

**Meeting Report of
The 1st RCARO Standing Advisory Committee Meeting
(22 September 2005, IAEA Head Office, Vienna)**

1. The 1st RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was held from 14:30 on 22 September 2005 at VIC B0964, prior to the 34th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM). Members attending were Mr Nahrul Khair Aland Md Rashid (MAL: Chair), Mr Ron Cameron (AUL), Mr Manoon Aramrattana (THA), Mr Asif Salahuddin (PAK), and Mr M Prinath Dias (IAEA/RCA Coordinator). Mr Jong-bae Choi of ROK was unable to attend because of urgent matters in his home country. With the participation of 5 SAC members, the quorum was constituted.

From the RCARO, Mr Kun-Mo Choi (Director), Mr John K Chung (Programme Officer) and Ms Min-Jeong Lee (Assistant Programme Officer) participated. Observers at the meeting were: Mr M. N. Razley (MAL), Ms Jindarom Chvajarernpun (THA) and Mr M. R. Kim and Mr Hiroshi Rikihisa, the cost-free experts assigned to the IAEA RCA Office.

2. The Chair welcomed the SAC members and the observers to its first meeting after it was composed by the 27th NRM in April 2005 in Malaysia. The Chair expressed his appreciation to the RCARO for the activities it had undertaken during the past year for the benefit of the RCA. The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda. The Agenda is attached as Annex 1.
3. The Chair invited the Director, RCARO to report on the status of matters arising from the 27th NRM related to the RCARO that required actions. The Director of RCARO explained that four items had been requested for further action and reported that most of them had already been actively implemented after the 27th NRM. Followings are the progress report by the Director of RCARO on the matters arising from the 27th NRM.

(3. 1) RCA Success Stories

The Director, RCARO reported to the meeting on the work plan for the publication of the RCA Success Stories. The meeting acknowledged the RCARO work plan with appreciation and encouraged RCARO to capitalize on all the available resources so that the booklet can be published on a timely manner. The meeting reiterated the urgent need for a publication of the RCA Success Stories because it could increase a proper recognition of the RCA by the partners. In this connection, **the meeting advised RCARO to publish the first issue as soon as possible, preferably before the next NRM in Thailand.**

Considering the difficulties to materialize suitable RCA success stories from Member States and from the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators (TSLCCs), **the meeting recommended the following topics to be considered in the first publication. They are; 1) tissue banking 2) air pollution analysis in the Philippines associated with ADB 3) groundwater contamination analysis in Bangladesh associated with WB 4) development of new material such as hydro gel for medical purpose, and 5) DAT for nuclear medicine and radiation oncology supported by Australia. RCARO responded that they will contact the related Project Lead Country Coordinators in order to produce good RCA success stories.**

The meeting also recommended that RCARO interact with the RCA Coordinator in collecting and compiling the past RCA success stories that are archived in the IAEA/RCA office in due time so that more RCA success stories can be developed.

(3. 2) Guidelines on the Operation of the RCARO SAC

The Director, RCARO reported that the Guidelines on the Operation of the RCARO SAC were duly adopted by the NRs in June 2005 after a review by the RCARO SAC.

(3. 3) Collaboration between FNCA and RCA

The Director, RCARO reported to the meeting that after communication with the FNCA, they agreed to have a meeting in late October in Tokyo. **RCARO was advised to prepare a Terms of Reference and circulate them to the SAC for their review and comments. The meeting advised that the outcomes from the meeting between FNCA/ACC and RCARO need to report to the 28th NRM in March 2006.** The meeting viewed that the collaboration between the RCA and FNCA should be based on a complementary basis and produces a synergic effect.

(3. 4) Quadripartite Meeting

The Director, RCARO reported that RCARO surveyed topics that the RCA could offer to other Regional Agreements and conveyed them to the RCA Coordinator for further consideration with other Coordinators. The meeting noted that the past quadripartite meetings have not been regarded as valuable to the RCA and suggested to develop other mechanism such as information exchange through electronic means. In that case, the meeting recommended that the RCA Coordinator would function as the window for the coordination and information exchange amongst the Agreements.

4. RCARO Initiated Activities

(4. 1) Use of RCARO 2005 Fund

Regarding the use of the 2005 RCARO fund, **the meeting recommended to have a workshop with the participation of related experts in the environment area, in particular marine environment, to identify future priorities of RCA environment projects beyond 2008. The meeting recommended RCARO to develop detail workshop proposal in consultation with the TSLCC in Environment, and circulate the draft proposal to SAC for a review and comments.** The meeting appreciated RCARO for securing such independent fund for use of RCA project. The meeting expressed views that there should be a mechanism that RCARO's own fund could be used directly for the RCA projects that need funds. The RCA Coordinator explained that at present the IAEA's outsourcing policy cannot allow it to use such fund until a new outsourcing policy is decided.

(4. 2) UNDP 2006-2008 Project Proposal

The Director, RCARO explained the background of the UNDP-Korea fund that was foreseen through elaborated efforts by RCARO. The Director, RCARO requested the meeting to give advice on the most appropriate environment related projects that would best suited to the UNDP-K policy. The meeting expressed appreciation to the valuable effort by RCARO to attract additional funds for RCA. However, the meeting also advised that such a new initiative should be considered carefully by the SAC and related TSLCC(s) before an actual negotiation and submitting the project proposal. The meeting reiterated that any new initiative by RCARO would require to be related with the RCA core projects. RCARO noted the recommendation by the TSLCCs meeting in early August 2005 in

Vienna those TSLCCs should liaise with RCARO on the effective utilization of the additional funding opportunities that have been identified by RCARO.

After an extensive discussion on the 3-year UNDP-K project, **the meeting basically supported the initiative and recommended RCARO to prepare a concept paper together with related TSLCC (in this case TSLCC for Environment) before submitting the formal project proposal to UNDP-K and circulate the draft proposal to SAC for further advice and comments. After review by SAC, it was recommended that RCARO should circulate the project proposal to the NRs to invite their participation in the project. The meeting also recommended that an erosion analysis of marine coastal areas affected by the Tsunami would be one good area to cover by the project.**

(4. 3) 2006 PEMSEA Conference Participation

The Director, RCARO reported to the meeting that RCARO already informed IMO/GEG about the RCA's participation in the 2006 PEMSEA (Partnership in Environmental Management of Seas of East Asia) International Conference to be held in December 2006 in China, after being advised by SAC and supported by NRs in June 2005. The Director, RCARO sought further advice on the scope for participation and topics to be presented at the workshop on 'Radioisotope Technology for Coastal and Ocean Management'.

The meeting reconfirmed RCA's participation in the PEMSEA international conference as part of the partnership promotion activity of RCARO. Meanwhile, **the meeting suggested that since an RCA regional event on marine environment project is planned to be held in conjunction with the conference in December 2006 in China, it would be desirable to interact with the PLCC on the marine environment project for detailed arrangements.**

5. Enhancement of the RCARO Status

The Director, RCARO proposed the amendment of the RCA Agreement incorporating the establishment and operation of the RCA Regional Office with appropriate wordings when the current Agreement extended. The Director, RCARO added that this amendment would suffice the host government's related authorities in recognizing RCARO with a more enhanced legal status. **The meeting viewed some value in the RCARO's proposal and suggested that a small group would be composed early next year to review all the possibly required amendments of the RCA Agreement including the addition of wordings on RCARO.** The meeting, however, viewed that such an amendment would be envisaged beyond the next extension of the RCA Agreement, mainly because of the time constraints.

6. Guidelines for Projects Initiated by RCARO

The Director, RCARO explained RCARO's comments on the recommendations on the draft Guidelines for Projects Initiated by RCARO. It is noted that the Working Group for drafting the Guidelines basically made two recommendations, i.e., (1) more reiterated roles and functions of the Director of RCARO and, (2) procedures when initiating a new project by RCARO.

Regarding the recommendation I, RCARO expressed that it would be desirable to stick to the already stipulated descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the Director, RCARO in the RCA Resolution and the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules rather than creating duplicated expressions of the roles and functions in the Guidelines for Projects Initiated by RCARO. **The meeting concurred with this proposition and recommended that the**

Recommendation I would not be considered. Regarding the Recommendation II that describes the procedures when RCARO initiates a new project, RCARO proposed to prepare a project proposal together with SAC and PLCC rather than TSLCC, however, **the meeting recommended that a project proposal would be prepared jointly by the Director of RCARO, SAC and TSLCC since the PLCC is not to be elected at that stage.**

7. Next Meeting

The meeting agreed to have the 2nd RCARO SAC meeting in March 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand, in connection with the 28th RCA NRM.

Annex I

The RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

Date: 22 September 2005, Thursday, 2:30 pm

Place: IAEA, Vienna (B09)

Participants:

- **RCARO SAC Members:**
MAL (Chair), AUL, PAK, THA, ROK, IAEA/RCA Coordinator
- Secretariat: RCARO
- Observers: As appropriate.

Provisional Agenda

- I. Report on the matters arising from the 27th NRM (April 2005 in KL, MAL) Related to RCARO (** RCARO will report on the status of the matters arising from the 27th NRM related to RCARO which include RCA success stories, Guidelines on the Operation of RCARO SAC, Collaboration between FNCA and RCA, and Quadripartite meeting*)
- II. New Initiatives of RCARO (** RCARO will explain again about the following matters for guidance.*)
 - Use of the 2005 RCARO Fund
 - UNDP 2006-08 Project Proposal
 - 2006 PEMSEA Conference Participation
- III. Enhancement of RCARO Status (** RCARO will request SAC to give advice and recommendations on how to enhance RCARO status for effective functioning.*)
- IV. Guidelines for Projects Initiated by RCARO (** RCARO hopes the SAC will review the draft Guidelines and Recommendations made by the Working Group and recommend its views to the GCM for consideration.*)
- V. Next Meeting (** The next SAC meeting will be convened in connection with the 28th NRM in 2006 in Thailand.*)
- VI. Other Business (**Preparing the SAC Meeting Report is hoped to be directed by the Chair.*)