



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**



REPORT OF

THE 32nd RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

27 April 2021

Introduction

A virtual meeting of the 32nd RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee was held on 27 April 2021, virtually, inviting the members of the RCARO SAC, Ms Suchin Udomsomporn (Current RCA Chair, NR of THA), Mr Abdul Rahim Harun (Immediate past RCA Chair, NR of MAL), Mr Tran Chi Thanh (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of VIE), Jaeun Choi (KONICOF) on behalf of Mr Kim Kiseok (NR of ROK), Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya (DIR-TCAP), Mr Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde (SH-TCAP1) and Mr Sinh Hoang (RCA FP).

1. Opening

Mr Abdul Rahim Harun, NR of MAL, delivered his statement, as the outgoing RCA Chair.

Ms Suchin Udomsomporn, the current RCA Chair, NR of THA, opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The agenda items were reviewed and adopted with no amendment. RCARO was appointed as rapporteur.

The SAC adopted the draft agenda with no amendment and appointed the RCARO as rapporteur.

3. Discussion on Major Issues on the RCARO Activities

3.1. Implementation of the RCA/UNOSSC Project on Electron Beam Applications

The RCARO reported on the activities undertaken in 2020 and the plans for 2021 under the RCA/UNOSSC Project on EB Applications. The Group Fellowship Programme was implemented through e-learning, providing thirty-two (32) pre-recorded lectures, four (4) real-time lectures, tests and assignments. A promotional video was produced based on the achievements of a total of seven years of implementation of the project (Phase 1: 2013-2015, Phase 2: 2017-2020). For 2021, the Meeting noted that Final Review Meeting in conjunction with Technical Workshop will be conducted and an e-Learning course on e-beam applications will be developed.

As the RCA/UNOSSC Project on Electron Beam Applications is completed this year, the SAC recommended RCARO seek possible ways to carry out follow-up partnership activities or projects.

3.2. Implementation of the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project on Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment under EPR

Under the RCARO/ASEANTOM partnership, the Meeting took note that according to the revised work plan eleven (11) e-Learning modules on radiation monitoring and dose assessment were developed and uploaded on RCA e-Learning Campus. Project Coordination Meeting was held virtually in March 2021 inviting the LCCs, NPCs and other stakeholders. It was noted that in 2021, “Guidelines for Radioactivity Measurements in the Environment and Individual Dose Assessment following a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency” will be developed, e-Learning course on advanced knowledge will be conducted, and a review meeting will be held in collaboration with Asian Radiation Dosimetry Group (ARADOS).

The Meeting took note of the progress made and plan set under the RCARO/ASEANTOM partnership project. The Meeting noted the importance of strengthening the partnership between the RCARO and ASEANTOM to outreach to the ASEAN countries for further capacity building.

3.3. RCARO Managed Project: Implementation of a Research Project on Air Quality and Environment Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in the Region

The RCARO briefed on the progress made under the Research Project. In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Research Coordination Meeting was replaced by online submission of progress reports and review by Research Review Committee (RRC). As the Phase 1 was completed in 2020 (2018-2020), an achievement report was drafted by the Technical Officer. For the Phase 2 (2021-2023), twelve (12) GPs confirmed their participation after review of research proposals by the RRC. Research Coordination Meeting was conducted in March 2021, inviting the CSIs and RRC. In 2021 a survey on the possible area of research will be conducted in preparation of a new research project, according to the procedures in the RCA GOR.

The SAC welcomed the initiative of a new Research Project and recommended RCARO conduct a survey of the NRs to identify the regional needs on cooperative R&D for implementation of the new RP.

3.4. Development of Online Training through the RCA e-Learning Campus

The RCARO reported on the progress made for the development of the e-Learning modules in RCA e-Learning Campus. Since its launching in June 2020, fifty (50) modules in nuclear medicine, eleven (11) modules in radiation safety and thirty-two (32) modules in e-beam technology have been developed. It was noted that RCARO will continue to develop additional

modules on various topics and further improve the services of the platform.

The SAC appreciated RCARO for providing learning opportunities to RCA GPs through RCA e-Learning Campus and recommended on further expansion of modules to various application areas of nuclear science and technology.

3.5. Increasing the awareness and promotion of the RCA

The Meeting was presented on the update of the RCARO's promotional activities. The RCARO briefed on its plan for publishing e-newsletters on a periodical basis to provide timely information to the RCA stakeholders.

The Meeting welcomed the plan on publishing the RCA e-newsletters as a means to facilitate information sharing within the RCA community and promote the RCA to the relevant stakeholders.

The Meeting recommended RCARO expand its dissemination and publication of achievements of the RCA Programme to international/regional stakeholders with a view of engaging partnerships and synergies with existing programmes.

The Meeting recommended RCARO consider holding a high-level forum in collaboration with the IAEA where the results of RCA projects according to thematic areas are presented and shared, inviting various international/regional stakeholders, to showcase the socio-economic impact of RCA to the region.

3.6. Other Matters

The RCARO reported on the other activities: Participation in the Meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA; Supporting the IAEA for RCA administrative matters and coordination of activities; Assisting the RCA Chair for facilitating an efficient implementation of the RCA Programme; Establishment of an integrated information system; Capacity building on radiation application technology; Inviting temporary staff from the GPs to the RCARO.

The Meeting appreciated the RCARO for its contribution to the RCA Programme.

Noting the importance of the IT technologies for efficient implementation of RCA Programme under the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Meeting appreciated the RCARO for its various e-activities for supporting the RCA Programme, including

capacity building activities and operation of RCA Website.

4. Arrangement for the 33rd SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 33rd RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 50th RCA GCM, which is planned to be held in Sept. 2021.

5. Closing

The Chair of the Meeting thanked the SAC members for their advice and recommendations. The Chair also thanked the RCARO for the excellent work and encouraged the RCARO to continue supporting the RCA Programme.