



MEETING REPORT

26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE NATIONAL  
RCA REPRESENTATIVES

**12-15 April 2004**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

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**26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RCA National Representatives**  
**12-15 April, 2004**  
**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Opening**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives was held at the Hotel Holiday Inn, Islamabad, Pakistan from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2004. 34 participants from ~~16 the 17~~ RCA Member States and the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) attended the Meeting. India was not represented (Annex 1). The IAEA was represented by Dr. Manase Peter Salema, Director, Division for Africa and East Asia and the Pacific Section, Department of Technical Cooperation; Dr. Prinath Dias, RCA Coordinator; and Mr. K. Yokoyama, Project Management Officer attached to RCA. The Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) was represented by Mr. H. Nagasaki on invitation.

Dr. Prinath Dias, RCA Coordinator, gave a short introduction to the RCA Programme, at the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting. He said that IAEA ~~is was~~ not a party to the Agreement but ~~functions functioned~~ as the secretariat of the RCA programme, ~~provides provided~~ assistance for implementation of the RCA projects under its Technical Cooperation Programme and ~~provides provided~~ technical support for the programme through the ~~IAEA technical Technical departments Departments of the IAEA~~. He conveyed his appreciation to the Government of Pakistan for hosting this meeting and for the excellent arrangements made. (Annex 2).

Speaking on the occasion the Director of the Division for Africa and East Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Manase Peter Salema, expressed IAEA's appreciation Pakistan's role in promoting peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. He said Pakistan has always supported the technical programme of the IAEA through provision of experts, training of fellows, hosting IAEA sponsored events etc. (Annex 3).

In his welcome address Member, Physical Sciences, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Muhammad Masud Ahmed highlighted the development activities of the PAEC in various fields. He said the Commission has introduced various technologies in the fields of agriculture, health, industry, medicine and power generation which are benefiting the ~~masses~~ general population. (Annex 4)

In his inaugural address Mr Khurshid M. Kasuri, Minister for Foreign Affairs, ~~of the~~ Government of Pakistan, ~~in his inaugural address~~ said that Pakistan ~~is was~~ looking forward to increasing technical cooperation among the RCA Member ~~C~~eountries for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology for socio-economic development of the people. He said that Pakistan ~~is was~~ ready to share its successful experiences with other countries in peaceful application of nuclear technologies as it ~~has had~~ achieved significant progress in the fields of agriculture, food, health, industry, quality assurance and research reactor utilization. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan ~~has had~~ gained substantially from the activities of RCA in the peaceful application of nuclear technology in various fields

which ~~are-were~~ benefiting the people in these areas. He said Pakistan ~~has-had~~ always shown keen interest in the activities of IAEA and ~~believes-believed~~ in regional cooperation for utilization of atomic energy for peaceful application. The Foreign Minister appreciated the activities of RCA in the region for initiating the idea of sharing of each other's know-how in the areas of importance to their development. He said its achievements are being widely regarded as an example of successful cooperative effort in the application of nuclear techniques at regional level. He added that Pakistan has also a strong interest in sharing the experience in other fields like Non-Destructive Testing and Industrial Radiography in which Pakistan have also acquired experience and expertise for the benefit of the Member States. (Annex 5)

Mr. Muhammad Munim Awais, Director, International Affairs & Training, PAEC and the National RCA Representative of Pakistan, thanked all the delegates and invitees for their participation at the Opening Ceremony. He hoped that the outcome of this Meeting would greatly facilitate shaping the future programme of the RCA.

### **Session I (Day 1)**

Mr. J. M. A. C. Jayasinghe the National RCA Representative of Sri Lanka representing RCA Chair, Professor Rohini Hewamanna, welcomed the delegates to the Meeting. He, on behalf of Prof. Hewamanna, thanked all the National RCA Representatives for the cooperation received by the RCA Chair during the past year. He also thanked the National RCA Representative of Pakistan for the excellent arrangements made for 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives.

~~The RCA Chairman, Mr. J. M. A. C. Jayasinghe representing the National RCA Representative of Sri Lanka and RCA Chair, Professor Rohini Hewamanna, welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He thanked all the National RCA Representatives for the Cooperation cooperation received during the past year. He also thanked the National RCA Representative of Pakistan for the excellent arrangements made for 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives.~~

### **1. Election of the Chairperson and Appointment of Rapporteurs**

Thailand proposed Mr. Muhammad Munim Awais, National RCA Representative for Pakistan as the Chair~~man~~ of the Meeting. Australia seconded the proposal, which was unanimously approved by the Member States.

Mr. Muhammad Munim Awais took the Chair and conveyed gratitude to the Thailand, Australia and all other Member States for selecting him as the Chair~~person~~ of the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National RCA Representatives. He welcomed all the delegates to Pakistan. He said that the progress of the RCA ~~is-was~~ the responsibility of all National RCA Representatives, and he ~~will-would~~ do his utmost to fulfill his responsibilities as the Chair~~man~~ of the RCA. He sought the cooperation of the delegates to arrive at useful conclusions on all the Agenda items. He thanked the outgoing Chair~~man~~, ~~through~~ Mr. Jayasinghe, for ~~his-the~~ dynamic leadership and excellent performance in running the affairs of RCA during ~~his-tenure~~ ~~the past year~~.

The Chair~~man~~ proposed Mr. Khawaja Munir Samad, Dr. M. Salahuddin, and Mr. M. Zubair Sadiq of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission as Rapporteurs of the Meeting. The Meeting unanimously approved their nomination.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

Japan requested that the Agenda item on “Expansion of Participation in RCA Activities” be taken up during the first day of the Meeting. This was approved by the Meeting. The approved Agenda is given in Annex 6.

## **3. Report of the 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting**

### **a) Adoption of the Report**

The RCA Coordinator, IAEA informed the Meeting that the draft report been circulated to the Member States and revised based on the comments received. Australia stated that the report has several typographic errors that need to be corrected. RCARO was requested to review and compile a commonly applicable list of acronyms related to RCA for future use.

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**The Meeting decided to adopt the report subject to the correction of typographical errors.**

### **b) Matters arising and follow-up Actions**

#### **i) Task Force Report to ~~Review Past~~ Review Past Decisions**

Australia informed that Malaysia ~~will~~would present the report during the presentation on the ENO Project. ~~It~~Referring to the Report of the Task Force on Past Decisions stated that ambiguity should be avoided in recording the decisions of the Meetings of National RCA Representatives. He also said that the Guidelines and Operating Rules were last amended in 1999, and suggested that they should be periodically amended based on the decisions taken at the Meetings of National RCA Representatives. Australia ~~stated~~proposed that the current Guidelines and Operating Rules should be amended based on the decisions taken at the Strategic Session of the Meeting, and upgraded following each NRM to keep them current~~:-~~.

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**The Meeting decided that the Guidelines and Operating Rules should be amended based on the decisions taken at the Strategic Session of the Meeting and upgraded following each National Representative Meeting to keep them current.**

## **ii) RCA Logo-RCANRM(26)/1**

The RCA Coordinator introduced this item at the invitation of the Chairman. Mr. J.K. Kim, ~~Director of~~ RCARO briefed the ~~meeting~~ Meeting on the two versions of the Logo and on the guidelines proposed by RCARO for its usage. Australia, the Philippines, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam ~~nam Nam~~ expressed their preference for the version of the Logo without borders.

**The Meeting decided to adopt the version without borders as the RCA Logo. (Annex 7).**

**The Meeting also decided that the guidelines on the use of the Logo should be further refined with regard to the font of the lettering to be used with the Logo and the size of the lettering in proportion to the dimensions of the Logo, and be presented to the 33<sup>rd</sup> RCA General Conference Meeting.**

## **iii) Follow-up Actions**

RCA Coordinator briefed the Meeting on the status of the follow-up actions to the decisions taken at the 32<sup>nd</sup> RCA General Conference Meeting. (Annex 8)

## **Session II (Day 1)**

### **4. Progress Report on ENO Project-Malaysia**

Malaysia presented the Progress Report on Electronic Networking and Outreach (ENO) Project and gave a demonstration on the use of the Members Only Web-site as a repository of RCA documents, to contribute to good governance of the Meetings of the National RCA Representatives and for outreach and networking for transfer of nuclear technology and distributed the compact diskettes containing ~~the an example software~~. Malaysia also informed the Meeting that the use of the software named Livelink would be demonstrated during the 33<sup>rd</sup> RCA General Conference Meeting. (Annex 9) The Philippines requested a catalogue of the project reports posted on the Members Only Web-site. The Meeting expressed its appreciation of the efforts of Malaysia

~~The Meeting expressed its appreciation of the efforts of Malaysia and agreed on the time table for the use of RCA Members only website for preparation, conduct and follow-up to meetings. The Meeting Agreeddecided to use the RCA Members only website for preparation, conduct, follow-up and extension of technology and information shared during training courses, workshop and seminar to end-users MSs were invited to visit the website and provide their in-puts and to provide those missing documents in the list. The mMeeting requested the IAEA forto arrange for the license on Livelink for MSs.~~

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## 5. Presentation of RCA Programme in 2003/2004

The RCA Coordinator presented a Summary of the RCA Programme in 2003/2004, financial status, regional events planned in 2004 and the project requests received for the 2005/2006 TC cycle. (Annex 10). He stated that the disbursements for ~~fellowships~~ Fellowships and Scientific Visits during the past year were only 1.9% and 2.1% and inquired whether the RCA programme should have a fellowship component. The Philippines pointed out that the disbursements of 16% of the funds for equipment is too high. Malaysia proposed that these two issues be discussed during the Strategic Session.

## 6. RCA Annual Report for 2003

The RCA Coordinator informed the Meeting that the RCA Annual Report for 2003 ~~has~~ had been circulated to the Member States.

RCARO requested that the RCARO Annual Report be a part of the RCA Annual Report. Malaysia expressed the view that procedure for adopting the RCA Annual Report should also apply to RCARO Annual Report. China supported the views expressed by Malaysia.

- a) The Meeting decided that the Member States should forward their comments on the Annual Report to the RCA Office before 30<sup>th</sup> of April, and the RCA Office should revise the report based on the comments received.
- b) ~~The Meeting agreed~~decided for future years to approve Part I of the report at the Regional Meeting and approve the rest of the RCA Annual Report at the RCA GC Meeting, for future years.
- a)c) ~~It was agreed that~~The Meeting decided to include the RCARO Annual report be included in the RCA Annual Report and commented on by MS following its approval by the National RCA Representatives.

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## 7. RCA Radiation Protection Programme -Australia

Australia made a presentation on the current status of the RCA Radiation Protection Programme. (Annex 11). The Meeting was briefed on the outcome of the Consultants Meeting on Radiation Protection held in Vienna in December 2003. ~~He also said~~They ~~The Meeting were~~as also informed that a Meeting of the Focal Persons for Radiation Protection ~~will~~would be held in China in June 2004. Japan and Malaysia indicated that they wished ed to actively participate at this Meeting. Malaysia also said that action has been already taken by them to implement the recommendations made in the Report of the Consultants Meeting.

Dr. Manase Peter Salema, Director, Division for Africa and East Asia and the Pacific, IAEA, said that Radiation Protection was a pre-requisite for sustainable utilization of

nuclear technology for development, and the IAEA will continue to support the Member States for up-grading their Radiation Protection infrastructure. He pointed out that, with the ultimate intention of strengthening radiation protection, the IAEA has requested Member States to submit project requests indicating their needs for meeting the Basic Safety Standards, based on which and past experience, the best modality or modalities for meeting these needs will be decided.

**8. Sustainability and Self-Reliance of Nuclear Institutes – Paper submitted by Dr. P. Roberts, Manager of the Regional Project on Sustainability and Self-Reliance - RCANRM(26)/2**

The RCA Coordinator summarized the above paper and said that it ~~has~~<sup>had</sup> been presented to the Meeting to inform the delegates of the possible collaboration between the RCARO and the Business Development Units (BDUs) that ~~are~~<sup>were</sup> being established in the Member States under the IAEA Regional Project on Sustainability and Self Reliance of National Nuclear Institutes, after the RCARO and the BDUs acquire maturity. RCARO indicated its wish to collaborate with the BDUs. Thailand supported a link between RCARO and the BDUs. The Chair~~person~~ thanked Peter Roberts for submitting the above paper for the consideration of the Meeting.

**The Meeting- ~~thanked Dr. Peter Robert for the paper. The m~~Meeting decided that the content of this paper ~~arewas~~<sup>was</sup> not releb~~va~~<sup>va</sup>nt to the short and medium term needs of the RCA. ~~the contents of this paper are not relevant to the short and medium term needs of the RCA.~~**

**9. Expansion of Participation in RCA Activities - RCANRM(26)/3**

Japan presented the above paper and stated that ~~importance of the RCA to the Government of Japan~~ could be ~~marginalized by~~<sup>lessened</sup> ~~the Government of Japan~~ if action ~~is~~<sup>were</sup> not taken to expand its activities ~~in order~~ to increase its visibility. Australia said that there ~~have~~<sup>had</sup> been ~~efforts~~<sup>arrangements</sup> in the past to allow participation of non-RCA Member States in RCA activities. ~~The main features were that the participation would be~~ at no cost to the RCA, ~~and without~~<sup>would not</sup> adversely affecting the participation of RCA Member States, and ~~with~~<sup>would have</sup> the agreement of the host country.

**The Meeting decided to defer the decision on this issue to the General Conference Meeting**

**Session III (Day 2)**

**10. RCA Regional Office**

**a) Report of the Chairman of the RCARO Advisory Committee**

Dr. John F. Easey, Chair, ~~man of the~~ RCARO Advisory Committee (RCARO AC) presented the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCARO Advisory Committee, which had been held on 11<sup>th</sup> ~~of~~ April 2004. (Annex 12). He expressed the appreciation of the RCARO AC to the outgoing ~~Chairman-Chair, of the Committee~~ Prof. N. Choudhary of Bangladesh. He said guidelines ~~are-were~~ being prepared for Lead Country Coordinators on drafting success stories, which ~~are-were~~ to be published by the RCARO. He said that the Selection Committee appointed for selection of the Director, ~~of the RCARO,~~ will would convene in June 2004 at the RCARO in Korea to decide on the procedure for the selection and to develop job descriptions together with a vacancy notice. to decide on the procedures for the selection. He informed the Meeting that the RCARO AC ~~has-had~~ recommended the endorsement of the RCARO initiated programmes by the Meeting. He also briefed the Meeting on the matters related to the legal status of the RCARO. He further informed the Meeting that RCARO ~~is-was~~ planning to conduct a Workshop for the RCA stakeholders in June 2004 and that the Advisory Committee had decided to hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September 2004 during the IAEA General Conference.

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## **b) Report of the Director RCARO**

### **i) RCARO Initiated Programmes**

The Director, RCARO, briefed the Meeting on (i) Post Doctoral Fellowship Programme, (ii) KAIST Master Degree Programme and (iii) KOICA Nuclear Medicine Internship Training Programme, initiated by the RCARO, and sought the endorsement of these programmes by the Meeting of the RCA National Representatives.

During the discussion that followed this presentation, Malaysia inquired ~~of-about~~ the linkage between the mandate given to the RCARO by the Member States and these programmes. ~~It also questioned Questions were also raised on demonstration of~~ transparency if the selection of participants to training events ~~are-were~~ by the donor Agency and on the technical integrity of the programme. RCARO stated that its mandate ~~is-was~~ to establish partnerships and in establishing partnerships the wishes of the donor needed to be respected. Australia ~~stated-suggested~~ that the views of the IAEA Technical Officers ~~of the IAEA~~ should not be imposed on projects that ~~are-were~~ not funded by the IAEA.

Japan thanked the RCARO for its efforts and said even though some of the RCA projects ~~are-were~~ fully funded by Japan, it ~~does-did~~ not influence the selection of participants for training events. Japan, as the Thematic Sector Lead Country for the Health Sector, also requested that the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators should be consulted when RCARO develops relevant project proposals.

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Malaysia ~~proposed stated~~ that the projects initiated by the RCARO ~~should do not~~ fit into the framework of the RCA and ~~mentioned the absence of the involvement of~~ Lead Country Coordinators and National Project Coordinators, ~~as examples. Malaysia suggested before any these~~ projects to be considered as RCARO programmes or RCARO supported programmes. The Chair proposed that the contributions made to these activities should be treated as extra-budgetary contributions.

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Dr. Manase Peter Salema, Director, Division for Africa and East Asia and the Pacific, IAEA, mentioned that he was happy to see RCA Member States trying to find alternative funding sources because about 80% of the RCA budget is from the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF). He pointed out the use of TCF is governed by specified rules and guidelines. He pointed out for example that projects implemented through IAEA, steps are taken to ensure the safety and security aspects.

Malaysia ~~seeksought~~ clarification on ~~questioned on~~ the role of the RCA Secretariat if there is no involvement of the IAEA in the RCA Projects. RCARO ~~said-suggested~~ that the RCA Secretariat should not be involved in the projects if there ~~is-were~~ no IAEA involvement.

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Australia ~~said-observed~~ that under the current Guidelines and Operating Rules, only RCA Member States donors could cannot propose RCA projects, and only Member States can. The Agreement stated that three Member States should agree to participate in a project for it to be accepted as an RCA project.

The Chair suggested discussing this issue during the Strategic Session and then to referring the issue to the RCA General Conference Meeting of 2004 for a decision.

Dr. Manase Peter Salema, Director, Division for Africa and East Asia and the Pacific, IAEA, made a general suggestion that RCA Member States should strive to modify their rules and procedures to accommodate new initiatives.

The Chair~~man~~ and the ~~Advisory Committee of the~~ RCARO Advisory Committee made proposals to the Meeting to resolve this issue when the Meeting re-convened (Annexes 13 and 14)

~~Following a discussion on the proposals made the Meeting decided to approve the actives planned for 2004 without creating a precedence and The Meeting decided~~ to appoint a Working Group comprising ~~of~~ Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Philippines to draft Guidelines for the initiation of projects by RCARO and present them for the consideration of the Member States at the RCA General Conference meeting to be held in September 2004. It was also decided that the draft document should be circulated one month before the Meeting..

**The Meeting decided to approve the activities of the projects initiated by RCARO planned for 2004 without creating precedence for such approvals in the future.**

The Meeting ~~also~~ decided to appoint a Working Group comprising of Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and the Philippines to draft Guidelines for initiation of RCA projects by the RCARO and to present them for consideration of the Member States at the 33rd RCA General Conference Meeting to be held in September 2004. – It was decided that the draft of the Guidelines should be circulated one month before the Meeting.

## ii) 2004 Work plan of the RCARO

Director RCARO, ~~also~~ presented the Work Plan for 2004.-(Annex 15). He emphasized ~~on~~ the anticipated contributions of the envisaged programme for the sustainable development of the region. Following discussions, the Meeting decided to approve the RCARO actives planned for 2004 without creating a precedenceprecedence.

BGD thanked RCARO for providing computer systems.

Malaysia stated that there should be synergy between the Members Only Web-Site hosted by Malaysia and the ~~web-Web site-Site~~ for the public hosted by RCARO and duplication of activities should be avoided. Malaysia ~~also~~ inquired about the expected outputs of the Workshop that the RCARO is-was planning to conduct and also sought clarification on the NDT lecture course and how it ~~fits-fitted~~ into the RCA programme.

In response RCARO stated that the objective of the Workshop is to train those who ~~are~~ were assisting the National RCA Representatives in RCA matters. With regard to the NDT lecture course RCARO stated that it is-was still under development and that the RCARO ~~will-would~~ consult with the LCC for ~~industry-Industry~~ in this regard.

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**The Meeting decided to approve the activities of the projects initiated by RCARO planned for 2004 without creating precedence for such approvals in the future.**  
**The Meeting took note of the 2004 Work plan.**

## 11. Issues Deferred by 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### a) Implementation of RCA Vision – RCANRM(26)/3

RCA Coordinator stated that this issue is-was being presented to the Meeting following the decision taken at the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National RCA Representatives to defer this item.

**The Meeting decided that no further action is-was needed in this regard.**

### b) Harmonization of Non-RCA Projects:

Australia stated that it ~~is~~was necessary to harmonize RCA and non-RCA Regional Projects and ~~noted-recalled a past RCA decision~~agreement by the IAEA that information on non-RCA Regional Projects ~~should~~would be provided to the RCA National Representatives. RCARO requested a list of non-RCA Regional Projects, and ~~the list~~this was circulated by the RCA Coordinator.

**The Meeting decided to defer this matter to the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Conference Meeting and requested that a Discussion Paper be prepared by RCA Coordinator.**

**c) Responsibilities, Authority and Accountability in the RCA – RCANRM(26)/4**

Australia stated that no further discussion would be needed on this issue during the current session since it ~~will~~would be considered during the Strategic Session of the Meeting.

**The Meeting agreed to defer discussion on this topic to the strategic session.**

**12. Policy Issues**

**(a) Revision of Guidelines and Operating Rules – RCANRM(26)/5**

Australian ~~delegate~~ stressed the need of reviewing and analyzing the working paper before further discussion.

New Zealand requested that an Organizational Chart of the RCA be prepared.

**(b) Policy Meeting - RCANRM(26)/6**

RCA Coordinator sought views of the Member States on the proposed items.

Australian stated that it would be more appropriate to call the March/April Meeting, the Regional Meeting than ~~the~~ the Regular Meeting. RCA Coordinator said that the terminology is based on Guidelines and Operating Rules.

**The Meeting decided that March/April Meeting be called Regional Meeting and the September Meeting to be called RCA GC Meeting**

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**(c) Implementation and Monitoring of RCA Projects – RCANRM(26)/7**

RCA Coordinator introduced this item and sought the views of the Member States.

**The Meeting decided that the RCA Coordinator should revise the Guidelines and**

Operating Rules for the RCA programme based on the results of the Strategic Session and the circulated documents RCANRM(26)/5, 6 and 7, circulate the revised draft for comments of the Member States and present it for approval at the 33rd RCA General Conference Meeting.

#### **Session IV - STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION (Day 3)**

The Plenary Session was chaired by Dr. Munim Awais, ~~of~~ Pakistan, and Mr. Khawaja Munir Samad, Dr. M. Salahuddin, and Mr. M. Zubair Sadiq of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission functioned as the Rapporteurs.

The Chair~~man~~ in his introductory remarks said that holding a Strategic Planning Session during the 26th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives was a decision made at the 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting and the outcomes of this session ~~will-would~~ be of utmost importance for the future direction of the RCA.

The RCA Coordinator, in his presentation on “Issues and Challenges” said that in preparing for this session he had consulted the Member States regarding the issues to be ~~taken for consideration-considered~~ at this session by circulating two papers, ~~and-the-The~~ background documents for the Strategic Planning Session ~~were-had been~~ prepared based on the feedback he had received. He thanked the National RCA Representatives for their cooperation. He said that for the RCA Programme to achieve its vision, it would be necessary to strengthen the ability to identify projects leading to high socio-economic impact, strengthen the capability to provide solutions to development problems and to earn recognition as a partner in development. He said that these issues ~~are-were~~ the focus of the Strategic Session. [\(Annex16\)](#)

He ~~informed-said~~ that four working groups ~~have-had~~ been ~~formed-designated~~ to make recommendations on i) Formulation of a Medium Term Strategy, ii) Procedure for Formulation of new Project Proposals iii) Appointment, Roles and Responsibilities of RCA Stakeholders and iv) RCA Annual Report and other Ways and Means of Improving the Visibility and Viability of the RCA. With regard to the Formulation of a Medium Term Strategy he presented three options for the consideration of the Plenary Session. Composition of the Working Groups is given in Annex ~~17~~<sup>6</sup>. Australia proposed that an additional option for the Medium Term Strategy be added to the discussions and form a fourth option, what is the fourth options? and ~~after-After~~ consideration of the four options, it was decided to use the option proposed by Australia. Australia also made additional proposals with regard to the Roles and Responsibilities of the RCA stakeholders, and on the format for the RCA Annual Report.

The leaders of the four working groups presented their recommendations at the final plenary session. These recommendations are given in Annexes ~~18~~<sup>7</sup> to ~~21~~<sup>9</sup>.

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The RCA Coordinator said that he ~~will~~<sup>will</sup> revise the current Guidelines and Operating Rules based on the recommendations made by the Working Groups and circulate it for the comments of the Member States. This proposal was accepted.

~~The Meeting decided that the RCA Coordinator should ~~to~~ collate and circulate the draft report of the Strategic Session to all Member States for review.~~

The Meeting decided that the RCA Coordinator should revise the Guidelines and Operating Rules and circulate ~~it~~<sup>them</sup> for the views ~~of~~<sup>by</sup> the Member States

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### **13. Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)**

#### **a) Presentation of the FNCA Representative**

Mr. Hideo ~~Nakasugi~~<sup>Nakasugi</sup>, ~~R~~<sup>R</sup>epresentative of the FNCA who participated in the Meeting ~~on~~<sup>by</sup> invitation, gave a presentation on the ~~FNCA~~<sup>FNCA</sup> activities ~~of the FNCA~~, highlighting the achievements of the projects ~~implemented under FNCA~~. ~~The Presentation presentation of the FNCA Representative~~ is given in Annex 22<sup>1</sup>.

#### **b) Collaboration between FNCA and RCA -RCANRM(26)/8**

~~The~~ RCA Coordinator introduced this item at the invitation of the Chair~~man~~ and said that there ~~is~~<sup>was</sup> potential for collaboration between the two programmes but a formal mechanism ~~has~~<sup>would need to</sup> be established for this purpose.

Australia stated that there should be collaboration and cooperation between the two programmes so that each programme ~~can~~<sup>could</sup> benefit from the synergy. Australia also commented on the need ~~for to have a designated a~~ focal person in the FNCA for facilitation of establishing cooperation and collaboration between the two programmes. In response, Mr. ~~Nakasugi~~<sup>Nakasugi</sup>, ~~of FNCA~~, ~~stated~~<sup>advised</sup> that FNCA ~~has~~<sup>had</sup> nominated Dr. S. Machi the FNCA Coordinator for Japan to represent FNCA at the RCA Meetings at the First FNCA Meeting held in November 2000 in Bangkok, and since then he has been expected to take this role.

- i) The Meeting agreed in principle that collaboration and cooperation between the two programmes ~~is~~<sup>could be</sup> of mutual benefit.
- ii) The Meeting also decided that a formal mechanism should be established for this purposes.
- iii) The Meeting also decided that a decision on further action to be taken in this regard should be deferred to the RCA General Conference Meeting.

### **14. Policy Level Meetings**

#### **a) 27th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives**



Malaysia offered to host the 27th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives and stated that it ~~intends-intended~~ to demonstrate Web-based software that ~~is-was~~ being developed to facilitate the activities of the RCA programme, during the Meeting. In response- Thailand ~~in-response~~ said that it ~~is-had been~~ prepared to host the 27th NRM but ~~is-was~~ willing to give the opportunity to Malaysia. Malaysia thanked Thailand for its agreement to the proposal made by Malaysia.

Thailand offered to host the 28<sup>th</sup> NRM in 2006 and Australia offered to explore the option of hosting the 29<sup>th</sup> NRM in 2007.

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Philippines proposed that a Scientific Forum should be held during the 27th NRM and regional organizations based in Kuala Lumpur should be invited to participate. Malaysia suggested that the IAEA should invite the regional organizations.

The Chair stated that at least three days should be allocated for the Meeting with additional time for the Scientific Forum.

**The Meeting decided that the 27th NRM be held in Malaysia in 2005 and noted, the options for hosting the 28th Meeting in Thailand in 2006 and the 29th Meeting in Australia in 2007.**

**The Meeting also decided that a Scientific Forum should be held during the Meeting and the regional organizations based in Kuala Lumpur should be invited by the IAEA to attend the Scientific Forum.**

#### **b) 33rd RCA General Conference Meeting**

The RCA Coordinator stated that a proposal ~~was-had been~~ made at the 25th NRM to hold the General Conference Meeting on the Friday of the week before the General Conference, but subsequently the Meeting was held on the Wednesday of the General Conference week since during further consultations one Member State indicated its inability to attend the Meeting if ~~it is~~ held on that Friday ~~before the General Conference week~~. He ~~asked for~~ sought the views of the Member States regarding the date on which the 33rd RCA General Conference Meeting should be held.

Australia ~~stated-suggested~~ that participation in the Quadripartite Meeting held during the General Conference ~~has-had~~ not benefited RCA and suggested the RCA General Conference Meeting be held during the time allocated for this Meeting. Member States were of the opinion the time allocated for the Quadripartite Meeting would not be sufficient for the RCA General Conference Meeting.

During the discussion that followed three Member States indicated their inability to attend the Meeting if it was held on Friday before the General Conference week.

**The Meeting decided that the 33rd RCA General Conference Meeting be held on Wednesday of the General Conference week.**

#### **c) Quadripartite Meeting**

During the discussion on this issue, [the](#) Philippines mentioned that the time allocated for discussion at the last Quadripartite Meeting was not sufficient as a result of the presentations being too long, and proposed a change in the allocation of time for the presentations. New Zealand also mentioned that the time allocated for the presentations of the Regional Agreements were not equitable. Australia re-iterated its concerns regarding the usefulness of the Meeting and said unless there are quantifiable benefits to the RCA, it should not participate in this Meeting.

Malaysia was of the view the RCA should participate in this Meeting and the RCA Coordinator should consult with the Coordinators of the other Regional Agreements to ensure that the Meeting ~~will-would~~ be beneficial to the RCA and other Regional Agreements. New Zealand and Philippines agreed with the proposal of Malaysia.

**The Meeting decided that the RCA Coordinator should consult the other Regional Coordinators to ensure that the Quadripartite Meeting ~~will-would~~ be conducted in a manner that ~~will-would~~ be beneficial to RCA and to the other Regional Agreements.**

## **15. Presentation of Meeting Report**

The Draft Meeting Report was presented and discussed. It was adopted subject to the incorporation of comments and typographical errors.

## **16. Closure**

Dr. Prinath Dias, the RCA Coordinator thanked the Member States for their contribution and the host institute Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements made. He also thanked the Chair~~man~~ 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.

[The Director for the Division of Africa and East Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Manase Peter Salema, also thanked the host institute for the arrangements made for the Meeting and commended the Chairman for his excellent leadership. He also thanked the National RCA Representatives for their contribution to the success of the Meeting. He further said that the Member States can always depend on the IAEA as a reliable partner and the IAEA will continue to support the programme.](#)

On behalf of all the Member States, Dr. Munim Awais, the RCA Chair~~man~~ presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. M.N. Razley, the former Head of the East Asia and Pacific Section, ~~of the~~ Department of Technical Cooperation, ~~of the~~ IAEA, for his contribution to the RCA during his tenure.

Dr. Awais in his closing remarks thanked all the delegates for the cooperation he received to bring the meeting to a successful conclusion. He also thanked Dr. M.P. Salema and Dr. Prinath Dias of the IAEA for their contributions. He wished all the delegates a safe and a pleasant journey back to their home countries and declared the Meeting closed.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS OF THE 26TH MEETING OF THE  
RCA NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

	Issue	Decision	Action to be taken	When
1	RCA Logo	Refinement of the guidelines on the use of the Logo with regard to the font and size of the lettering to be used	RCARO	Before the 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM
2	ENO Project	<u>Request IAEA for Livelink license for all mMember sStates. Presentation on Live Link</u>	LCC for ENO (Malaysia)	33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM
3	Guidelines and Operating Rules	Periodic updating of the Guidelines and Operating Rules based on the decisions taken at the Meetings of National RCA Representatives.	RCA Coordinator	Within two months after each Meeting. <u>Incorporation of the changes agreed during the Meeting of National RCA Representatives.</u>
4	RCA Annual Report for 2003	a) <u>Submission of</u> comments on the Annual Report and b) Revision of the report based on the comments	a) Member States  b) RCA Coordinator	a) Before 30 <sup>th</sup> of April 2004  b) Within two weeks after receiving the comments
5	Radiation Protection Programme	Meeting of the Focal Persons	RCA Coordinator	June 2004
6	Sustainability of National Nuclear	<u>The Meeting decided that the contents of this paper were not</u>	No further action.	

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	Institutes	<u>relevant to the short and medium-term needs of the RCA. the contents of this paper are not relevant to the short and medium-term needs of the RCA.</u>		
7	Expansion of participation in RCA activities	Deferred to General Conference Meeting.	RCA Coordinator /National RCA Representative for Japan	33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM
8	Report of the Chairperson of the RCARO	a) — Format for publication of Success Stories b) — Procedure for selection of the Director RCARO c) — Workshop for RCA Stakeholders	a)RCARO Advisory Committee b)RCARO Advisory Committee c)RCARO	a)Before 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM b)Before 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM c)June 2004
9	Projects initiated by RCARO	Appointment of a Working Group to draft Guidelines on initiation of projects by RCARO. Draft Guideline will be discussed at the 33 <sup>rd</sup> RCA GC Meeting.	Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Philippines	Report to be circulated to Member States one month before the 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM
10	Harmonization of non-RCA Projects	Submission of a Discussion Paper by RCA Coordinator for consideration of 33 <sup>rd</sup> General Conference Meeting.	RCA Coordinator	One month before the 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM
11	Policy Issues	Revision of the Guidelines and Operating Rules for the RCA Programme by the RCA Coordinator and, circulation of the revised draft for comments of the Member States and presenting for approval at the	RCA Coordinator	Circulation of the first draft— June 30 2004 Comments from— Member States July 31 2004 Circulation of

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		33rd RCA General Conference Meeting-		the revised draft -Aug-15-2004 Presentation to the 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM for consideration-
12	Collaboration between FNCA and RCA	Deferred to 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM-	RCA Coordinator /Member States	33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM
13	27th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives	To hold the Meeting in Malaysia	RCA Coordinator /Malaysia/Member States	March/April 2005
14	33 <sup>rd</sup> RCA General Conference Meeting	To hold the Meeting on the Wednesday of the General Conference week	RCA Coordinator /Member States	September 2004
15	Quadripartite Meeting	Consultation with the other Regional Coordinators to ensure that the Quadripartite Meeting will be conducted in a manner that will be beneficial to RCA and to the other Regional Agreements	RCA Coordinator	Before the 33 <sup>rd</sup> GCM