**

**The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the 2012 Workshop on Enhancing Strategic Goals of RCARO, and decided to:**

**a) defer consideration regarding RCARO's legal status until any future revisions of the RCA Agreement. The NRs may table any proposals for revision of the RCA Agreement at the 42nd GCM.**

**b) request the NRs of NZE and INS, as part of the review of the GOR, to review the respective roles and responsibilities of the IAEA, RCA-FP and RCARO.**

#### **11. Presentation on FNCA – RCANRM(35)/11**

At the request of the Chair, the FCNA Coordinator, Dr Sueo Machi, presented his report on FNCA activities relevant to the RCA during 2012. His presentation is given in Annex 31.

AUL asked that in future the FNCA and RCA meetings be scheduled further apart, as in previous years, so as to assist officers who covered both fora. AUL also noted that the OPAL reactor had not been mentioned by Dr Machi in the section on the FNCA Research Reactor Network project. Dr Machi noted this oversight. BGD indicated that they saw the Research Reactor Network project as a good means to share knowledge on Molybdenum-99 production and silicon doping in Asia.

**The Meeting noted the report provided by the FNCA Coordinator.**

## **12. Collaboration between RCA and FNCA in 2012 – RCANRM(35)/12**

The Chair invited the NRs of MAL, CPR, and JPN to report on the status of their respective collaborations, through the RCA projects, with the FNCA. The information was elaborated on in the presentations of the three Lead Country Coordinators (RAS/5/056; RAS/6/053; RAS/8/109).

The FNCA noted that RCA project outcomes could be improved by considering participation in FNCA events, and asked LCCs to consider this during project design.

The Meeting took note of the reports from MAL, CPR, and JPN on collaboration between the RCA and FNCA.

**The Meeting noted the reports from MAL, CPR, and JPN on collaboration between the RCA and FNCA.**

## **13. Update on 5<sup>th</sup> Extension of the RCA – RCANRM(35)/13**

At the request of the Chair, the RCA-FP presented an update on the acceptance of the 5<sup>th</sup> Extension to the RCA, noting that 13 Governments had deposited their instruments of acceptance ratifying the extension agreement. He reiterated the DDG-TC's message to encourage those MSs that had not yet lodged instruments of acceptance to do so as soon as possible, hopefully before the next RCA General Conference Meeting in September 2013.

INS and MYA informed that their ratification was in process and they remained committed in this regard.

**The Meeting called upon NRs of those MSs that had not yet ratified the 5<sup>th</sup> Extension to the RCA to coordinate with their respective government authorities to facilitate ratification as soon as possible.**

## **14. Update on the Best Practice Initiative – RCANRM(35)/14**

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to present a brief update on the Best Practice Initiative. The RCA-FP noted that this item had been concluded with the awarding of three best practice awards to RCA on three aspects:

- Building the future on strong foundations: evidence-based regional priorities for the RCA;
- Building the future on effective and sustainable technology transfer: an active and monitored TCDC and partnership programme for the RCA; and
- Enhanced prosperity of RCA: RCA promotional and information programme engaging a wide range of stakeholders.

## **15. Arrangements for the 42<sup>nd</sup> RCA GCM and the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> RCA NRMs**

NZE confirmed that they would host the 36<sup>th</sup> NRM at a venue and date to be confirmed at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM.

The Meeting discussed who would host the 37<sup>th</sup> NRM and the following NRMs. AUL indicated that based on previous order of NRMs, it would be the turn of SIN to host the NRM, but they were not present at the Meeting to confirm. The RCA-FP presented the hosting record of the previous NRMs. Based on the previous order, the Meeting enquired the NRs of PAK, MON, BGD, ROK and SRL whether they would be able to host the NRM from 2015, in that order. The respective NRs indicated that they would seek confirmation and report to the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM.

The RCA-FP noted that the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM would be held on 13 September 2013 in Vienna.

**The Meeting noted that the 36<sup>th</sup> NRM will be hosted by NZE at a venue and date to be notified at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM.**

**The Meeting noted the draft order of countries to host the NRMs from 2015 was PAK, MON, BGD, ROK and SRL. The Meeting requested the NRs of those countries to confirm their agreement at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM.**

**The Meeting noted that the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM will be held in Vienna on 13 September 2013.**

## **16. Any Other Business**

AUL noted that given the current RCA Strategic Priorities would terminate in 2017, it would be advisable to start a process for the preparation of the RCA Strategic Priorities 2018-2023 soon. It was suggested that the process for review of the Strategic Priorities could be discussed at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM, including any role for the MC.

**The Meeting agreed to discuss the process for the preparation of the RCA Strategic Priorities 2018-2023, including any role for the MC, at the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM.**

AUL raised the issue of RCA engagement with Pacific Island Countries (PIC). It was noted that a number of PICs had become members of the IAEA in recent years, and more may potentially do so in the future. Given that PICs would be entitled to TC assistance, it was suggested that the RCA investigate ways in which they could most effectively engage with the region. Noting the small size of individual countries within the region, AUL suggested that cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) may be a way for the RCA to engage on a regional basis. It was noted that a number of RCA Member States were also PIF Dialogue Partners.

MAL noted that the only engagement with PICs so far had been on the Fukushima marine contamination study project and asked whether AUL had been approached by any PICs for further cooperation. AUL indicated that there had been no direct

approach in this regard and that the issue was only being raised as a possible way of dealing with any future cooperation requests. AUL also noted that the current agreement did not define which countries – be they from the Pacific or elsewhere – could become members of the RCA. AUL said that they were not seeking any decisions now and that they would be able to prepare a discussion paper on the issue for further discussion.

**The Meeting requested AUL to circulate a discussion paper on RCA engagement with Pacific Island Countries, including potential involvement with the Pacific Island Forum, one month ahead of the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM for further discussion at the Meeting.**

#### **17. Adoption of the Meeting Report of the 35<sup>th</sup> RCA NRM**

The Meeting reviewed, revised and agreed the recorded conclusions, findings and decisions made during the Meeting. The RCA-FP was requested to circulate the draft report without annexes to the delegates within one month after the Meeting. The NRs shall submit their comments within two weeks of receipt of the draft report. The RCA-FP will circulate the final report within two weeks after receipt of comments.

#### **18. Closure**

On behalf of all Member States, IND thanked the Government of MYA for the successful preparation and hosting of the Meeting. He also thanked the Chair for conducting the Meeting and the RCA-FP for his assistance. This was supported by all other NRs.

In concluding, the Chair thanked all participants for their active involvement during the Meeting and wished them all a safe journey back home.