



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**



REPORT OF

THE 31st RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

17 September 2020

Introduction

A virtual meeting of the 31st RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee was held on 17 September 2020, inviting the members of the RCARO SAC, Mr. Abdul Muin Abdul Rahman (Current RCA Chair, NR of MAL), Mr. T. M. R. Tennakoon (Immediate past RCA Chair, NR of SRL), Mr. Permsuk Sutthaphiwat (Secretary General of Office of Atoms for Peace, THA) Mr. Phiphat Phruksarajanakun (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of THA), Ms. Seoyeong Jeong (Director of Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation, on behalf of NR of ROK), Ms. Jane Gerardo-Abaya (DIR-TCAP, IAEA) and Mr. Sinh Hoang (RCA Focal Person, IAEA).

1. Opening

Mr. Abdul Muin Abdul Rahman, the current RCA Chair, opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

Mr. Permsuk Sutthaphiwat, a representative of Thailand, the Secretary General of Office of Atoms for Peace, delivered his statement. He emphasized the role of the RCA in strengthening the regional capacity and appreciated the contributions by the RCA Chairs and the RCARO.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The agenda items were reviewed and adopted with no amendment. RCARO was appointed as rapporteur.

The SAC adopted the draft agenda with no amendment and appointed the RCARO as rapporteur.

3. Discussion on Major Issues on the RCARO Activities

3.1. Implementation of the RCA/UNOSSC Project on Electron Beam Applications

The RCARO reported on the activities undertaken and the plans for 2020 under the RCA/UNOSSC Project on EB Applications. The Group Fellowship Programme has been undertaken through e-learning instead of on-site training. In place of the physical meeting for final review, participating countries would be requested to submit the progress reports via email. A promotional video will be created to reflect the achievements made in a total of seven years of implementation of the project (Phase 1: 2013-2015, Phase 2: 2017-2020) by the end of the year.

3.2. Development of e-Learning Modules on Nuclear Medicine

The RCARO reported on the progress made for the development of the e-Learning modules in the area of nuclear medicine. In June 2020, the RCA e-Learning Campus (www.rcaro.org/elearning) was established and launched to serve as an online learning platform for the RCA, with thirty (30) modules developed by the regional experts in the field of nuclear medicine. Additionally, twenty (20) modules and one (1) case-based module are currently being developed to be uploaded in 2020.

3.3. RCARO Managed Project: Implementation of a Research Project on Air Quality and Environment Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in the Region

The RCARO briefed on the progress made under the Research Project. In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Research Coordination Meeting would be replaced by online submission of progress reports and review to be conducted by Research Review Committee (RRC). As the Phase 1 (2018-2020) is completed this year, an achievement report will be drafted by the Technical Officer. For the Phase 2 (2021-2023), the RCARO invited the RCA GPs and thirteen (13) GPs submitted research proposals to be reviewed by the RRC.

3.4. Implementation of the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project on radiation monitoring and dose assessment under EPR

The SAC was reported that ten (10) ASEAN countries have joined the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project. However, due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Project Coordination Meeting was postponed to an unspecified date. In 2020, an e-learning course will be developed in place of on-site Regional Training Course and guidelines on monitoring and dose assessment will be drafted by a regional expert.

3.5. Increasing the awareness and promotion of the RCA

The SAC was presented on the update of the RCA project information on the RCA website. For participation to the regional/international events for promotional activities, the planned events have been postponed from 2020 to 2021.

3.6. Other Matters

The RCARO reported on the other activities: Participation in the Meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA; Supporting the IAEA for RCA administrative matters and coordination of activities; Holding an introductory workshop for new NRs; Implementation of RAS9092; Capacity building on radiation application technology; and Inviting temporary staff from the Government Parties to the RCARO.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The SAC took note of the progress made by RCARO under each item and appreciated the RCARO's efforts for supporting the RCA GPs and the RCA Programme.

Noting the value of the long-term and at the same time customized education, the SAC encouraged the RCARO continue the new initiative of "Group Fellowship Programme" through follow-up activities/projects of RCA/UNOSSC Project.

The SAC congratulated the launch of the RCA e-Learning Campus and noted the significance of its role as a virtual platform for sustained learning. The SAC encouraged the RCARO continue upgrading and updating the features of the campus for expanding the learning opportunities for the GPs.

Considering that the digitalization is now the way forward, the SAC recommended the RCARO expand the current e-learning modules in various fields, including the nuclear medicine, in the following years. Further, the SAC encouraged the RCARO to make use of the website as a database and CLOUD storage for various training materials to be produced in the RCA Programme across the thematic sectors.

5. Arrangement for the 32nd SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 32nd RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 43rd RCA NRM, which is planned to be held in 2021, in Thailand.

6. Closing

The Chair of the Meeting thanked the SAC members for their advice and recommendations. The Chair also thanked the RCARO for the excellent work and encouraged the RCARO to continue supporting the RCA Programme.