



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY**



REPORT OF
THE 40th RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

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IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

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ACRONYMS

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
GCM	General Conference Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
NR(s)	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	National RCA Representatives Regional Meeting
OLA	Office for Legal Affairs
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
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
TCPC	Technical Cooperation Programme Support and Coordination

INTRODUCTION

The 40th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) was held at the IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria, on 16 September 2011. Thirty-six 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 the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) attended the Meeting.

Mr. Kwaku Aning, (DDG-TC), Mr. Daud Mohamad (DDG-NA), Mr. Dazhu Yang (DIR-TCAP), Mr. Oscar Acuña (SH-TCAP1) and Mr. Kesrat Sukasam (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

Dr. Anhar Riza Antariksawan, the RCA Chair, and the National RCA Representative of Indonesia, welcomed the participants and the invitees and said that it was an honour for Indonesia to serve as Chair of the 40th RCA GCM. He thanked the National RCA Representatives (NRs) for the confidence and trust they had placed in him. The Chair welcomed the new NRs of JPN and BGD and participants who were attending the RCA GCM for the first time. He thanked the DDG-TC and DDG-NA for their participation, despite their tight schedule on the eve of the IAEA General Conference, which reflected the continuous and full support for the RCA activities. He also thanked the RCA-FP for his tireless efforts to ensure the good outcomes of the programme. He gave a brief overview of the main Agenda Items, namely the new RCA Programme for 2012/2013, the RCA project in response to the Fukushima Daichi nuclear power station accident, the extension of the RCA Agreement, the review of the report on the RCA procedure for programme development, RCARO activities and the 40th anniversary of the RCA. The Chair stated that the RCA could be proud of many achievements over the past 39 years, and that it was determined to further develop to achieve better outcome for all RCA Members States and eventually Member States in other regions. He emphasized the need for close cooperation among the stakeholders and noted RCA members comprised a unique mix of countries, which provided good opportunities for technical cooperation between developing countries (TCDC). He concluded by inviting active participation by 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 Mr. Kwaku Aning (DDG-TC) to deliver his message.

Mr. Kwaku Aning welcomed all the participants to Vienna and greeted those who were attending the Meeting for the first time. He described his impression from attending the 33rd NRM in Bali. He congratulated the RCA for the efforts and contributions that underpinned the cooperation achieved so far. He encouraged the RCA to continue those efforts and confirmed the Agency's commitment to support the RCA.

He referred to the extension of the RCA Agreement, the fifth since the 1987 Agreement was established, and the Extension Agreement, which had been circulated for acceptance by the RCA Member States' governments. He emphasized that the notification of acceptance should reach the Agency as soon as possible, before 12 June 2012.

On the proposed RCA programme for 2012/2013 cycle, he stated that the development of the programme had gone through rigorous consultations among concerned stakeholders, coordinated by the RCA Secretariat, and that the recommended projects were based on the priority needs of the RCA Member States and in line with the TC Strategy and Central Criterion. He also noted the exercise by RCA Working Group to review its current processes and mechanisms for project development.

The DDG-TC commended the RCA on the good cooperation between its Member States and the Secretariat. This was demonstrated by the timely response to the RCA's initiative to monitor and study the possible impact of the radioactivity released into the marine environment as a result of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. He emphasized that the Board's approval was one of the quickest approvals ever obtained for a TC project, and the approval for possible participation of non-Member States had opened a door for wider collaboration. He thanked the governments of AUL, JPN, NZE, and the USA for their extra-budgetary contributions to this project.

He congratulated the RCA Regional Office for establishing collaboration with other partners, and improving the awareness of RCA activities, including the launch of the new RCA website. He addressed the deliberations concerning the celebration of the RCA's 40th Anniversary in 2012, and indicated his possible participation in this event.

The DDG-TC concluded his statement by thanking the DDG-NA and his colleagues for excellent cooperation and support.

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

The Chair invited Mr. Daud Mohamad (DDG-NA) to deliver his message.

Mr. Mohamad greeted the participants and stated the important contribution of the RCA to fostering research, development and training in Asia and the Pacific region, which made a real difference in furthering the field of nuclear sciences and technology. He noted

that the RCA had made significant progress, especially in transferring nuclear technologies to end users.

DDG-NA referred to the field of health, noting that further consolidation in the training of medical physicists in the RCA region during the past year with the publication of training guides in radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. He referred to the remarkable progress in the field of nuclear medicine that involved SPECT-CT and PET/CT. He remarked on the progress of the PACT Model Demonstration Sites (PMDS) in MON, SRL and VIE, and the plan for imPACT reviews towards the end of the year. He also referred to the technical backstopping in the areas of radioisotopes and the radiopharmaceuticals production capability in the region. In the area of radiation technology, the DDG-NA stated that more than 30 different products had been developed and produced in nine pilot scale production plants. Training on industrial gamma tomography was provided to the RCA Member States.

He stated that the IAEA Environment Laboratories in Monaco stood ready to assist the RCA Member States in the project on “Marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific Region”. He further commended the achievements under the RCA in the areas of water resource management and improving crop quality and stress tolerance using mutation techniques.

He concluded by expressing his appreciation for the recognition by Member States of the important contribution that the uses of Nuclear Technologies can make to development of the RCA region.

The DDG-NA’s message is reproduced in Annex 4

1.3 Introduction of the participants

At the request of the Chair, the participants made self-introductions. In the round of introductions, AUL commended the Secretariat for the quick and effective response on the Fukushima Project. JPN also commended the support of the Secretariat to Japan in the aftermath of the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident.

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair informed that under the Agenda Item “Any Other Businesses”, there would be a brief presentation on “Organization of Best Practice & Documentation Initiative”. AUL suggested discussing an appointment of an alternative NPC, which was presented at the 33rd NRM, under the Agenda Item IV. The adopted Agenda is given in Annex 5.

The provisional agenda was adopted with amendments.

I.5 Appointment of rapporteurs

The Chair stated that based on previous practices, the RCA-FP would serve as a rapporteur at the RCA GCM. The Chair announced that the RCA FP would be the rapporteur for the Meeting.

RCA-FP was appointed a rapporteur of the meeting

II. Views of the Technical Officers of RCA Projects

The Chair invited Technical Officers to provide their views on the RCA projects. Ms. Virginia Koukoulou, the Technical Officer of Sustainability of Regional Radiation Protection Infrastructure (RAS9042) referred to the outcome of the Final Progress Review Meeting, which was held in Vietnam on 5-9 September. She informed that the project was successful, and it was agreed to sustain the established networks using national resources. As RCA would not have a project in this thematic area in the next TC cycles, she emphasized the importance of on-going government support and commitment for sustainability.

The DIR-TCAP added that although the RCA would no longer have a project in this area, possible support could be provided through regional projects of a non-agreement nature. The Member States should also utilize their national resources to continue. AUL sought the views of the participants on how the networks could be self-sustained, and suggested that further discussion may be needed on this matter. PHI commented that linkage to non-agreement project(s) would be essential in maintaining the established networks.

The RCA-FP stated that the Final Meeting in Vietnam had been completed only a week before the GCM, and he had not had the opportunity to discuss with the TO, who attended the meeting. He also informed that he would further discuss with the TO on specific outcomes and recommendations for follow up action.

The Meeting took note of the view and comments raised.

III. Matters arising from the 33rd Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives – RCAGCM (40)/2

The Chair stated that the Secretariat had already circulated the background paper and invited the RCA-FP to provide an update. The RCA-FP stated that most follow up actions had been completed, and highlighted some issues requiring attention at the Meeting.

On the matter of “Recommendation of the Cooperative Chairs Meeting”, he reported that the information on RCA and other Agreements had been submitted to the AFRA Chair for subsequent circulation to other Agreement Chairs. The action was still pending and he would further follow up. NZE enquired if there would be an arrangement for meeting

with other Agreements during this year's IAEA General Conference. The RCA-FP responded that there was no such arrangement this year. DIR-TCAP added that he would further discuss with the DDG-TC concerning possible arrangement.

Regarding the Air Pollution Database, which was generated under RAS7015, the RCA-FP stated that the database was already uploaded and published on the RCA website.

For the new RCA programme for 2012/2013, he recalled that detailed information would be presented and discussed under the Agenda Item IV. Similarly, extension of the RCA Agreement and the result of the Working Group on Programme Development would be presented and discussed under the Agenda Items VI and VII, respectively.

The RCA-FP referred to the new RCA project in response to the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. The DIR-TCAP emphasized that the proposal was received on time from AUL and circulated to the Technical Department. There had been internal consultations with concerned departments at the IAEA including the DG's Office, which reflected a one-house approach. The project had been approved by the Board of Governors in June, including the possible participation of concerned non-Member States of IAEA in the region. He pointed out that it was the first time that a single project was approved by the Board. The DIR-TCAP emphasized that the efforts clearly showed the shared responsibilities between the Agency and the Member States. He extended his appreciation to extra-budgetary contributions provided by AUL, NZE, JPN and USA. He also commented that other Member States had also expressed interest in providing in-kind and cash contribution to the project.

In this connection, the RCA-FP informed that ROK had submitted a concept on assessment of the Fukushima accident on the non-marine environment (soil, water, air and food), which had been circulated to the Technical Department for initial feedback. ROK had also been advised to consult other RCA members to assess their common interests and concerns about the proposed concept for further consideration.

AUL referred to an analytical paper that was circulated at the 33rd NRM, addressing the issue of continuity of the projects and the recommendation to appoint alternate NPCs for each RCA project. PHI supported the recommendation and suggested that alternate NPCs should come from the project team. PAK also endorsed the idea.

The RCA-FP commented that whilst appointing an alternate NPC would be beneficial, there are currently no provisions in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR). He also sought confirmation that the alternate NPCs would have no other function than being the substitute of the NPC. PHI suggested that the GOR should be amended to reflect inclusion of the alternate NPCs. The RCA-FP confirmed that the amendment of the GOR would state that the alternate NPCs would only assist the NPCs, and would have no other function.

The Meeting took note of the report of the follow up action.

The Meeting agreed and encouraged the NRs to appoint an alternate NPC for each RCA project. The alternate NPC should be a member of the national project team .

The Meeting also agreed to amend the RCA GOR by inserting a phrase: “a project team member will be appointed as an alternate NPC, who will have the same role and responsibilities as the NPC.”

IV. RCA Programme for 2012/2013 – RCAGCM(40)/3

At the request of the Chair, the RCA-FP presented the RCA Programme and proposed budget for 2012/2013. He described progress in terms of the development procedure that started in 2010 and has continued until present. He emphasized that the projects are in line with the RCA strategic priorities and TC Central Criterion. The RCA Programme for 2012/2013 would comprise 16 new projects (one of which would be footnote a/), 3 continuations plus one project on the Fukushima Marine Benchmark Study. He pointed out that the proposed budget would be slightly higher than that of the previous cycle, and would be submitted to the Board for approval in November. He informed that once the programme has been approved, the Secretariat would notify the NRs and request their confirmation of participation in the RCA projects. He also encouraged the NRs to respond promptly to the request. His presentation is given in Annex 6.

AUL commented favourably on the increasing budget of the RCA programme, which reflected the desire of the RCA programme to provide further cooperation within the region. PHI commented on the low budget of some projects. The RCA-FP clarified that those projects were supplementary projects, which required only minor amounts of additional financial support. PAK thanked the DIR-TCAP for considering increasing the budget for the RCA programme.

The RCA-FP stated that next year would be a busy year for implementation and requested the Member States to continue their efforts for timely implementation.

The Meeting endorsed the proposed programme presented.

V. RCA project in response to Fukushima accident – RCAGCM(30)/4

RCA-FP gave a presentation on the project, referring to the background of the project development that covered the discussion at the 33rd NRM, project submission, internal consultations by the Secretariat, procedure for approval by Board, the decision for possible participation of concerned non-Member states of the IAEA in the region, and concurrence of the RCA members for participation of non-RCA member in a RCA project. The RCA-FP referred to the DDG-TC's statement that the project approval had been one of the quickest approvals ever obtained for a TC project, and that extra-budgetary contributions had been received from the governments of AUL, JPN, NZE and

the USA. The Meeting was also informed that in addition to the RCA Member States, other participating countries include: Cambodia, Nepal and six Pacific Small Islands Developing States (Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands).

The RCA-FP reported on the key outcomes and conclusion of the Project Planning Meeting, which was held in Sydney from 29 August – 2 September 2011. He stated that the next regional activity would be a regional meeting on Quality Management System Documentation and Utilization of Regional/Global Marine Database, which would be organized in Monaco on 21-25 November 2011. His presentation is given in Annex 7.

JPN expressed its gratitude and appreciation for the attention and the prompt response to TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident and the importance of providing timely and accurate information.

NZE noted possible cooperation with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), and suggested that the RCA should also increase cooperation with academic institutions within the RCA region as this would contribute to sustainability. He suggested that this should be part of the planning for future activities at the next project planning meeting.

PHI referred to EMRAS-II (Environmental Modelling for Radiation Safety Programme 2) and enquired if this program could be linked to the Fukushima project because of its relevance. AUL, a team member of EMRAS, agreed that there would be value in linkage with the project.

PAK expressed its disappointment that PAK was not able to participate in the meeting as visa could not be issued on time. The RCA-FP informed that the host country acted promptly to send letters and information to the concerned Permanent Missions to facilitate the visa process. AUL confirmed that all possible actions had been taken to facilitate the process, noting that delays can occur in individual cases, and thanked PAK for its positive engagement in providing written input into the project planning process.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. William Parton, US representative, gave a brief statement on the Fukushima project and RCA. He expressed thanks for the invitation to attend the RCA GCM, and thanked other partners, namely AUL, NZE and JPN, who made extra-budgetary contributions to the project. He thanked the Secretariat for timely action in response to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Mr. Parton emphasized that during the NRM in Bali, the RCA governments started acting towards possible cooperation and development of the project and the quick approval by the Agency's Board was a sign of success. The Government of the USA was able to provide the extra-budgetary contribution through the Peaceful Use Initiative (PUI) and looked forward to funding more projects/activities in the countries in the RCA region. He also mentioned that ROK had contributed to PUI.

The Meeting took note of the good progress of the project.

VI. Extension of RCA Agreement – RCAGCM(40)/5

At the request of the Chair, the RCA-FP gave a short briefing. He stressed that with the consensus agreement at the 33rd NRM for the 5th extension of the 1987 RCA Agreement, the Secretariat had subsequently circulated the adopted text of the Fifth Extension Agreement, inviting the Governments of RCA Member States to become a party to it. He informed that the Secretariat had already received two instruments of acceptance from MON and IND, which were sufficient for the Extension Agreement to enter into force. The RCA-FP emphasized that, as suggested by the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), all RCA Member States should become a party to the Extension Agreement.

Mr. A. Gioia, Senior Legal Officer, OLA, was invited to provide further clarification from the legal perspective. He confirmed receipt of the two instruments of acceptance, which made the Extension Agreement enter into force with effect from 12 June 2012. He pointed out that the Member States should consider whether it would be better to extend the Agreement every five years as currently practiced, or amend the Agreement so that it remains in force indefinitely. He stated that the latter would be less complicated and preferred, and that it did not mean that Member States would not be able to withdraw at a future time. He reemphasized that the parties to the 1987 RCA Agreement were those who had accepted the latest extension agreement.

IND cautioned that the indefinite option should be considered carefully, as the possibility for making changes under the indefinite scenario would be excluded. AUL sought clarification whether under the indefinite condition amendments would really not be possible. OLA responded that if the RCA was extended for an indefinite time, any amendments would require a new Agreement, instead of an Extension Agreement. This is what has happened since 1987, and could include a specific clause that established a mechanism for future revision of the Agreement. AUL thanked OLA for the comprehensive response. The DIR-TCAP encouraged the Member States to submit the instruments of acceptance as soon as possible.

The Meeting took note on status of the RCA Extension Agreement and requested the NRs to coordinate for timely response in submission of the instrument of acceptance.

VII. Report of Working Group on RCA Procedure for Programme Development – RCAGCM(40)/6

The Chair requested the NR of NZE, the Chairman of the Working Group (WG), to provide an update and present the results. The Chairman of the WG referred to the decision of the 33rd NRM to expand the scope of the exercise to cover both the concept and design stages of RCA programme development. He described the processes of the review and the questionnaires that were circulated to RCA stakeholders (LCCs, NPCs and NRs). Based on the analysis, the WG proposed eight recommendations with involvement of relevant RCA Stakeholder identified. The report of the WG is given in Annex 8.

The Chair requested the Meeting to consider appropriate action on the recommendations. The RCA-FP commented on the low response to the questionnaires, which might not reflect the totality of the RCA. The Chairman of the WG clarified that although the response from some stakeholder groups was low; the quality of the feedback received indicated a good reflection of the views of the Member States.

AUL noted the good comments and recommendations by the WG and enquired what would be the steps toward implementing the recommendations. PHI suggested that the new RCA website should be utilized for communication and exchange of views among stakeholders. The Director of the RCARO confirmed the technical viability of the new website.

IND sought clarification on the aspect of peer review regarding technology transfer, and whether the recommendation would be applied to all RCA projects. The Chairman responded that this was required, and that the peer review would help the routine process of project development and implementation.

The RCA-FP suggested that it would be useful to discuss the recommendations carefully, one by one. He referred to the first recommendation and enquired about the necessity and feasibility for provision of more comprehensive information during the project concept stage. The Chairman responded that although some specific details would not yet be available, a broad overview should be provided for consideration. PHI stated that the information provided during the concept stage should be as complete as possible, to enable proper consideration of whether the concept should be recommended to move on to the design stage.

The RCA-FP referred to the third recommendation regarding a more robust process for assessing projects falling outside the RCA Strategic Priority. He commented that if the projects were not within the Strategic Priority, the project would not have been considered. The Chairman responded that there should be a mechanism to review the priorities in response to emerging issues. CPR enquired whether the Strategic Priority could be revised, and was answered that it would be possible. PHI indicated that based on experience, most proposals were within the Strategic Priorities, except for just one, a proposal on nutrition put forward by THA. PHI stated that there should be flexibility in the RCA Programme to allow timely and effective action to address important emerging issues.

The Meeting endorsed the recommendations presented by the Working Group on RCA Procedure for Programme Development and approved their implementation, starting from the planning of the next RCA programme.

The Meeting also agreed that the WG Chairman continue communicating with the concerned stakeholders on the findings and recommendations of the review.

VIII. RCA Regional Office

VIII.1 Report of the Director of the RCARO – RCAGCM(40)/7

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

Increasing awareness of RCA – this included: a) Publication of the fourth round of RCA Success Stories; b) publication plan of RCA Success Stories; c) production of the promotional video on RCA activities; d) redesign and operation of the RCA website; e) updating data on RCA stakeholders/end-users by Member States; f) presentation and exhibition of RCA/RCARO activities to targeted audiences.

Presentation and exhibition of RCA/RCARO activities to targeted audiences – RCARO participated in UNDP-SU-SSC/ESCAP Exhibition, in Bangkok and International Meeting on Radiation Processing 13th in Montreal, Canada.

Implementation of RCA/UNDP project - RCARO had been collaborating with UNDP on the project "Promoting and Accelerating Nuclear SPECT/PET Imaging Technologies in the Region." The activities included: a) a kick-off meeting 17-19 May 2011, Phuket, Thailand; b) conducting the basic training on SPECT/PET and on-site regional training on 8-26 August, 2011 in Seoul; c) annual meetings and project monitoring.

Promoting partnership for RCA – including pursuing partnership with GEF and exploring partnership development with UNDP. RCARO would continue to explore international funding sources in terms of funding availability

Preservation of Nuclear Knowledge – through implementing: RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course, RCARO/ARCCNM training course and RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

Increased interaction between Member States and RCARO – the activities included: inviting temporary staff from Member States to RCARO; holding a temporary staff workshop and seeking extra-budgetary contribution to the IAEA

The presentation of the DIR- RCARO is given in Annex 9.

The Chair thanked the DIR-RCARO and proposed to discuss the issues presented after the presentation of the report of the Chair of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee.

VIII.2. Report of the Chairman of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee

The Chair presented the report of the meeting of the 13th RCARO Standing Advisory Committee, held on 15 September 2011, which was attended by INS, PHI, CPR, ROK and the RCA-FP. The DIR-RCARO and staff also attended. The Meeting Report is given in Annex 10.

The SAC's recommendations that required GCM's endorsement included:

Publication of the RCA Success Stories

The Success Story on Radiotherapy was ready for distribution. RCARO proposed a mechanism for the preparation of publication of the RCA Success Stories and topics for the next publication.

The SAC complimented RCARO for the publication of the booklet and agreed on the mechanism for the publication of the Success Stories for approval by the 40th GCM. The SAC endorsed the proposed topics for the 5th batch of Success Stories for approval by the 40th GCM.

Appointment of the Next Director of RCA Regional Office (DIR-RCARO)

The term of the present DIR-RCARO would expire in April 2012. Dr. M-K Lee, present Director, declared his intention to extend another term and the government of ROK expressed the strong support for his extension.

The SAC acknowledged the intention of the present DIR-RCARO, to extend his term for another 3 years. Considering good performance of RCARO under his leadership and strong support of the ROK government, the SAC recommended the extension of Dr. M-K Lee as DIR-RCARO to be approved by the 40th GCM.

AUL commented that the proposal for Success Stories was sensible and supported the extension of Dr. M-K Lee's role as DIR-RCARO. This was endorsed by INS, IND, MAL, SIN, SRL and VIE.

AUL enquired about the process for updating the RCA website, noting that there was no reference to the Fukushima marine project on the website. DIR-RCARO responded that Member States should supply relevant information, noting of the need to determine whether information should be published on the public or the protected part of the website. RCA-FP offered the clarification that text in the project information sheets has already been approved for open publication.

The Meeting agreed on the proposed topics for the 5th batch of Success Stories and the proposed mechanism for preparation of the RCA success stories and approved the extension of Dr. M-K Lee's role as the Director of the RCARO.

The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of SAC as stipulated in the report of the 13th SAC Meeting.

IX. In-Touch Presentation

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Nathalie Colinet, TCPC, gave a presentation on the In-Touch platform, which is aimed at replacing the paper nomination form process with a controlled electronic nomination process. She provided details of the platform, its mechanism and procedure for registration. Her presentation is given in Annex 11.

AUL enquired about the status of implementation of the platform. Ms. Colinet informed the Meeting that the initiative was officially launched as announced by the DDG-TC, and that about 30-35% of the Member States had already started using it.

RCA-FP stated that the system should be useful for the RCA implementation, especially for submission of nominations for RCA events, and all Member States were encouraged to use it as much as possible. Ms. Colinet also confirmed that all the NRs have been registered in the system already.

AUL suggested that it should be useful to send a notification to the users and was answered that this could be done. Ms. Colinet concluded that further information could be acquired through: inTouch.Contact-Point@iaea.org

The Meeting took note of the presentation on In-Touch Platform.

X. 40th Anniversary of the RCA and XI.1. 34th Meeting of National Representative, China, 2012

The Chair recalled that the RCA would celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2012 in China in connection with the 34th NRM. He suggested combining these two Agenda Items and invited the delegate of CPR to present the plan and arrangements. Mr. Li Sen, on behalf of the NR of CPR, informed that the 34th NRM would take place on 24-27 April 2012, and the 40th Anniversary would be organized one day earlier on 23 April 2012. The venue would be the China National Convention Center (CNCC), in Beijing. He provided specifications of the meeting hall, which could be used for RCA exhibitions. His power point presentation is given in Annex 12.

RCARO commented that the exhibition hall seemed too small to accommodate national exhibitions. The Chair noted that countries wishing to participate in the exhibition would need to confirm their participation to the organizers to ensure proper arrangements.

The RCA-FP referred to the decision of the 33rd NRM that all Member States were requested to submit proposals/ideas for arranging the 40th Anniversary to CPR, and enquired whether the inputs had been received. CPR stated that they did not receive suggestions or proposals from any country.

PHI suggested organizing the official launch by inviting eminent persons to speak about the RCA. PHI also suggested that the RCA exhibition could be arranged according to thematic areas. RCA-FP stated that the four thematic sectors under the RCA Strategic

Priorities would be: human health, food and agriculture, water and environment, and industrial application. He also suggested that the exhibition materials could be also used for a RCA exhibition at the VIC during the IAEA's General Conference in 2012. PHI informed that they had organized national activities every December, and they would organize a technical session dedicated to the 40th Anniversary of RCA.

AUL supported the proposal for the thematic exhibitions, suggesting that each thematic sector would have a Thematic Coordinator. The RCA-FP emphasized that the exhibition should show results that derived from RCA regional cooperation rather than national level exhibits

The following Thematic Coordinators were appointed.

- Human health – AUL
- Food and Agriculture – CPR
- Water and Environment – PHI
- Industrial Application – IND

RCARO suggested the inclusion of one generic area about RCA, and agreed to serve as the Thematic Coordinator.

The Member States agreed to individually decide which thematic areas they would participate in, and inform the respective Thematic Coordinator accordingly. The Thematic Coordinators would coordinate with CPR for provision of inputs and materials. CPR, as an overall coordinator, would provide detailed plans and arrangements for the exhibition in coordination with RCA-FP.

The Meeting agreed to hold the exhibition on RCA with the focus on four thematic areas (human health, food and agriculture, water and environment, and industrial application), and one on RCA in general.

The Meeting appointed the Thematic Coordinator for each thematic sector:

- Human health – AUL
- Food and Agriculture – CPR
- Water and Environment – PHI
- Industrial Application – IND
- Overall RCA - RCARO

The Meeting appointed CPR as an overall coordinator for the exhibition.

The MS were to inform the respective Thematic Coordinators of their participation by mid October 2011.

XI.2. 35th Meeting of National RCA Representatives, 2013

The RCA-FP informed that based on the historic record, the 35th NRM would be hosted by MYA. He then sought confirmation of the MYA delegate of the possibility.

The MYA delegate informed that MYA would be willing to host the 35th NRM and would officially confirm to the Secretariat soon.

The Meeting noted that the 35th NRM would be hosted by MYA, subject to official confirmation by MYA.

XII. Any other business.

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Khadijah Khan, TCPC, gave a briefing on the “Organization of Best Practice & Documentation Initiatives”. She provided a short overview of the background, mechanism and indicative time frame, and encouraged the RCA to participate in this exercise. Ms. Khan also informed that a workshop on this initiative would be organized in November 2011 at the VIC, and representatives from all regions would be invited. Her presentation is given in Annex 13.

The RCA-FP provided further clarification on the initiative, drawing attention to the main objectives, recognition awards and possible contribution of RCA. He gave examples of RCA practices which could be proposed and considered as best practices, including an exercise recently performed by the Working Group on RCA Programme Development. He also stated that if some of RCA practices were accepted as best practices, it would be good recognition for the 40th Anniversary. He also referred to the suggestion of the DIR-TCAP, encouraging the RCA to participate.

For potential aspects of RCA working methods to be considered as best practice, INS and NZE suggested the performed review of RCA project development to be a suitable contribution to this initiative. AUL noted that the inclusiveness of RCA processes was an underpinning best practice, whereas current non-RCA processes tend to exclude non-TC recipients from the process

The Meeting appointed the NR of NZE and the RCA Chair to coordinate the exercise and attend the planned workshop in November 2011, and report the progress to the 34th NRM.

XIII. Closing

The Chairs thanked all participants for their active participation and declared the meeting closed. The meeting ended at 17.30.