



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE  
AGREEMENT**



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY**

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**REPORT OF**

**THE 39<sup>th</sup> RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING**

Meeting Room M-4  
IAEA Headquarters  
Vienna, Austria

17<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
09:00-16:00h

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## ACRONYMS

CRP(s)	Coordinated Research Project(s)
DDG-TC	Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation
DDG-NA	Deputy Director General, Nuclear Applications and Research
DIR-TCAP	Director for the Asia and the Pacific Region
DIR-RCARO	Director RCA Regional Office
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GCM	General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
MS(s)	RCA Member State(s)
MTS	RCA Medium Term Strategy
MTS-WG	Working Group on extending the RCA Medium Term Strategy
NR(s)	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	National RCA Representatives Regional Meeting
OIOS	Office for Internal Oversight Services
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PLCC	Project Lead Country Coordinator
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RCA FP	RCA Focal Person
RRU(s)	Regional Resource Unit(s)
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Assistance and Cooperation
SH-TCAP1	Head of Section 1 of the Asia and the Pacific Region
TC	Technical Cooperation
TO	Technical Officers
TCAP	Division for Asia and the Pacific
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Development Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 39<sup>th</sup> RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2010 at the IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria. Thirty participants from the 17 RCA Member States; Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), China (CPR), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Republic of Korea (ROK), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), New Zealand (NZE), Pakistan (PAK), the Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA), Vietnam (VIE), and three representatives of RCA Regional Office (RCARO) attended the Meeting.

Ms. Ana Maria Cetto, (DDG-TC), Mr. Werner Burkart (DDG-NA), Mr. Dazhu Yang (DIR-TCAP), Mr. Mokdad Maksoudi (SH-TCAP1) and Mr. Prinath Dias (RCA FP) represented the IAEA. Agency's Technical Officers, Project Management Officers of the Division for TCAP and support staff also attended the Opening Session of the Meeting.

The list of the participants is given in Annex 1.

### **I. Opening**

#### **I.1 Opening Remarks by the RCA Chair**

Ms. Alumanda Dela Rosa, the RCA Chair, and the National RCA Representative of the Philippines, welcomed the participants and the invitees and said that it was an honor for the Philippines to serve as Chair of the 39<sup>th</sup> RCA GCM. She thanked the National Representatives for the confidence and trust they had placed in her. She gave a brief overview of the main Agenda Items, namely the revision of the role of the RCA Chair, RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules, and matters related to the RCA Regional Office. She thanked the Department of Technical Cooperation and the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications for the support provided to the RCA Programme. She invited active participation of all the delegates and declared the Meeting open.

The Opening Remarks of the RCA Chair are given in Annex 2.

#### **I.2 Messages from the IAEA**

The Chair invited Ms. Ana Maria Cetto (DDG-TC) to deliver her message.

Ms. Cetto welcomed all participants to Vienna, and greeted those attending for the first time. She noted the successful implementation of the measures introduced to the RCA programme which had resulted in a high implementation rate during the past two years. She also commended the Member States for developing the RCA Regional Profile and the strategy for 2012-2017 that had made it possible for the early formulation of the RCA Programme for 2012-2013. She also commented on the action being taken to implement the recommendations of the External Auditor and the action being taken for the Member States to take more responsibilities for the Programme through delegation of more responsibilities to the RCA Chair, along with an increase in the tenure. She noted the action taken by the RCA Regional Office to improve the visibility and the viability of the RCA Programme, and commented on the action taken to publish two more success stories, the plans to produce a video about the RCA and the actions taken to establish partnerships with other regional organizations. She requested the National RCA Representatives to guide and support the national project teams responsible for the implementation of RCA projects, to ensure the availability of national resources to implement these projects and to direct

the project outputs towards the achievements of national development goals. She assured that that there will be no reduction in the level of support provided to the RCA Programme by the Agency and necessary internal arrangements will be made to continue this support after the current Focal Person leaves the Agency. She said that this was the last RCA Meeting she would attend, since she will be leaving the Agency in December and said that it had been a pleasure and a privilege to see the RCA Programme grow and develop over the past years and to note how RCA activities have advanced socioeconomic development in the region. She congratulated the Member States on their achievements, and urged them to continue their efforts.

The DDG TC's message is reproduced in Annex 3.

The Chair invited Mr. Werner Burkart, DDG NA to deliver his message.

Mr. Burkart said that RCA was a good example of the kind of inter-governmental cooperation that the IAEA likes to promote among its Member States. He spoke of the advances in the use of nuclear science and technology in the region. Commenting on the progress in nuclear medicine he said that PET/CT was now widely accepted as a diagnostic tool for cancer. He also spoke about the participation of the RCA Member States, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam in the PACT Programme of the IAEA. Speaking on the success of the RCA Projects on Radiation Processing, he said that 30 different products such as super water absorbents, toxic metal absorbents and plant growth promoters for agriculture applications had been developed. He also spoke on the progress made in gamma tomography and non-destructive testing. He mentioned the collaboration with the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf which was helping RCA Member States to monitor air-pollution and the collaboration with laboratories in Monaco which was helping in monitoring marine pollution. Speaking on the progress made in the agricultural sector, he mentioned the progress made in plant breeding, food irradiation and monitoring and control of soil erosion. He thanked the RCA Member States for their cooperation during his tenure at the IAEA, which will end in December 2010.

The Message of DDG-NA is given in Annex 4.

### **1.3 Introduction of the participants**

At the request of the Chair, all the participants introduced themselves.

### **1.4 Adoption of Agenda – RCANRM(39)/1**

AUL requested confirmation that the issues it had previously suggested to be included in the Agenda, regarding the meeting of the Agreement Chairs, the RCF and the post of RCA FP, would be covered under the current Agenda. This was confirmed by the Chair. The Agenda, which was circulated in advance to the participants, was adopted. The adopted Agenda is given in Annex 5.

**The Meeting agreed to adopt the Agenda.**

### **1.5 Appointment of rapporteurs**

The Chair announced that the RCA FP would be the rapporteur for the Meeting.

## **II. Views of the Technical Officers of RCA Projects**

The Chair invited the Technical Officers for the RCA Projects to give the National RCA Representatives their views on issues related to the projects for which they were responsible.

Ms. Maria Helena Sampa, co-Technical Officer of the RCA Project on Supporting Radiation Processing of Polymeric Materials for Agricultural Applications and Environmental Remediation (RAS/8/109), said it had been a very successful project and more than 30 products such as super water absorbents, toxic metal absorbers and plant growth promoters had been produced. She also said that 9 pilot plants had been established and there had been 11 examples of technology transfer to the end-users.

Mr Tomoaki Tamaki, Consultant, speaking on behalf of the Technical Officer of the project, Mr. E. Zubizaretta, said that under the RCA Project on Improving Image Based Radiation Therapy for Common Cancers in the RCA Region (RAS/6/053), a successful planning meeting was held in January 2010, and an experts meeting was held last month to plan the details of the regional training courses to be conducted under this project. He requested the National RCA Representatives to remind the National Project Coordinators to submit their progress reports on time.

Mr. Asghar Khan, Consultant, stated that non-destructive testing (NDT) is an important area for RCA, but there had not been a technical officer for NDT during the past few years and stop gap arrangements had been made by hiring consultants. He suggested the Meeting make a recommendation on re-establishing the post of a technical officer for NDT.

The Chair thanked the Technical Officers for their contribution.

## **III. Matters arising from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives – Manila, The Philippines, 27-30 April 2010 – RCAGCM (39)/2**

The Chair advised that the status of the implementation of the decisions made at the 32<sup>nd</sup> RCA NRM was given in the document RCAGCM(39)/2, and invited comments.

AUL requested further details of the proposed meeting of the Chairs of the Regional Agreements. At the request of the Chair, the RCA Focal Person said that, as requested by the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM, the Focal Persons of the four Regional Agreements had continued to meet to identify means of strengthening collaboration among the Regional Agreements, and a proposal had been made to organize a meeting of the Chairs of the Agreements during the General Conference to enable them to make recommendations in this regard. He said that this meeting would be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and the recommendations made at this meeting would be presented to the 33<sup>rd</sup> RCA NRM for approval prior to implementation. He said that this was to be a meeting of the Member States and the IAEA staff would be present to facilitate the discussions.

AUL welcomed the proposed action and stated that it looked forward to hearing the outcomes of this meeting.

Responding to a query from PAK, the Chair said that the Chairs' Meeting was expected to discuss the areas of collaboration and modalities of collaboration, and could lead to exchange of information on accomplishments, the activities of the agreements, and good practices.

AUL stated that there is already well-established collaboration in areas of nuclear medicine and radiation oncology and suggested that this experience could be used in current discussions. PAK

also suggested that past practices should be taken into consideration in developing new mechanisms.

RCA FP stated that in the past the Regional Agreements used to meet during the General Conference at a Quadripartite Meeting and the collaboration in the two areas mentioned by AUL were a result of these meetings. However, since there were no other tangible benefits, RCA had decided not to participate in these meetings since 2006. The current proposal was to develop a mechanism for collaboration that goes beyond a single meeting held once a year.

JPN stated that RCA Member States should have advance discussions on the modalities of collaboration for possible projects to be implemented among the Regional Agreements.

DIR-TCAP said that he and the RCA FP would attend the Chairs' Meeting and assist the Chair in summarizing the outcomes of that Meeting.

**The Meeting decided that the recommendations of the Chairs' Meeting should be conveyed to the National RCA Representatives by the RCA Chair with the assistance of the DIR-TCAP and the RCA Focal Person, and be presented to the 33<sup>rd</sup> NRM for approval prior to implementation.**

Responding to the inquiry of the Chair with regard to any other matters to be discussed under this Agenda Item, AUL sought clarification about the position of the RCA FP after the current FP leaves the Agency. DIR-TCAP, Mr. Dazhu Yang, responding at the request of the Chair, said that, as stated by the DDG-TC in her opening statement, there will be no reduction in the level of support provided by the Agency to the RCA and necessary internal arrangements will be made to ensure this. This support will be in accordance with Article VII of the RCA Agreement. He further said that, after the re-structuring of the TC Department, the responsibility for Regional Agreements was delegated to the Regional Directors and the positions of Regional Coordinator were abolished. He said Focal Persons were appointed to assist the Director with day to day work. He also said that the Division for Asia and the Pacific Region was unique since it had two Agreements, ARASIA and RCA. He also said that this region was the only region where the Focal Persons were also the PMOs of the projects implemented under the Agreements. He reiterated that there will be no reduction in the support provided to the Regional Agreements.

AUL stated that it was re-assuring to hear the principles of Agency support to the RCA, but would have preferred to hear more about the practical arrangements for implementing these principles.

The Chair stated that it was indeed re-assuring to hear from the DDG-TC that Agency support to the RCA will continue at the same level.

Drawing attention to the item on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RCA, PAK said that this occasion should be used to publicize the activities of RCA. PAK suggested holding seminars on RCA achievements, and distribution of leaflets on RCA successes and said that publicity also could be provided at a national level. He said that similar activities had been carried out during the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RCA.

The Chair said that suggestions from Member States would be most welcome and suggested that China, as the host of the NRM in the Anniversary year, collate the suggestions received and use them in organizing the celebrations.

DIR-TCAP added that he and the RCA FP would be happy to assist in the in the preparation of activities to celebrate the RCA Anniversary at the request of the Member States.

RCA FP suggested it might be helpful to get the details of how the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RCA was celebrated and what was being done by ARCAL in celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

#### **IV. RCA Programme for 2012/2013 – RCAGCM(39)/3**

The Chair said that RCA submitted 19 Project Concept Papers to the IAEA and thanked the LCCs for their contribution. She requested the RCA FP to brief the Meeting on the current status.

The RCA FP stated that the details of the RCA Programme were given in the paper RCAGCM(39)/3. He said that the Project Concepts were developed according to the procedure adopted at the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM, and were submitted to the IAEA by the RCA Chair. He also said that the Project Concepts were being reviewed according to the review procedure of the IAEA, and, although it was too early to say which projects would be approved for implementation, it seemed likely that the first 14 priority projects could be selected. He recalled that, according to the RCA Medium Term Strategy, the RCA programme should not contain more than 15 projects and that one RCA project would be continuing from the current cycle to the next cycle.

DIR-TCAP expressed his appreciation to the RCA Member States for their efforts to submit high quality Concept Papers to the Agency in a timely manner. He also congratulated the Member States on the very comprehensive procedure adopted in the development of the Project Concepts.

NZE inquired whether the Supplementary Projects should be considered in addition to the maximum number of 15 projects, since they were for the purpose of consolidating the outcomes of previous projects,.

The RCA FP said that the number of projects for the 2012/2013 cycle was increased from 10 to 15 to allow for supplementary projects.

AUL stated that the three Supplementary Projects were making a good impact not only within RCA but in other Member States, and it would be disappointing if any of these were not considered for the next cycle. AUL also said that it would not be possible to implement the strategy of phased out project development stated in the Medium Term Strategy if the Supplementary Projects were not considered for implementation.

IND supported the views of NZE and AUL and stated that Supplementary Projects should not be included in the 15 projects.

AUL pointed out that there seemed to be a flaw in the process of developing Concept Papers since there was an overlap in two Project Concepts, and inquired what action could be taken in this regard. It was further suggested that a review be carried out of the process adopted for development of Project Concepts, so that improvements could be made in the development of projects for the next cycle.

The RCA FP stated that the Programme for 2012/2013 would depend on the maximum number of projects the Member States decided on, the priority order given by the Member States and the conformity of the Project Concepts to TC criteria. He also said that a revision of the document containing RCA Strategic Priorities would be necessary to address the issues raised by AUL.

NZE proposed that the Supplementary Projects should be in addition to the maximum of 15.

The Chair requested any other views regarding the number of projects.

ROK was of the view the Programme should be limited to 15 projects irrespective of the number of projects submitted.

INS expressed the view that the decision made in the Medium Term Strategy to limit the number of projects to 15 should not be changed.

AUL inquired as to what action could be taken with regard to the two projects which had computed tomography as a component.

The Chair stated that, since the Supplementary Projects had a different role, they could be outside the 15 specified in the MTS. The Chair inquired whether it would be possible to revise the Concept Papers to avoid the overlap.

The RCA FP stated that it was not possible to revise the Concept Papers at this stage, but the overlap would be dealt with through the review process and feedback would be provided to the LCCs to take into consideration in project design. He said that tomography was a component of the current NDT project.

**The Meeting decided that the maximum number of projects should be 15 and the Supplementary Projects should be in addition to this number since they have a different purpose.**

Responding to a query from PAK at the request of the Chair, AUL stated that the Supplementary Projects were meant to provide additional resources required by the projects implemented in the past to achieve their full potential.

Responding to a query from THA, the RCA FP said that all Project Concepts, not only those that have been given a high priority, would be evaluated by the IAEA.

DIR-TCAP said that it was important for the Member States to have a good understanding of the process of developing the TC Programme. He said that the two aspects to be considered were the priority order given by the Member States and the requirements of the Agency. He said, based on the established procedure, all the Project Concepts including the 19 Project Concepts received from RCA would be evaluated. He said that it was too early to say which projects would be selected for implementation, but it was good to know the views of the Member States.

Responding to a query from AUL regarding the projects implemented by RCARO, at the request of the Chair, the RCA FP stated that it was decided during the development of the RCA Programme of 2009/2011 that the projects implemented by the RCARO would be in addition to the maximum number of projects specified in the Medium Term Strategy. He said that it would apply to the 2012/2013 cycle as well, unless the current Meeting decides otherwise.

The Director RCARO informed the Meeting that the RCARO was negotiating with UNDP for financial support for the two RCA projects RCARO had initiated.

The Chair requested proposals regarding the suggestion to review the procedure for programme development and to use the lessons learnt in developing the programme for the following cycle.

AUL suggested the appointment of a Working Group, noting that RCARO should also be included in the process.

The RCA FP stated that the review should go beyond just the procedure for project development and should also result in the revision for RCA Strategies on Future Priorities. He said that this document was the starting point of the process and, if it was weak, the rest of the procedure would also be weak. He pointed out that a number of new areas that were not contained in the document on strategic priorities were introduced at the last NRM, which defeated the purpose of the document.

The Chair invited volunteers to function as members of the Working Group.

Responding to queries from MAL and ROK, the Chair stated that the review process was for improving the procedure for the following cycles and it would not have any effect on the 2012/2013 cycle since the Project Concepts had been already submitted to the Agency.

DIR-TCPA suggested involving the Lead Country Coordinators in the review process.

Responding to a question from the Chair, the DIR-TCAP stated that it would not be possible to provide TC funds to support a Meeting of the Working Group, since, as a result of recommendations made by OIOS and External Auditor, the Regional Project on Human Resources Development would have a very limited budget and could not be used for such purposes anymore.

AUL was of the view that what was required at this stage was to gather information, which would not require a face-to-face meeting.

MAL pointed out the need for a Terms of Reference for the Working Group to function effectively.

The Chair suggested formation of the Working Group and then drafting the Terms of Reference.

RCA FP stated the main shortcomings were the lack of sufficient time given for developing the Concept Papers due to the requirement to meet the IAEA deadline, and the lack of feedback and the poor quality of the feedback, which were common problems for the RCA. He said most probably this would be the response the LCCs would provide if they were consulted about the process.

AUL stated there could be value in finding out how some of the LCCs managed to solve these problems.

**The Meeting decided to appoint a Working Group comprising AUL, CPR, MAL, NZE, PAK, and RCARO, with NZE as the convener, to review the process of RCA programme development and to make recommendations for improving the development of the programme for the next cycle. This would involve obtaining the views of the National RCA Representatives and LCCs regarding drafting the Concept Papers for the current cycle, and a review of the effectiveness of the document containing RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017. It was also decided that the RCA FP would draft the Terms of Reference and circulate to the members of the Working Group for a feedback.**

AUL requested information from DIR-TCAP regarding the current status of the Regional Cooperative Framework (RCF) and the impact it might have on the RCA Programme.

DIR-TCAP said that he would be most happy to provide this information. He outlined the salient features and complexities of the region, and the challenges and the problems. He said that strengthening of regional cooperation, including the development and implementation of a Regional Strategy, Profile or Framework, had been recommended in the TC Strategy and by the IAEA General Conference, Board of Governors, and by External Auditors and the OIOS. He said that all Regional Divisions of the TC Department had developed Regional Strategies and the two Regional Agreements of the Asia and Pacific Region had also developed their strategies. He recalled that developing a Regional Cooperative Framework for the Asia and Pacific Region as a whole was decided at the Meeting of the NLOs held in December 2009. He outlined the procedure adopted to develop the RCF and stated that the Chairs of the RCA and ARASIA and senior experts from the Region, including experts from non-recipient countries were involved in the process. He said that the draft RCF was reviewed by the staff of TCAP and had been circulated to the Member States in the region for comments. He said that this could be considered as the first step in establishing a common understanding within the region. He further said that the RCF was based on the IAEA Statute, INFCIRC 267 on Providing TC Assistance, TC Strategy and the Profiles and Strategies of RCA and ARASIA, and was to be used as a reference document in the preparation of the TC Programme of the Division of Asia and the Pacific. He outlined the main contents of the draft RCF.

Commenting on the RCA and ARASIA programmes for 2012/2013, he said that the Project Concepts submitted were being reviewed according to Agency procedures and the RCF, which is in a draft form at present, would not be used for this purpose.

AUL thanked DIR-TCAP for the information provided and expressed the view that the RCA should be involved in the development of the RCF.

The Chair requested the views of the Meeting regarding the involvement of the RCA in the development of the RCF.

DIR-TCAP stated that the draft RCF had been circulated to all Member States including the RCA Member States.

AUL inquired whether National RCA Representatives would be invited to attend the NLO Meeting planned to be held in October 2010.

DIR-TCAP said that it was his wish to make the process transparent and would take the suggestion of AUL into consideration.

## **V. Revision of the Role of the RCA Chair – RCAGCM(39)/4**

Introducing this Agenda Item, the Chair stated that Member States agreed at the 38<sup>th</sup> GCM to revise the procedure of appointing the RCA Chair, and a Working Group was appointed at the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM to develop the duties and modalities of appointment. She said that the Working Group could not reach a consensus and the matter was deferred to the 39<sup>th</sup> GCM. She invited the comments of the Member States.

ROK stated that it was not in agreement with this proposal and had stated the reasons for its objections at the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM. ROK could not agree to delegating the authority of the NR of ROK to represent the RCA to an RCA Chair on a personal basis to a private person. ROK also said that there was no control mechanism should the RCA Chair selected on a personal basis act

against the wishes of the Member States and that there was no example of any multi-lateral organization being represented by an individual. ROK further stated that there could be a conflict of interest if a representative of one of the RCA Member States were to function as the RCA Chair for an extended period of time. ROK was also of the view that RCA had been functioning successfully under the current system, as stated by DDG-TC in her opening remarks, and that a change would not be necessary.

The Chair stated that this proposal was approved by the 38<sup>th</sup> GCM and inquired whether ROK was objecting to this decision. ROK stated that a decision in this regard could not be taken at the last NRM and therefore this GCM was the forum to discuss this issue.

The RCA FP read the decision of the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM on this issue which stated that the NRM had decided to adhere to the decision made at the 38<sup>th</sup> GCM to revise the procedure of appointment of the RCA Chair and a Working Group had been appointed to look into the modalities of the appointment. The matter that was deferred to the GCM was the modalities of appointment of the RCA Chair.

IND said that there should be an agreement on practical arrangements, such as how the RCA Chair would function and how funds would be obtained to support his or her office.

AUL speaking as one of the members of the Working Group appointed at the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM, stated that the main issue for discussion of the Working Group was whether there was a problem or not with the current system. AUL also stated that since the RCA Focal Person was not a member of the Working Group it was not possible to obtain an authoritative statement on the problems that existed in the current system. AUL also stated that the clear will of the last NRM was to adhere to the decision made at the 38<sup>th</sup> NRM and move forward to establish the modalities of appointment.

RCA FP stated that the two issues under consideration were the need to change the way the RCA Chair was appointed and the concerns expressed on the perceived negative impacts this change would have. He said that the issue of the need to make a change had been discussed and a decision had been made in this regard and, even though he did not wish to re-open this issue, he could explain the need for this change from his point of view, if the Meeting desired. Addressing the concerns expressed he said that according to the proposal submitted to the Meeting, the RCA Chair should be a person well experienced in RCA matters, would be appointed by a National RCA Representatives Meeting and could be removed if his or her performance was not satisfactory. He also stated that once a person was appointed to the post of the RCA Chair by the National RCA Representatives, he or she could no longer be considered as a private person. With regard to representation of the RCA by a person other than an NR, he said that there was already precedence in DIR-RCARO representing RCA in the discussions with potential partners. Commenting on the issue raised by IND, the RCA FP stated that the RCA Chair was not expected to maintain an office but should have the resources to attend RCA Meetings, which the nominating Government should provide. RCA FP also stated that there was room to revise the proposed duties and responsibilities of the RCA Chair, if the Meeting so desired.

ROK re-iterated its concerns and stated that the authority of RCA Chair was more extensive than the authority of the DIR-RCARO and objected to the change in the manner of appointment of the RCA Chair.

The Chair inquired whether the Meeting wished to re-open the issue of the need for revising the method of appointment of RCA Chair.

NZE suggested the appointment of a person to be responsible for RCA operational matters while retaining the current method of appointing the RCA Chair.

ROK expressed the opinion that this proposal was rather complicated and did not see a need for such a change.

With the approval of the Chair, RCA FP explained the problems he was facing under the current system.

JPN stated that there was no need to change the way the RCA Chair was appointed, if there was good communication between the RCA Chair and the Focal Person. JPN further stated that, if the communication was not good, or if the host country was unable to provide a Chair, then a Manager or a consultant could help the RCA Chair and the Focal Person. JPN also pointed out the possibility that the best candidate for the position of RCA Chair might not have the resources required to carry out his/her duties.

IND was in favour of the proposal made by NZE, but stated finding funds to attend Meetings could be a problem.

The Chair pointed out the nominating Government was expected to provide funds for participation of the Chair or the Manager in the Meetings. The Chair inquired whether NZE could propose the revised duties for the new position it had proposed. NZE suggested that the duties specified in items (a) to (f) in the Annex 1 of the Background Document RCAGCM(39)/4, be the duties for the operational manager and the items (g) to (j) to be retained as the duties of the RCA Chair.

AUL stated that this was the third Meeting at which this issue was being discussed and it would not say much for the decision making ability of the RCA, if a decision was not taken at this Meeting.

PAK inquired how the responsibilities and authority was to be divided between the RCA Chair and the person to be appointed to the newly created position. PAK also stated that a suitable person was appointed, there would not be need to terminate his appointment before the completion of his or her tenure due to bad performance, as suggested.

RCA FP stated that it might be possible to move forward with the proposal made by NZE. He also stated that during the Meeting of the Chairs, that was held on the previous day, it was suggested that the RCA Chair should review the Agenda of the Meetings and the Background Papers and said that this could be another duty for the person to be appointed to the new position. He also said that this person should be able to make innovative proposals for improving the RCA procedures.

Responding to a question from IND, the Chair confirmed that under the new arrangement, there would not be any change in the authority of the NRs and the NRMs and the GCMs would continue to be the forums for making decisions on RCA policy matters.

INS expressed its support for the proposal made by NZE, but more details regarding its implementation would have to be worked out.

**The Meeting decided to create a management position for the RCA and to retain the current mechanism of appointment of RCA Chair. The duties of the manager would be based on items (a) to (f) of Annex 1 of RCAGCM(39)/4. RCA FP was requested to revise this document and circulate to the NRs.**

## **VI. RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules**

### Simplified version for the use of National Project Coordinators - RCAGCM(39)/5

The RCA FP introducing this item at the request of the RCA Chair stated that the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM requested him to prepare a simplified version of the RCA GOR focused on operational procedures for the use of the National Project Coordinators and Project Teams. He said he had prepared a draft and circulated it for comments and the responses received were positive. He thanked Dr. John Easey for his assistance in drafting this document.

AUL commenting on the development of new projects as stated in Section 2.2, stated that in addition to the projects implemented under the TC Programme of the IAEA and projects implemented by the RCARO, there could also be projects implemented by other donors.

RCA FP, commenting on this issue at the request of the Chair, stated that there were established guidelines for project development under the TC programme and by the Director – RCARO that had been approved by the National RCA Representatives and incorporated in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules. He said that if RCA projects were also to be implemented by a donor agency, similar guidelines would have to be prepared and approved.

AUL stated that there could be a need to move quickly in this regard in order not to lose funding opportunities and suggested the revision of the sections of the GOR on project development and implementation to allow a third party, in addition to IAEA and RCARO, to initiate and implement RCA Projects.

IND inquired about the details of the organizations that would support, develop and implement RCA projects in addition to IAEA and RCARO, and stated that they should be either national or international funding organizations.

RCA FP stated that there should be accepted criteria for funding and implementing agencies.

PAK pointed out the possibility of this proposal making it possible for commercial organizations to fund RCA projects.

RCA FP suggested that the Member State proposing such projects could submit the details of the implementation process and the implementing Agency when the Concept Papers were submitted for approval.

IND stated that the projects should be implemented according to the RCA Guidelines.

**The Meeting approved the operational version of the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules, and requested the RCA FP to circulate this version of the GOR to National Project Coordinators.**

**The Meeting decided that RCA Projects could be initiated and implemented by national and international organizations, in addition to IAEA and RCARO and the details of the implementing organization and the implementing procedure, along with the Project Concept Paper should be submitted for approval by a meeting of the National RCA Representatives. It was also decided that the RCA GOR should be revised accordingly.**

#### Revision of RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules - RCAGCM(39)/6

The Chair stated that the revisions proposed by the Secretariat, based on the revised RCA MTS were contained in RCAGCM(39)/6 and JPN also had suggested revisions that were contained in the Annex of this Background Paper, and invited comments on these proposals.

JPN stated that it had proposed two revisions, one regarding the RCA Mission and the other on participation of non-RCA Members in RC Projects. With regard to the first revision, JPN stated that it had taken into consideration the comments made by the Secretariat, and was proposing to amend the mission statement by adding the wording “in accordance with the relevant international arrangements, national laws and regulations applicable to these Member States” to the second bullet point of the RCA Mission statement (To encourage sustainability of nuclear technology capacities in the RCA Member States and to ensure transfer of those technologies and associated technical know-how to end-users). The proposed revision was tabled by JPN.

IND questioned the need for this revision since the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme ensures the proposed measures were taken by the Member States.

NZE also did not see the need for this revision and stated that non-proliferation, safety and security were the basic principles under which all RCA activities were performed and according to the RCA Core Values, safety and security were fundamental to the RCA Programme. NZE suggested the revision of the RCA Core Values to include non-proliferation, instead of revising the RCA Mission.

PAK was also of the opinion the revisions proposed were unnecessary and endorsed the views expressed by IND.

JPN stated that it was not insisting on the references to safety, security and non-proliferation, but would insist on the wording it had proposed, since it was necessary for all RCA activities to be performed according to international laws and regulations.

IND proposed the revision proposed by JPN to be included in the Core Values rather than in the Mission Statement. This proposal was accepted by JPN. The RCA FP suggested adding the revision proposed by JPN to Core value (a) to read as,

*Safety, Security and Sustainability: ensuring safe, secure and environment friendly utilization of nuclear science and technology and contributing to sustainable development within the region, in accordance with the relevant international arrangements, national laws and regulations applicable to these Member States.*

IND commenting on the second revision proposed by JPN, on participation of non-RCA members in RCA Projects, suggested addition of the wording “including the host country” to the statement regarding the need for approval of the RCA Member States.

RCA FP stated that the relevant section of the original version of the MTS referred to both participation in RCA projects and RCA activities and stated that, while it would be necessary to obtain the approval of the RCA Member States for a non-RCA Member State to participate in an

RCA project, it would be sufficient to obtain the approval of the Host Country for participation in an RCA event. He brought the attention of the Meeting to the proposals contained in Annex 3 of the Background Document.

AUL pointed out the need to revise the first bullet point of the section on participation on RCA events. The wording proposed by AUL was accepted.

**The Meeting approved the GOR subject to the above revisions and editorial corrections and requested the RCA FP to circulate the revised version of the GOR to the National RCA Representatives.**

## **VII. RCA Regional Office**

### **VII.1 Report of the Director of the RCARO – RCAGCM(39)/7**

DIR RCARO Dr. M-K Lee presented his report on the activities of the RCARO.

Success Stories – The third batch of Success Stories including one Success Story in booklet form had been published and distributed. A draft of the RCA UNDP partnership project on Post-Tsunami Environmental Impact Assessment had been prepared and submitted to the current Meeting for approval. The booklet on the Radiotherapy will be presented to the next NRM for approval.

Promotional Video – The scenario of the video was prepared by RCARO and reviewed and revised at the Workshop held in Jeju in July 2010. Action will be taken to produce this video following the approval of the story line by this Meeting.

Revised RCA Brochure – The Brochure had been published and distributed.

RCARO Promotional Strategy – A promotional strategy prepared by RCARO based on its analysis and classification of target audiences was reviewed and revised at the RCARO Workshop held in July 2010.

Public access to MOH – As requested by the 32<sup>nd</sup> NRM, RCARO had drafted a proposal on the information in MOH that could be posted on the public web-site. This proposal was also reviewed at the Workshop and revised based on the recommendations.

RCA Public web-site (RCARO web-site) – RCARO plans to re-design this web-site and present it at the 33<sup>rd</sup> RCA NRM.

Data-base on RCA Stakeholders and End-users – RCARO has been continuously updating this database.

Presentation and exhibition on RCA activities at international conferences – RCARO participated in two conferences and plans to participate in another conference in October 2010.

Partnership project with UNDP – The proposal approved at the last GCM had been submitted to the UNDP and, if selected, implementation will commence in November 2010.

Partnership development with international organizations – RCARO had explored the potential partnership opportunities with ADB and GEF. ADB could be excluded based on the recommendations of the Jeju Workshop since it provides only loans and not grants.

Presentation of nuclear knowledge – RCARO will continue to conduct the Masters Degree programme in Nuclear Engineering in collaboration with KAIST, a Regional Workshop will be conducted in collaboration with KAIST in October and will conduct a Training Course on Nuclear Medicine in December, in collaboration with ACCNRM.

Legal status of RCARO – This issue was discussed at the Workshop and it was recommended that RCARO submits proposals in this regard for the approval of the National RCA Representatives.

The Report of the DIR-RCARO is given in Annex 6.

The Chair thanked the DIR-RCARO and proposed commencing the discussion on the issues presented after the presentation of the report of the Chair of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee. She also stated that, as indicated in the Agenda, the major issues that required the attention of the GCM were, the approval of the Success Story on the RCA / UNDP Partnership Project on Tsunami, RCA Promotional Video, RCA Promotional Strategy, and the RCA Home Pages.

## **VII.2. Report of the Chairman of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee**

The following recommendations of the RCARO SAC were presented by the Chair. The Meeting Report is given in Annex 7.

### RCA / UNDP Partnership Project on Tsunami

The SAC had recommended the circulation of the Success Story to the Member States for comments and finalization based on the comments received within one month.

RCA FP stated that the previous decision regarding Success Stories was they should be approved at a Meeting of the National RCA Representatives. Since the revised version was distributed only on the day of the Meeting this would not be possible. The recommendation of the SAC was to allow finalization of the Success Story based on the comments received, instead of a decision at a Meeting of the NRs.

<p><b>The Meeting decided that the Success Story on the RCA /UNDP Partnership project could be finalized and published after revision, based on the comments received from the National RCA Representatives, within one month after circulation.</b></p>
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### RCA Promotional Video

The Chair stated that the RCARO SAC had recommended adding the RCA Vision and Mission, and enhancing the details of the IAEA involvement in the RCA, in the draft Story Line provided by the RCARO. She also stated that the substance and contents of the video should be based on the Story Line approved by the GCM, but changes could be made to improve the presentation and due to technical reasons. The SAC had also recommended the demonstration video should be made available to the National RC Representatives for comment.

**The Meeting approved the Story Line of the Promotional Video, given in Annex 2 of RCAGCM(39)/7, subject to addition of RCA Vision and Mission statements, and enhancement of the details of the IAEA contribution to the RCA. The Meeting agreed that the Story Line could be revised at the production stage to improve presentation, and due to technical reasons, without changing the contents and substance of the approved version. It was also decided that the demonstration video should be provided to the National RCA Representatives for comments, before it was released to the public.**

### RCA Publicity Strategy

The Chair stated that the RCARO SAC had recommended the approval of the RCA Publicity Strategy with the change of the title to RCA Promotional Strategy.

**The Meeting approved the RCA Publicity Strategy, given in Annex 3 of RCAGCM(39)/7, with the change of title to RCA Promotional Strategy.**

### RCA Homepages

The SAC had recommended the following.

1. The MOH data should be reorganized according to the decision taken at the 27<sup>th</sup> RCA NRM held in Malaysia.
2. The MOH data should be updated based on the documents provided by the RCAFP.
3. The project documents, annual achievement reports, summary of outcomes of the progress review meetings prepared by PLCC, and meeting schedules could be open to the public. The other information in MOH should be password protected.
4. The updated version of the RCA Public Homepage (RCARO Homepage) should be demonstrated at the next RCA NRM

The DIR-RCARO stated that there would be one RCA Web-site and the MOH data could be accessed through the website Menu.

**The Meeting approved the recommendations of the SAC and decided that the RCA Home Page should be re-organized and updated according to these recommendations.**

### Legal Status of RCARO

The Chair stated that the RCARO should provide detailed proposals regarding the strengthening of the legal authority of the RCARO to the next RCA NRM.

The RCA FP informed the Meeting that the RCA Agreement would have to be renewed in 2012 and any revisions to be made to the Agreement before renewal would have to be considered at the next NRM.

ROK stated that the relevant Ministry had requested a justification to continue to provide financial support to the RCARO. ROK also stated that the Government of the Republic of Korea wished to have an enhancement of the role of the RCARO and it would be beneficial to the RCA Member States to consider revising the RCA Agreement to include the role and the status of RCARO.

#### Participation in international conferences

The Chair stated that the SAC had recommended the approval of the proposals made by the RCARO regarding participation in international conferences.

#### Collaboration with ACCNRM

The Chair stated that, in accordance with a previous decision, the SAC had requested the RCARO to provide the Prospectus of the proposed training course on Nuclear Medicine to the RCA FP to ensure there was no duplication between this training course and other RCA activities in Nuclear Medicine.

#### Enhanced participation of RCARO in RCA activities

The Chair stated that the SAC considered the recommendation of the Workshop held in Jeju for the RCARO to participate in RCA project design and management, and was of the view that this would not fall within the mandate of the RCARO and a revision of the mandate would be required to implement this recommendation. The Chair also stated that the SAC had advised RCARO to develop capabilities in project design and management.

The Chair suggested the enhanced role be considered under the mandate of the RCARO to improve the viability of the RCA Programme.

AUL expressed the view that the RCARO should have background knowledge about the procedures for development and implementation of RCA Projects to provide additional credibility in its negotiations with the potential donors.

RCA FP pointed out the possibility of RCARO gaining knowledge of the RCA procedures, without being involved in their implementation. He said that the Meeting should decide whether the requirement was for RCARO to gain knowledge in these areas or to participate in these activities. He said mandate of the RCARO in the GOR could be revised accordingly.

CPR inquired whether RCARO had the resources and personnel to carry out these tasks.

DIR-RCARO indicated the willingness of the RCARO to assist in project design and management.

RCA FP stated the SAC had recommended that the RCARO should develop the capabilities of project design and management, and suggested that active participation be considered after these capabilities were developed. AUL and IND supported this proposal.

**The Meeting decided that the RCARO should develop capabilities in project design and management, before consideration by the NRs of its participation in the implementation and management of the RCA programme.**

#### **VIII.1. 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives, Indonesia 2011**

INS thanked the National RCA Representatives for giving the opportunity to host the 33<sup>rd</sup> RCA NRM. He said the Meeting had been re-scheduled for April 11-15 to avoid holding the Meeting

during the week before or the week after the Easter weekend, and the Meeting would be held in Bali.

**The Meeting decided to hold the 33<sup>rd</sup> RCA Meeting of National Representatives in Bali, Indonesia, 11-15 April 2011.**

### **VIII.2 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives, 2012**

CPR confirmed that it would host the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National RCA Representatives and requested proposals from the Member States to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA in 2012.

### **VIII.3 RCA Representations at the FNCA Coordinators' Meeting**

The Chair stated that the RCARO had represented RCA at the past FNCA meetings and suggested that RCARO represent RCA at the next meeting as well.

JPN suggested the new RCA FP could represent RCA at the FNCA Meeting. RCA FP stated that he had attended a few FNCA Meetings as the representative of RCA, but the TC Department had decided it was not appropriate for a staff member of IAEA to represent the RCA Member States, and the RCARO had represented RCA after this decision was taken. .

DIR-TCAP stated that he was invited to attend the last FNCA Meeting and Mr. Maksoudi, SH-TCAP1 attended the meeting on his behalf, as he had other commitments. However this participation was not as a representative of the RCA.

**The Meeting decided that RCA should be represented by RCARO at the next FNCA Meeting.**

### **VII. Any other business**

No issues were raised under any other business.

### **VIII. Closing**

The Chair stated that Mr. Prinath Dias would be leaving the Agency after functioning as the RCA Focal Person for over seven years, and said that he had contributed significantly to the successes of the RCA mentioned by DDG-TC in her opening remarks. She presented a token of appreciation of the Member States to Mr. Dias.

Mr. Dias thanked the Chair and the Member States and said that it had been a pleasure and a privilege to function as the RCA Focal Person during the past seven years. He briefly outlined the progress made by RCA during the past several years and said he was happy to have been able to contribute to this success. He thanked all the Member States for their contribution and for their support and cooperation. He also thanked his colleagues in the TC Department and technical staff of IAEA projects for their support and DDG-TC, DIR-TCAP and SH-TCAP1 for their guidance.

DIR-TCAP, in his closing remarks stated that it had always been a pleasure to attend RCA Meetings. He thanked all the Member States for their contribution to the RCA Programme. He

also thanked the RCA Chair, Dr. Dela Rosa, for her leadership in conducting this meeting successfully. He also thanked the RCA Focal Person for his contribution.

The Chair declared the meeting closed.