

RCARO Director's Report on the Progress of the RCARO 2014 Work Plan

The 36th NRM Decisions relevant to the RCARO 2014 Work Plan

The Meeting requested NRs to supply any comments on the draft brochure to the Regional Office within two weeks of the conclusion of the NRM.

The Meeting agreed that a Working Group be formed to consider the future role of the RCARO, including the issues raised in the Strategic Paper presented by the Director RCARO.

The Meeting agreed that the members of the Working Group would be Mr. John Easey (Chair), the Director RCARO, Mr. Peter Roberts (NZE) and members to be notified by NRs from ROK, JPN, PHI, PAK and CPR. The Meeting requested the Working Group provide a progress report at the 43rd GCM.

With respect to the Strategic Paper of the DIR RCARO, the Meeting noted the proposal for a pilot project to be fully funded as an extra-budgetary contribution from ROK and in which the RCARO would take the role of LCC.

It was agreed that two project concept options for this project would be further developed and forwarded to the RCA Chair by 15 May 2014. The options would then be subject to the same schedule and procedures as the other project proposals already selected, but without evaluation by RCAPAC due to time constraints.

1. Increasing the awareness of RCA

1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness

1.1.1 Publication of an RCA brochure for general public

As requested by the 36th NRM, RCARO received comments on the draft brochure for general public. Comments were received from NZE, PHI and Dr. John Easey. Reflecting those comments, RCARO finalized and published the RCA brochure. Copies were distributed to the Government Parties and other relevant stakeholders.

1.1.2 Updating RCA promotional video

RCARO is in the process of updating the RCA promotional video to reflect changes of the RCA including replacement of the National Representatives, new Government Parties, updated data on RCA projects and budget, etc. The updated version will be uploaded on the RCA website for review of the Government Parties prior to the demonstration of the final version at the 37th NRM.

1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website

RCARO has continued maintaining and updating the RCA website with information on the RCA and its activities: policy meetings (NRM, GCM), projects and news from the RCA Government Parties.

RCARO is in the progress of preparing a working paper on review and measures to improve RCA information service through the RCA website. The paper will be submitted to the 37th NRM in 2015.

1.2.1 Updating data on RCA and RCA projects

Recognizing the notable increase of daily hits of the RCA website, RCARO has continued maintaining and updating the RCA website with information on RCA and its activities; policy meetings (NRM, GCM), projects, and news for the Government Parties. There have been over 300 visitors per day since its launch.

RCARO will continue to update information and RCA data on the RCA website reflecting inputs from RCA Government Parties and stakeholders. In line with this, Government Parties are encouraged to provide RCARO with relevant data and information.

1.2.2 Updating data on RCA stakeholders and end-users by the Member States

With the assistance of temporary staff, RCARO updated the RCA website, reflecting new data from the RCA Government Parties such as AUL, BGD, IND, INS, MAL, MON, MYN, PAK, PHI, SIN, THA and VIE.

1.3 Participation in regional/international events and support for the promotion of RCA activities

RCARO has made an effort to present RCA and its activities to target audiences in order to enhance awareness of RCA in the beneficial application of nuclear science and technology and to build partnerships with regional and international organizations.

1.3.1. Presentation and exhibition on RCA/RCARO activities to target audiences

RCARO participated in the 2nd International Conference on Radiation and Dosimetry in Various Fields of Research held on 27-30 May 2014 in Nis, Serbia. RCARO displayed banners about the RCA and RCA projects, distributed RCA Brochure and Success Stories and demonstrated the RCA promotional video. As to the participation in the South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Conference to be held on 1-4 September in Darwin, Australia, RCARO was not able to participate in the event due to limited schedule and resources. However, RCARO provided support for the participation of AUL in the event for promotion of the RCA.

According to the recommendation of the 18th SAC to conduct a survey and present its results on possible conferences at the SAC before the GCM in the year before the conferences will be held, RCARO conducted a survey of NRs and IAEA and received information on 10 conferences from CPR and NZE. In addition, RCARO itself also searched for possible conferences in 2015 for promotion of the RCA.

Based upon the surveys by the NRs and RCARO, RCARO is considering participating 2-3 events which could be appropriate for promotion of the RCA. In consultation with the SAC Members and considering budget availability and schedule of the RCARO, RCARO will finalize 2-3 events to attend.

To make the best use of the RCARO's participation in the conferences and meetings for promotional purposes, RCARO will continue encouraging the Government Parties holding

events to engage local RCA experts, including the LCCs and NPCs of relevant thematic areas for their technical contribution.

1.3.2. Support to the RCA experts for increasing the awareness and promotion of RCA

RCARO has been providing support for RCA experts in their activities that could enhance the RCA's awareness and promote RCA activities, such as participation/presentations in regional/international meetings/conferences.

As to the previous cycle of the programme, RCARO successfully supported two selectees from AUL and PHI for their participation and RCA promotional activities at the international conferences held in May and June 2014 respectively.

For the next cycle from September 2014 to August 2015, RCARO received a total of 13 nominations from six Government Parties (CPR, BGD, INS, MON, PAK and PHI). According to the established guidelines of the programme, RCARO selected four candidates from CPR, BGD, INS, and PHI and finalized the selection in consultation with the SAC. RCARO will further make necessary arrangements to support the selectees for their RCA promotional activities in due course.

2. Implementation of the RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology

RCARO has carried out the RCA/UNDP partnership project entitled "Promoting and Accelerating Nuclear SPECT/PET Imaging Technologies in the Region" since December 2010.

2.1 Publication of the final report

Upon completion of the project, RCARO published a final report on the activities, outcomes and achievements of the project in cooperation with LCC and NPCs in June. The report was distributed to the related stakeholders including Government Parties, UNDP, IAEA etc.

2.2 Monitoring and submission of progress reports

Conforming to the UNDP rules and regulations, RCARO submitted final progress and financial reports covering the period from 2010 to 2013 to the UNDP and UNOPS in early July, summarizing 13 national progress reports received from the NPCs of the project.

Even after completion of the project, RCARO will continue to monitor the impact and sustainability of the project for two years. For the first half of 2014 RCARO received progress reports from the NPCs on their activities and will present the summary at the 43rd GCM.

3. Implementation of the RCA/UNDP partnership project on the electron beam (EB) applications

3.1 Conducting Regional Training Courses (RTCs)

According to the decision at the 2013 Annual Review Meeting, two separate RTCs in the field of industry were combined into one single RTC programme of two weeks and invited two persons from each participating country. The intention was to train participants on basic to advanced knowledge in the EB technology.

In cooperation with the Advanced Radiation Technology Institute (ARTI), KAERI, two RTCs were held in Jeongup, Korea as follows:

- 1) RTC on Basic and Advanced Knowledge and Hands-on Experiment on EB Applications for Advanced Material for two weeks on 14-25 April 2014
- 2) RTC on Basic and Advanced Knowledge and Hands-on Experiment on EB Applications for Food Products for one week on 16-20 June 2014

Thirty-three participants from 11 countries attended the RTCs and were trained with information on basic and advanced knowledge on EB irradiation and its applications by conducting experiments at the radiation facilities in ARTI. The satisfaction survey on the RTCs showed that the courses reached their goals in terms of training programme, information sharing, training material and quality and content of lectures. Around 90% of participants were satisfied with the courses.

3.2 Monitoring and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports

Conforming to the UNDP rules and regulations, RCARO submitted progress and financial reports to the UNDP and UNOPS in early July, summarizing 12 national progress reports received from the NPCs of the project.

The reports showed that involving around 25,700 participants, 12 participating countries conducted various national activities such as R&D activities, training courses, workshops, seminars,

exhibition, and meetings to disseminate the gained knowledge and skills to their local institutes and industries.

3.3 Annual Review Meeting and evaluation of the project

As decided at the Annual Review Meeting 2013, the 2014 meeting will be held on 19-20 November in Yangon, Myanmar, inviting representatives of the participating countries and related stakeholders to review and evaluate the project implementation in 2014 and discuss the 2015 Work Plan.

4. Assisting the Government Parties in addressing regional and national needs

4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course

Two students from INS and BGD are having the second year of the course and one from MYA was newly selected for the program starting from the spring semester in 2014.

4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course

This programme has been held in association with scientific occasions to provide participants with an opportunity to experience more of the advanced nuclear medicine as well as training programme held by Asian Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine (ARCCNM). In 2014, it will be held on 4-8 November in Osaka, Japan, in conjunction with the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine.

4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

A regional training workshop on application of nuclear technology will be held from 13 to 24 October 2014 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. RCARO requested NRs of 12 Member States to nominate participants for the workshop. It will be carried out in cooperation with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI).

5. Increased interaction between the Government Parties and the RCARO

5.1 RCARO Fellowship Programme

Recommended by the NRs for the RCARO Fellowship Programme, three persons from MAL, BGD and THA were selected in 2014. A fellow from MAL contributed to implementing the RCA/UNDP partnership projects on nuclear imaging technology and Electron Beam applications;

collecting information on regional and international events; and updating stakeholder/end-user database on the RCA website. A fellow from BGD has been working in the RCARO since August.

5.2 Holding a workshop to meet the needs of the Government Parties and the RCARO

The 36th RCA NRM agreed that a Working Group (WG) be formed to consider the future role of the RCARO, including the issues raised in the Strategic Paper reported by the Director RCARO. The meeting also agreed that the members of the WG would be Mr. John Easey (Chair), DIR-RCARO, and appointees from CPR, JPN, NZE, PAK, PHI and ROK.

In line with the recommendation of the 18th SAC, RCARO's Annual Workshop was replaced by the WG meeting to facilitate the WG's review of the issues raised in the Strategic Paper by the DIR-RCARO.

The meeting consisted of three sessions to review possible options for the RCARO's role in the future and was attended by 22 participants including the WG members and relevant stakeholders from ROK, host country of the RCARO.

As requested by the 36th NRM, the progress of the WG activities will be reported to the 43rd GCM for NRs' information and further discussion. The WG meeting report is given in Annex 1.

6. Other Activities

6.1 Submission of a Strategic Paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO

As decided at the 42nd GCM on preparing a Strategic Paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO for discussion at the next NRM, RCARO conducted a questionnaire survey to obtain views of the Government Parties (GPs) at the end of 2013 as the groundwork for the paper.

Reflecting views and suggestions from the GPs, RCARO drafted a Strategic Paper and submitted it to the 18th SAC and the 36th NRM for discussion.

With respect to the Strategic Paper of the DIR RCARO, the 36th NRM noted the proposal for a pilot project to be fully funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from ROK and in which the RCARO would take the role of LCC and the meeting also agreed that two project concepts for this project would be further developed and forwarded to the RCA Chair. The two project concepts

submitted are: one in medical sector using nuclear imaging technology and the other in radiation processing for removing drug toxicity.

In this regard, RCARO prepared two project concepts for a pilot project and submitted to the RCA Chair through the NR of ROK.

6.2 Participation in the RCA policy related meetings

RCARO participated in the 36th NRM and the 18th RCARO SAC Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand on 1-4 April 2014.

6.3 Participation in the RCA Working Groups Meeting

As decided at the 42nd GCM in September 2013 on organizing a meeting of three Working Groups (WGs), including: 1) WG-1 Meeting on evaluating new project concepts for 2016-2017; 2) WG-2 Meeting on updating the RCA GOR; and 3) WG-3 Meeting on developing Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Strategic Priorities (SP), a meeting for the above-mentioned WGs was held on 17-21 February in Vienna, Austria. Director RCARO participated in this meeting on 19-21 February as a member of WG-2.

6.4 Participation in the 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting

On behalf of the RCA, RCARO participated in the FNCA meeting on 11-12 March in Tokyo, Japan and submitted a report on its result to the RCA FP.

6.5 Extra-Budgetary (EB) contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA

An EB contribution will be made in 2014, subject to the budget availability of the RCARO.