



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**



REPORT OF
THE 34th RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

12 April 2022

Introduction

The 34th meeting of the RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee (RCARO SAC) was held on 12 April 2022, virtually, attended by Mr Tran Chi Thanh (the incoming RCA Chair, NR of VIE), Ms Suchin Udomsomporn (the outgoing RCA Chair, NR of THA), Mr Geordie Graetz (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of AUL), Ms Si Jeong Park (NR of ROK), Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya (DIR-TCAP), Mr Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde (SH-TCAP1) and Mr Sinh Hoang (RCA FP).

1. Opening

Ms Suchin Udomsomporn, the current RCA Chair, NR of THA, delivered her statement as the outgoing RCA Chair.

Mr Tran Chi Thanh, the current RCA Chair, NR of VIE, officially 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. 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the RCA Regional Office: Looking back, looking forward

The RCARO presented the special agenda item to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the RCARO. RCARO briefed on the achievements of the last 20 years in carrying out promotional activities, enhancing partnerships, and implementing RCARO Managed Projects and other capacity building activities. The commitment of the RCARO has resulted in increasing the visibility and viability of the RCA, and further expanded the impact of the RCA on the region.

The RCARO also briefed on its future vision. By diversifying projects and activities, RCARO plans to further contribute to closing the technological gap in the region and fostering the development of nuclear science and technology. RCARO will fully utilize IT technologies to complement e-learning education and to provide a comprehensive information service through the Integrated Information System. RCARO also presented its plan to solidify the foundation of the RCARO and expand its budget and manpower in the future.

The SAC celebrated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the RCARO. The SAC expressed its high appreciation for the remarkable and tangible contributions of the RCARO to the development of the RCA.

The SAC took note of the achievements of the past 20 years and the future visions of the RCARO. The SAC recommended that RCARO take further actions in accordance with the future directions in diversifying cooperative activities, applying the new trends and technologies for capacity building of the next generations, providing comprehensive information service through the Integrated Information System, and solidifying the foundation of the RCARO.

The SAC recommended the RCARO consider demonstrating the achievements of the RCARO through special publications and an anniversary ceremony.

3.2. Publication of RCA Newsletters

The RCARO presented the progress of publishing the RCA newsletters. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the RCA and the 20th anniversary of the RCARO, the first issue was published in early April with contributions from the RCA NRs and IAEA experts, and was distributed to RCA stakeholders. The RCARO plans to continue publishing the newsletters on a quarterly basis. The GPs will be invited in turn to contribute to the publication by providing relevant articles and messages.

The SAC congratulated the RCARO on the successful publication of the first issue of the RCA newsletter. The SAC noted the high quality of the first issue of the RCA newsletter and recommended publicizing it on the RCA website and distributing the hard copies during the event of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA.

3.3. Selection of the Next Director of the RCA Regional Office

The RCARO reported on the progress made for the selection of the next director of the RCARO. A Selection Committee (SC) was constituted and the guidelines, including the job description, were prepared and approved by the NRs. A vacancy notice was sent to the NRs and was also advertised on the RCA website to invite applications. One application was submitted by the Government of Korea by the deadline (Mr Pill Hwan Park, the current RCARO-DIR). The SC reviewed the applicant and submitted a recommendation letter to the RCARO SAC recommending the applicant be offered the position of the next Director of the RCARO.

The SAC took note of the recommendation of the Selection Committee that the

applicant from ROK (Mr Pill Hwan Park, the current Director of the RCARO) be offered the position of the Director of the RCARO and agreed to report the result of assessment by the SC to the 44th RCA NRM for approval.

3.4. Other Projects and Activities

The RCARO reported on other activities: participation in the meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA; supporting the IAEA and RCA Chair in RCA administrative matters and coordination of activities; Implementation of the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project: Enhancing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities through Building Technical Capacity in Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment Following the Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies (Phase 1: 2020-2021, Phase 2: 2022-2024); Implementation of the RCARO Managed Projects: (RP02) Research Project on Air Quality and Environmental Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in the Region (2021-2023); (RP03) Research Project on Closing the Gap in Radiotherapy Access in RCA Government Parties (2022-2024); and capacity building on radiation application technology.

The SAC expressed appreciation to the RCARO for its contribution to the RCA through its activities for the STE, assisting the Secretariat functions and RCA Chair, and implementing other projects and activities.

4. Arrangement for the 35th SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 35th RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 51st RCA GCM.

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.