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MEETING REPORT

27TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL

RCA REPRESENTATIVES

4-8 April 2005

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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27th Meeting of RCA National Representatives

4-8 April, 2005

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1. Opening

The 27th Meeting of National RCA Representatives was held at the Hotel Grand Plaza Parkroyal, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 4th to 8th April 2005. 28 participants from 14 RCA Member States and the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) attended the Meeting. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Mongolia were not represented. The list of participants is given in Annex 1. The IAEA was represented by Prof. Dr. Ana Maria Cetto, Deputy Director General and Head of Technical Cooperation Department; Dr. Prinath Dias, RCA Coordinator; Mr. Myung-Ro Kim and Mr. K. Yokoyama, Project Management Officers attached to RCA Coordinator Office in Vienna, Austria. Mr. H. Nagasaki represented the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) by invitation of the RCA Secretariat.

1.1 Welcome Remarks of the Current Chairperson

Mr. Muhammad Munim Awais, the current RCA Chair, requested the participants in joining him to observe a one-minute silence in remembrance of the tsunami victims.

Mr. Awais thanked the participants for their presence and expressed his feeling of being honored with the presence of Prof. Dr. Ana Maria Cetto, Deputy Director General and Head of Technical Cooperation, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

1.2 Election of the Chairperson/ Rapporteurs

Following the invitation of the Chair for nominations, Republic of Korea proposed Mr. Nahrul Khair Alang Md Rashid, the National RCA Representative for Malaysia to be the Chair of the Meeting. Thailand seconded the proposal. .r. Nahrul Khair was unanimously elected by the Member States.

1.3 Remarks of the New Chairperson

1.3.1. Mr. Nahrul Khair Alang Md Rashid took the Chair and conveyed his gratitude to the Republic of Korea, Thailand and all other Member States for selecting him as the Chair of the 27th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives. He welcomed all the delegates to Malaysia. He said that the progress of the RCA was the responsibility of all National RCA Representatives, and he would do his utmost to fulfill his responsibilities as the Chair of the RCA. He sought the cooperation of the delegates to arrive at useful conclusions on all items included in the meeting Agenda. He thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr. Muhammad Munim Awais, for the dynamic leadership and excellent performance in running the affairs of RCA during the past year.

1.3.2. The Chair expressed his gratitude to Prof. Dr. Ana Maria Cetto, Deputy

Director General and Head Department Technical Cooperation, IAEA for her participation at the Meeting and invited her to address the Meeting.

1.3.3. Prof. Dr. Ana Maria Cetto in her brief remarks to the Meeting thanked the RCA for inviting her to participate at the Meeting and stated that this is her first official visit to the region. She expressed her regrets for not being able to attend the last Meeting of the National RCA Representatives held in Pakistan due to unavoidable reasons. She wished the National RCA Representatives a successful and productive meeting.

1.3.4. The Chair nominated Ms. Ainul Hayati Hj. Daud as the rapporteur of the Meeting.

1.3.5. The Chair also gave a brief explanation of the electronic Meeting System (eMS), introduced and thanked the MINT Technical team for their assistance in the development of the eMS. He added that they would be available to assist and facilitation during the Meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting agreed to delete item no. 20 and to include item 26: “Any Other Business”. Any other issues not included in the Meeting Agenda would be discussed in item 26 : Any Other Business.

The Meeting agreed to adopt the Agenda with the above amendments.

The adopted Agenda is given in Annex 2.

3. RCA Policy Issues

3.1. The RCA Coordinator gave a presentation on the RCA Policy Issues (Annex 3). The presentation put in perspective some of the policy issues pertaining to planning, implementation, and better management of the RCA. It also raises the need to achieve real impacts in all the RCA projects undertaken by Member States and in essence puts into perspective the policy dimension of the agenda items that would be covered during the Meeting.

3.2. On the issue raised by Australia with regard to current RCA Secretariat practices of issuing a single hosting letter, the RCA Secretariat agreed to issue separate host country agreement letters for each event upon request by Member States.

3.3. The Philippines referred to recognition of in-kind contribution made by Member State. The RCA Coordinator informed the Meeting that in-kind contributions made by Member States in hosting regional events and reported to RCA Secretariat were recorded in the RCA Annual Report.

RCA Secretariat shall continue to issue a single hosting letter for all RCA events unless otherwise requested by the respective Member State to issue an individual host letter.

4. **33rd RCA GCM Report -Matters Arising and Follow-up Actions**

The RCA Coordinator drew the attention of the Meeting that a document containing the status of implementing the decisions made at the 33rd RCA GCM (Annex 4), which had been circulated. It provided information on the decisions had been implemented and those deferred. It had been included in the current Meeting Agenda. Australia referred to the decision of the 33rd. RCA GCM concerning recommendations of the Workshop for Support Staff of the National RCA Representatives Office and inquired why they were not included in the Agenda. The RCA Coordinator informed that the decision of the 33rd GCM was that the National RCA Representatives should inform the Secretariat on the recommendations that should be considered at this meeting, and no information had been received in this regard.

The Meeting noted that the decisions made at the 33rd RCA GCM had been implemented and the items that were deferred will be discussed at the current Meeting.

5. **RCA Programme for 2005**

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA Coordinator informed the Member States that the Annual Report had been circulated through LiveLink. He said the procedure adopted in the past was to finalize the report after receiving the comments of the National RCA Representatives within abriefed the Meeting on the RCA Programme for 2005, which had been circulated prior to the Meeting (Annex 5).

The Meeting took note of the document containing information on the RCA Programme for 2005.

6. **RCA Annual Report for 2004**

6.1. At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA Coordinator informed the Member States that the Annual Report has been prepared according to the format specified in the RCA Operating Rules and Guidelines and had been circulated through LiveLink (Annex 6). He said the procedure adopted in the past was to finalize the report after receiving the comments of the National RCA Representatives within a stipulated time and the same procedure could be followed for the Annual Report for 2004.

6.2. Australia pointed out a number of shortcomings in the report and sought clarification on a several items. The RCA Coordinator suggested that the issues raised by Australia could be discussed separately to rectify the shortcomings and to provide the clarifications sought. Australia agreed to this suggestion.

6.3. Member States were advised to review the report and submit their comments to RCA office in Vienna within two months.

The Meeting decided that the National RCA Representatives should provide their comments on the Annual Report to the RCA Secretariat before the end of May 2005.

7. **RCA Thematic Sectors**

7.1. RCA Coordinator briefed the Meeting on this item at the invitation of the Chair and said that this item has been included in the Agenda following a decision made at the 33rd GCM regarding Guidelines and Operating Rules. He said that the Background Paper (Annex 7) on this issue contains four options for the consideration of the Meeting. The Meeting was informed of the four proposals made in the previous meeting.

7.2. Australia stated it withdrew its previous recommendation to create a non-technical thematic sector to accommodate ENO, on which the 4th option was based.

7.3. India expressed its preference to Option 1. Malaysia, the LCC for ENO also agreed on Proposal 1 and reiterated that ENO was an enabling infrastructure and should not be considered as a project per se. The Philippines was also in agreement with Malaysia on the issue of ENO. Republic of Korea proposed that Energy and Research Reactor to remain separate, and said it was receptive to the idea of merging the two sectors into one. New Zealand however disagreed on the proposal of merging of Energy and Research Reactor due to political reasons. RCA Coordinator said that the scope of the two sectors were different since the projects in the Energy Sector were mainly on Energy Planning and not on Nuclear Power. The general consensus was to retain Energy and Research Reactor as two separate thematic sectors.

The Meeting decided that Agriculture, Health Care, Environment, Industry, Radiation Protection, Energy and Research Reactor Utilization should be separate Thematic Sectors. It also decided that ENO should be considered as enabling infrastructure that provided support for the management of the RCA Programme through developmental activities of relevant ICT applications.

8. **Regional Resource Units**

8.1. At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA Coordinator informed the Meeting, that the Background Paper (Annex 8) on this item contains proposals for improving the utilization of the Regional Resource Units. He informed the Meeting that an RRU database had been established under ENO, which could be used as an effective means of providing up to date information on RRUs to relevant stakeholders.

8.2. Japan commented that the NR should not be held too strictly responsible for updating the RRU Database but should make every effort to ensure the information in the database was accurate and up to date.

8.3. Several Member States were of the opinion there should not be an evaluation of the RRUs as proposed in the Background Paper, and this should be left to each Member State to decide whether an institute should be offered as an RRU.

The Meeting decided that the National RCA Representatives should make every effort to ensure the information contained in the RRU database was up to date and accurate, but could not be held responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the information.

The Meeting also decided that there should not be an evaluation before a proposal of a Member State for an RRU was accepted, but each Member State should give due consideration to the criteria approved by the Member States before proposing to offer an RRU.

The Meeting also decided that each Member State should designate a person for maintaining the database on the RRUs and the National RCA Representatives should make arrangements for the nominated person to have administrative authority to do so.

9. RCA Success Stories

RCA Coordinator introduced this item at the invitation of the Chair. He informed the Meeting that following the decision made at the 33rd RCA General Conference Meeting, the format for Success Stories has been revised and circulated to Member States. He said that he has received 6 Success Stories from Pakistan, the titles of which were contained in the Background Paper (Annex 9) on this Item. He thanked Pakistan for providing the Success Stories. Australia congratulated Pakistan for preparing and forwarding the Success Stories. The consensus among the delegates was that the type of Success Stories that were required would be mostly from projects that had been completed and a more proactive approach would be needed to obtain them. It was decided that the RCARO should identify potential Success Stories and contact the relevant parties to obtain the necessary information.

The Meeting decided that the RCARO should identify completed projects that have potential to provide Success Stories and requested those who had information on those projects to provide Success Stories according to the required format.

10. OIOS Evaluation of the RCA Programme

10.1. The RCA Coordinator introduced the background of the result of the OIOS report (Annex 10) and said that the OIOS Report submitted to the Board of Governors and other relevant documents had been circulated to the Member States and comments on the evaluation were received from four Member States. It was proposed that the Meeting prepare a collective response to the Evaluation Report on Regional Agreements.

10.2. Japan expressed disappointment to the OIOS report and indicated that the report might have a negative impact on the Japanese contribution to the RCA.

10.3. Australia also expressed disappointment with the superficial and flawed report of the OIOS evaluation of the RCA programme. The Meeting agreed to form a Working Group to draft a common response to the evaluation report. Members of the Working Group would consist of Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines and India with the RCARO as the observer. Australia would act as the coordinator.

The Meeting decided to form a Working Group comprising of Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines and India, with the RCARO as the observer and Australia as the coordinator. The Meeting requested the Chair to intimate to the Department of Technical Cooperation, IAEA to defer its response to OIOS until the comprehensive inputs from the RCA attached to this report had been considered by them.

11. Harmonization of RCA and non-RCA Projects

The RCA Coordinator informed that this paper (Annex 11) was presented at the request made by the Member States at the 26th NRM. The Meeting took note of the contents of the paper and agreed that the element of regional cooperation in the design should be the fundamental difference between the RCA and non-RCA projects and non-RCA projects should not be involved to a significant extent with regional cooperation in their design. The Meeting decided that apart from the non-RCA projects identified by Australia as perhaps having regional cooperation elements, no further action would be needed at present.

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12. Medium Term Priorities for the RCA Thematic Sectors

12.1. The RCA Coordinator briefed the Meeting on the proposal for a medium term strategy for the RCA (Annex 12) and stated that the Secretariat had made preliminary proposals in this regard to facilitate the adoption of a Medium Term Strategy by the Member States. The RCA Coordinator also indicated the need to reduce the number of projects, which would make it possible to provide more extensive training to participants of RCA Projects. The Meeting decided to establish a Working Group to prepare a Medium Term Strategy of RCA.

12.2. Australia supported the need to have a reduced number of well design high impact projects in the RCA Programme. India emphasized that the choice of energy used in any Member States, should be based on the progress of the nuclear usage and research in the Member State. The Republic of Korea expressed its regret on Research Reactor Utilization not being include in the Core Group. The Philippines proposed meetings of Expert Advisory Group Meetings to identify priorities in each Thematic Sector. Australia and Malaysia were not in agreement with this proposal. New Zealand suggested that the proposed Working Group should not only decide on the priority areas but also look into

the strategic aspects of the RCA Programme such as end-user focus.

12.3. China as the Thematic Sector Lead Country for Agriculture offered to provide information on priorities in the Agricultural Sector to the Working Group.

12.4. Malaysia and Australia agreed with New Zealand regarding the establishment of a Working Groups and proposed that experts in each Thematic Area should be consulted after the Working Group had identified the priorities. Malaysia also stated that providing more extensive training will not automatically result in the projects producing the expected impact unless steps were taken to take the results of the projects to the end-users.

12.5. Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, The Philippines and India volunteered to be Members of the Working Group to draft the Medium Term Strategy. Other Member States were invited to give inputs via emails or other electronic means of communications.

The Meeting decided to establish a Working Group, comprising of Australia, New Zealand, India, Malaysia and The Philippines to draft the RCA Medium Term Strategy. It was decided that the Working Group should meet in Vienna during the week of the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators Meeting. The preliminary report of the Working Group will be presented to the 34th RCA GCM and the final report to the 28th NRM.

13. Priorities for the RCA 2007/2008 Programme

13.1. The RCA Coordinator at the invitation of the Chair introduced the item and said that the Concept Papers received from Member States according to the format adopted at the 26th NRM, were forwarded for the evaluation by the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators and a summary of their evaluations (Annex 13) have been presented to the 27th National RCA Representatives Meeting to facilitate identification of projects to be implemented in 2007/2008.

13.2. Australia expressed reservation with the methodology adopted for the assessment of the concept papers and consequently considered the results of evaluations by the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators to be flawed and submitted two documents (Annex 14 and Annex 15) containing its views on the Project Concept Papers. India commented that only projects proposed by TSLCCs themselves have been recommended.

13.3. Pakistan stated that the evaluation were biased towards certain projects and gave examples on “Impact of heavy-elements on water pollution in the Asian Region” (ENV3) and “Assessment of trends in freshwater quality using environmental isotopes and chemical techniques for improved resource management” (ENV5).

13.4. Malaysia agreed with the comments made by the other delegations and proposed that a review of the Concept Papers be made by the National RCA Representatives during the Meeting.

It was decided that the National RCA Representatives should review each Concept Paper and decisions in this regards to the 2007-08 Concept Papers should be made after the Meeting reconvened on the following day.

Following the review of the Concept Papers the Meeting decided that the RCA Programme for 2007/2008 should comprise of the Projects indicated in the Annex 16, given in order of priority in each of the Thematic Sectors.

14. Management of RCA Homepages

14.1. RCA Coordinator briefed the Meeting that currently there were six Homepages related to the RCA Programme and some of them were irrelevant in the current context (Annex 17). Three of the six Homepages were updated regularly and maintained while the other three Homepages that had not been updated for several years. The Meeting was required to consider the proposal with regard to the RCA Homepages, in order to improve the communication flow to RCA stakeholders and the general public through the RCA Homepages.

14.2. Australia proposed establishment of an alternate web-site for archived of RCA documents.

14.3. Malaysia considered that it was not necessary to have an alternative mirror site and promised to review all the possible linkages in the RCA Members Only Homepage.

14.4. RCARO stated the consistency of contents of the three updated homepages would be necessary as this contributed to enhancing the image of the RCA.

14.5. Malaysia agreed with RCARO and proposed that all information to be screened by the RCA Secretariat before being published in the Homepages. He thanked the IAEA for the licenses on Livelink granted to stakeholders in particular to the NR, staff in the NR Office, TSLCCs and PLCCs.

The meeting decided to retain only the three active websites, RCA Regional website hosted by IAEA Secretariat, RCA Members Only Homepage hosted by Malaysia and RCA RO websites for public access and hosted by RCA Regional Office in Republic of Korea. The requested the three hosts of the websites to implement the proposals made with regard to the objectives and the contents of the Homepages in the Background Document on this Agenda Item.

15. Operational Status of the RCARO after Completion of the Interim Period

15.1. The Chair invited the RCA Coordinator to present the result of the Secretariat assessment of performance of the RCARO. The RCA Coordinator briefed the meeting on the contents of the Background Paper (Annex 18) on this issue. The Meeting was informed that a report on the performance of RCARO had been circulated to the Member States following the decision made at the 33rd GCM.

15.2. Australia reported that the RCARO Advisory Committee had considered the performance report submitted by the RCA Secretariat and has recommended the extension of the RCARO beyond the interim period into full operation. Australia also said that the Advisory Committee has recommended that the current Interim Advisory Committee should continue to function as the Standing Advisory Committee for a limited period of time to ensure continuity.

15.3. Japan expressed appreciation efforts made by RCARO and Korean Government, especially Ministry of Science and Technology. Japan would like to make sure the operational status of the RCARO after completion of the Interim period for their records.

15.4. Japan recognized that the most important role of the Director of the RCARO is to contribute directly to the RCA activities through enhancing the visibility and viability of the RCA and seeking new funds for the RCA Projects.

15.5. Japan understood that at this moment there is no need to amend the RCA agreement or conclude the supplementary agreement and other related documents among the Member States for the transition to full operational status. Japan also understands that the RCARO is not an official organization authorized by the RCA agreement; accordingly it is impossible to grant any privilege or immunity to the Director and other staff members of the RCARO. We further consider that the RCARO is unable to take responsibilities and play roles of the Meeting of Representatives, the RCA Office the Project Committee in their stead.

15.6. Malaysia indicated its inability to support the revision of the RCA Agreement and said that any issues on privileges and immunities should be resolved bi-laterally.

15.7. Mr. J.K. Chung of the RCARO said that the RCARO is not a legal entity and the immunities and privileges of the Director RCARO will depend on whether diplomatic status is granted by the home country. He also said that RCARO could not function as a legal entity and faces difficulties in approaching potential donors. He also said that the possibility of making the RCARO an International Organization is being looked into.

15.8. The Philippines and China expressed their support for the extension of th RCARO beyond the interim period to full operation.

15.9. Viet Nam expressed their appreciation to RCARO for its contribution in the installation of Co-60 therapy facility in Viet Nam. Viet Nam was now capable of contributing in human resource development in the related field.

15.10. The Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation of the Interntional Atomic Energy Agency, Ms. Ana Maria Cetto proposed that RCARO should have more authority to approach donors and a strategic analysis of RCARO operations should be carried out.

The Meeting decided to extend the RCARO beyond the interim period to full operation.

16. Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the RCARO

16.1. The Chair of the RCARO Advisory Committee (RCARO AC) presented the Report of the 7th. Meeting of the RCARO AC, which was held on the 3rd April 2005 at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, prior to the 27th Meeting of NRM (Annex 19) with the participation of Dr. John Easey (AUL on behalf of Dr Ron Cameron), Mr Zhang Jing (CPR), Mr K Raghuraman (IND), Dr Alumanda Dela Rosa (PHI), Mr Jong-Bae Choi (ROK) and Dr M Prinath Dias (IAEA/RCA Coordinator). Observers to the meeting were Dr Nahrul Khair Alang Md. Rashid (the in-coming RCA

Chair) and Mr M. R. Kim, cost-free expert assigned to the IAEA RCA Office. Mr Kun-Mo Choi, (interim Director), Mr John K Chung (Programme Officer) and Ms Min-Jeong Lee (Assistant Programme Officer) from the RCARO and other supporting staff for the AC members also participated in the Meeting.

16.2. The Chair of the RCARO AC (Australia) informed the Meeting that the RCARO interim Advisory Committee has recommended holding of Ministerial Level Meetings every five years to improve the awareness of RCA activities among senior policy makers in the RCA Member States.

16.3. The Meeting accepted this proposal and requested Australia to look into the possibility of holding such a meeting during the 29th Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives scheduled to be held in Australia in 2007.

16.4. Australia also said that the interim Advisory Committee has recommended that the RCARO should explore the possibility of obtaining Success Stories and this proposal had been already accepted by the Meeting under a previous Agenda Item.

16.5. Australia also informed the Meeting that the interim Advisory Committee has recommended the appointment of the candidate selected by the Selection Committee, Mr. Kun-Mo Choi as the Director of the RCARO.

16.6. The Meeting was also informed that the interim Advisory Committee has recommended that the members of the current interim RCARO Advisory Committee should be appointed as members of the Standing Advisory Committee for a term of not less than 1 year and not more than 3 years. The Meeting was also informed that Guidelines had been prepared on the operation of RCARO SAC.

16.7. The Chairman of the interim Advisory Committee of RCARO also stated that the interim Advisory Committee has recommended that the NRM approve the Work Plan of the RCARO for 2005. He said that the RCARO has also recommended the adoption of the Performance Report prepared by the RCA Secretariat and the RCARO should implement the recommendations made in this report.

16.8. On the issue of the composition of the Standing Advisory Committee Pakistan indicated it was not in favor of the recommendation made and proposed the Standing Advisory Committee should comprise of the current, past and present RCA Chairs and the RCA Coordinator without voting rights. Several Member States expressed their views in this regard and after considering several options, it was decided that the immediate past, current and immediate future Chairs, the host country of the RCARO (ROK), the immediate past Chair of the Interim Advisory Committee (Australia), and RCA Coordinator (without voting rights) should be members of the Standing Advisory Committee.

The Meeting accepted the recommendation of the interim RCARO AC regarding holding Ministerial Meetings and requested Australia to explore the possibility of holding it during the 29th NRM to be held in 2007.

The Meeting decided to adopt the formula for the composition of the SAC would consist of the immediate past, current and immediate future Chairs, the host country

of the RCARO (ROK), the immediate past Chair of the Interim Advisory Committee (Australia), and RCA Coordinator (without voting rights) as Members of the Standing Advisory Committee and decided the Guidelines on the operation of the RCARO SAC should be revised based on the decisions made.

17. Appointment of the Director of the RCARO

17.1. The Chair of interim AC of RCARO said that as stated in the report of the Meeting of the interim RCARO AC, the Advisory Committee had recommended the appointment of Mr. Kun-Mo Choi as the Director of the RCARO.

17.2. The Meeting accepted the recommendation of the RCARO AC. A number of Member States and the RCA Coordinator congratulated Mr. Choi, and pledged support and cooperation.

17.3. The Meeting also thanked Mr. Anand.

The Meeting decided to appoint Mr. Kun-Mo Choi as the Director of the RCARO.

18. Guidelines on the Projects Initiated by the RCARO

18.1. At the invitation of the Chair Australia the Convener of the Working Group on Guidelines for Projects Initiated by the RCARO presented the recommendations of the Working Group (Annex 20).

18.2. During the discussion on this issue, Japan referred to the functions of RCARO Director, and stated that item c) of Section 3 of the report should be amended from “To promote the peaceful uses of appropriate nuclear technology to assist in addressing regional and national needs” to “ Provide support to the RCA programme to promote the peaceful uses of appropriate nuclear technology to address regional and national needs”. Japan also proposed to incorporate this amendment in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules. Japan further said that the International Atomic Energy Agency takes measures to ensure safeguards, security and safety requirements were met in the projects implemented through the IAEA, and there should be assurance that these requirements would also be met in projects initiated by the RCARO.

18.3. Malaysia inquired whether RCARO would be allowed to initiate projects pending adoption of the Guidelines.

18.4. Australia proposed the recommendations of the Working Group be circulated to the Members of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee and their decision on this regard should be reported to the 34th RCA GCM.

The Meeting decided that the recommendations of the Working Group should be circulated to the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee and the decision of the RCARO SAC should be reported to the 34th RCAGCM.

The Meeting also decided to amend the functions of the Director RCARO from “Promote the peaceful uses of appropriate nuclear technology to assist in addressing regional and national needs” to “ Provide support to the RCA programme to promote the peaceful uses of appropriate nuclear technology to address regional and

national needs”.

Preparation of the guidelines on non-IAEA funded project of the RCARO would be drafted.

19. Report of the Director of the RCARO

19.1. The Director of the RCARO reported the RCARO 2004 activities and the RCARO 2005 work plan (Annex 21).

19.2. Japan expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken by RCARO and said it will provide its cooperation to the RCARO to the greatest possible extent.

Malaysia, commenting on the report inquired the purpose of the press releases mentioned in the Report.

19.3. Referring to the proposal of the RCARO to create a database on “Who’s Who in the RCA” Malaysia suggested linking this database to the Experts’ roster of the IAEA. RCARO stated that this database would be on RCA Alumni and not on those who are involved in the programme at present.

19.4. Malaysia also expressed its congratulations to RCARO for initiating a Strategic Workshop.

The Meeting noted the RCARO 2004 activities and approved the RCARO 2005 work plan.

21. Presentation of the Representative of FNCA

Mr. Hideo Nakasugi, Representative of FNCA gave a presentation titled “Progress of FNCA Projects” (Annex 22). The Meeting took note of the presentation.

22. Collaboration between FNCA and RCA

22.1. The RCA Coordinator introducing this Agenda Item at the invitation of the Chair said that the 26th Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives had agreed in principle that collaboration between FNCA and RCA was of mutual benefit, and decided that a formal mechanism should be established for this purpose (Annex 23). The approval of the Meeting was sought to establish communication with the representatives of FNCA for establishing a mechanism for collaboration.

22.2. During the discussion on this issue India expressed its inability to support the proposed collaboration since the Membership of the FNCA and RCA are not the same. Pakistan indicated it could support the proposal for collaboration only if there is no discrimination to the non-members of the FNCA.

22.3. Malaysia proposed that RCARO should communicate with FNCA in this regard.

The Meeting decided that the RCARO should communicate with FNCA with regard to establishment of collaboration and report to the 34th RCA GCM, the outcome of the consultations.

23. ARASIA/AFRA/ARCAL/RCA Quadripartite Meeting

23.1. The RCA Coordinator sought guidance of the Meeting with regard to participation in the Quadripartite Meeting to be held in September 2005 (Annex 24).

23.2. Australia was of the opinion that priority should be given to RCA matters during the General Conference and participation in the Quadripartite Meeting in the past had not benefited the RCA.

23.3. Pakistan pointed out that only a limited number of persons from the RCA would need to attend the Meeting.

Malaysia commented on the need to focus on niche benefits from this meeting and said in the past there had not been any decisions or actions on follow-up from the meeting. Malaysia proposed a joint technical session on an appropriate theme.

23.4. India, agreeing with Australia stated that the Member States that send small delegations to the General Conference found it difficult to participate in other activities during that week.

23.5. RCARO informed that following its presentation on establishing partnerships representatives of AFRA and ARCAL had contacted them seeking further information.

23.6. China was of the opinion that exchange of information on managerial aspects of the regional programmes in addition to exchange of technical information would be useful.

23.7. Philippines agreed in principle that the Quadripartite Meeting was beneficial, but the Regional Agreements should be sincere in learning from each other and there should be follow-up action after the Meeting.

23.8. Ms. Ana Maria Cetto, DDG(TC) of the IAEA said that she was also not convinced of the benefit of the Quadripartite Meeting. She said it should be a means of improving TCDC. She suggested exchange of information of RRUs in each region for promoting TCDC among the regions.

23.9. Malaysia proposed that RCARO could inform the other regions of what RCA can offer. Australia endorsed the proposal of Malaysia and said that the exchange of information should be done electronically.

The Meeting decided that RCARO should provide information to Coordinators of other Regional Agreements on what the RCA can offer to the other regions, directly or through the RCA Coordinator.

24. Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinator's Meeting

The RCA Coordinator introducing this Agenda Item at the invitation of the Chair, said that the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators Meeting held in August 2004, requested the definition of scope of the LCC Meeting from the National RCA Representatives and this Item had been included in the Agenda on this account (Annex 25). He said that the Background Paper on this item contained a proposal on the scope of the LCC Meeting. The RCA Coordinator sought guidance from the Meeting regarding

the frequency and duration of the LCC Meeting.

The Meeting agreed with the scope of the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators' Meeting stated in Background Paper no. RCANRM(27)/ 17, and the frequency and duration of the TSLCC Meeting could be decided by the Secretariat depending on the issues that needed to be resolved at this Meeting.

25. **Thematic Sector and Project Lead Countries and Project Lead Country Coordinators**

25.1. The RCA Coordinator introducing this Agenda Item said that the Background Paper (Annex 26) on this issue contains a list of current Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators and their years of appointment. He said that according to the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules, a TSLCC was appointed for a period of four years and some TSLCCs have completed four years and the other will complete four years at the end of 2006. Australia proposed that since TSLCCs for Environment (New Zealand) and Health care (Japan) would complete their terms at the end of 2006, this could be an appropriate time to consider re-appointments of all TSLCCs.

25.2. Pakistan offered to be the TSLCC for Industry. India said that it supported the recommendation of Australia, but if the Meeting decided to re-appoint TSLCCs, it wished to offer to be the TSLCC for Agriculture.

25.3. Japan stated that it understood that Japan had become the TSLCC for Health since 2005. The RCA Coordinator informed that Japan has been attending the TSLCC Meeting as the TSLCC for Health care since 2003. Japan expressed its dissatisfaction and intention for future consultation with the RCA Coordinator for further clarification on this matter.

25.4. Malaysia proposed that re-appointment of TSLCCs be taken up at the 34th GCM.

25.5. RCA Coordinator sought endorsement of the Meeting of the Project Lead Country Coordinators proposed in the Background Paper. Malaysia proposed that RCA Coordinator should check for compatibility between the proposed list and the decisions made at Project Committee meetings in this regard, and make the necessary changes.

The Meeting decided to consider the appointment of TSLCCs at the 34th RCA GCM, and the Member States offering to be TSLCCs should provide information on the TSLCCs proposed in advance to verify that they had the qualifications and experience stipulated in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules.

Meeting also decided to endorse the list of Project Lead Country Coordinators proposed by the RCA Coordinator subject to correction of any discrepancies with the decisions taken by the Project Committees in this regard.

26. **Any Other Business**

26.1 **34th RCA GCM**

India proposed to hold the RCA GCM on the Friday, prior to the IAEA GC. The proposal was seconded by China, Malaysia and Pakistan. Australia indicated its willingness to consider having the Meeting other than on Wednesday.

The Meeting decided that the 34th RCA GCM should be held on the Friday prior to the IAEA General Conference unless any of the Member states inform the RCA Secretariat its inability to attend the GCM on Friday, within two weeks.

26.2 28th NRM

26.2.1. Malaysia thanked Thailand for giving the opportunity for Malaysia to host the 27th NRM. Thailand offered to host the 28th NRM in March 2006. India requested Thailand to avoid holding the Meeting during the IAEA Board of Governor's Meeting in March. The RCA Coordinator proposed that Thailand announce the actual date at the next RCA GCM.

26.2.2. The Chair referred to the normal practice of having an alternate host in the event that Thailand is unable to host the Meeting. RCARO referred to the sequence of hosting NRM, it was Vietnam's turn, followed by Japan. Vietnam was not able to commit before obtaining their Government's approval.

26.2.3. Thailand announced that it would conduct the Meeting in the similar environment as that conducted in Malaysia and indicated the possibility of holding it in their Cabinet meeting room.

The Meeting decided that the 28th NRM would be held in Thailand in 2006 and noted the option for hosting the 29th Meeting in Australia in 2007.

26.3 The Development of Intranet within RCA Member States

Philippines proposed the development of an intranet within the RCA Member States based on the Linux Open Source System (OSS) and offered its expertise towards this end. Malaysia agreed to bring up the issue to the attention of the ENO LCC for consideration.

The Meeting decided that the ENO Lead Country Coordinator should discuss this offer with the other ENO National Project Coordinators.

26.4 RCA Annual Report 2004

26.4.1. Australia referred to the 300% reduction of international expert mission as compared to the previous years and requested the RCA Coordinator to clarify the situation. RCA Coordinator agreed to verify the data.

26.4.2. Australia also expressed concern about the low level of utilization of experts from RCA Member States in 2004 and recalled that there had been past agreements on a target of 75% utilization for international regional experts. Concern was also voiced on the low financial implementation rate, less than 57%, in the past two years.

RCA Coordinator shall review the data and consult Member States to enhance utilization of experts from the region and report the outcome at the next GCM.

26.5 Policy on Fellowships and Equipment

26.5.1. Australia referred to the provision of fellowship/scientific visits and procurement of equipment in the RCA projects and requested the Meeting to provide the direction policy on the RCA policy provision of fellowships/scientific visits and equipment. It was suggested that consumables should be borne by Member States for sustainability of the project.

26.5.2. Philippines and China shared the same view on the issue that the provision of fellowship and equipment should be dependent on the objective of the project. Australia support China on this issue but the provision of the fellowships/scientific visits must be specifically justified.

The Meeting decided that the fellowships/scientific visits and equipment components should be kept to a minimum and should be utilized only when there is a strong specific justification.

26.6 Archive of RCA Documents

26.6.1. Malaysia proposed collaboration with the RCARO to expand the repository of archived documents and to include documents dating as far back as 1972. RCARO welcomed the proposal from Malaysia and expressed its willingness to work closely with Malaysia to collect the documents by offering its expertise towards this end. RCARO informed the Meeting that it also planned to create a who's who in RCA and a network of RCA alumni.

26.6.2. India requested Philippines to obtain information on small angle neutron spectrometers for IPA. Philippines agreed to the suggestion and will submit the information to ENO for archiving.

The Chairperson encouraged the Member States to visit their archives and communicate with RCARO or ENO PLCC.

27. Adop28. Adoption of the Meeting Report of the 27th Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives

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28. Adoption of the Report of the Scientific Forum

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29. Closing Ceremony

29.1 Address of the DDG-TC

The DDG TC gave her closing address on the 6th April 2005. She thanked the Meeting for giving her the opportunity to share her observations with the Meeting

29.1.1 2007-2008 TCP

Member States were encouraged to increase participation and ownership in the TC Programme. They were requested to come up with a list of projects with preliminary prioritization based on concept information. This would serve as an indication to the secretariat on the benefits gained through the regional cooperation, its multiplying effects and sustainability.

29.1.2 OIOS Report

DDG-TC advised the Meeting to look at the positive side of the report and to be self-critics. DDG-TC hoped to see continuation of the efforts to improve the programme.

29.1.3 Ownership

DDG-TC advised the Meeting to look at the role of RCA Coordinator as liaison between Member States and IAEA. In citing the relationship between RCA and FNCA, final decision will be made by RCARO.

29.1.4 TC Department Restructuring Process

The Meeting was informed that the restructuring of the TC Department would bring benefit to RCA. The restructuring involved regrouping of country to four regions, reviewing the functioning section in particular programming and implementation with the view that each of the project would be looked from cradle to grave. There are four Programme Divisions in TC Department and each division is strengthen with the appointment of a director. TCPC will become the office of Programme and Coordination.

29.1.5 Strategy and Policy

The Meeting was advised to concentrate on the strategy and policy issues for more dynamic cooperation between the Member States.

29.2 Remark by the RCA Coordinator

The RCA Coordinator thanked the Member States for their contribution to the success of the Meeting and the host institute Malaysian Institute for Nuclear Technology Research (MINT) for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements made. He also thanked the Chair and the rapporteurs for their assistance in preparing the minutes of the Meeting. He requested the support and guidance of the National RCA Representatives to make it possible for the RCA to achieve its vision.

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29.3 Closing Remark by the Meeting Chairman

The Chairman, in his closing remarks thanked all the delegates for the

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cooperation he received to bring the meeting to a successful conclusion. He also thanked the RCA Coordinator for his contribution. He wished all the delegates a safe and a pleasant journey back to their home countries and declared the Meeting closed