



53rd RCA General Conference Meeting, 13 Sept, 2024

RCAGCM(53)/6

Report on the Progress of the RCARO activities

Dae Ki Kim

Director
RCA Regional Office



RCARO's Mission and its Activities in 2024



Visibility

- Publications
- Expert Support Programme
- RCA Side Event during the 68th IAEA GC
- Exhibition at the IAEA Ministerial Conference



Addressing the Needs of GPs Secretariat Functions

- Introductory Workshop for New National Representatives
- Provision of Support to the RCA Chair and Policy Meeting

Viability



- Partnership Projects
- RCARO Managed Projects
- EB Project
- Capacity Building Activities

I. Visibility: Increasing the awareness of the RCA



1. Publications

- RCARO published the **7th RCA Newsletter in May 2024** and sent out to over 720 subscribers.
- The **8th RCA Newsletter was published in September 2024** with the articles on RCA related meetings, events, projects and insight from RCA experts, as well as the information on the RCA side event and the exhibition for promotion of these events.
- The **first Issue Paper was published** entitled “Theranostics, a New Innovative Approach to Cancer Treatment”, engaging experts in the subject area.

2. Expert Support Programme

- **A call for applications was sent out to the NRs in June 2024** to receive requests on supporting the experts for promoting the RCA at regional/international events and **14 applications from 7 Government Parties were received**.
- According to the guideline, **RCARO will select appropriate experts in consultation with the SAC** to support their promotion of the RCA in the selected events.

I. Visibility: Increasing the awareness of the RCA

3. RCA Side Event during the 68th IAEA General Conference

- ❖ A Task Force was formulated at the 46th RCA NRM to provide strategic directions of the events.
- ❖ Two TF meetings were held to decide the details of the events.
- **Title:** RCA: Advancing Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region
- **Time and Venue:** 17 September 2024, 15:30-17:30/Room CR3, 7th floor in C building
- **Objective:** To provide a forum for RCA stakeholders to discuss and share ideas on various topics related to the RCA and promote the contributions/progress made by the RCA



I. Visibility: Increasing the awareness of the RCA



3. Programme of the Side Event

- **Moderator:** RCA Chair
- **Three Keynote Speeches (5 min each)**
 - IAEA Director General
 - Minister of Science and ICT(ROK)
 - Vice Chairman of China Atomic Energy Authority
- **Five Presentations (10 min each, +Q&A):**

1. Contribution of RCA to the socio-economic development in the Asia Pacific region

Presenter: Natascha Spark (AUL)

2. Creating synergy between the RCA Programme with the IAEA initiatives

Presenters:

- Agriculture (Atoms4Food): PAK
- Human Health (Rays of Hope): JPN
- Environment (NUTECH PLASTICS): INS

3. Expanding the RCA's outreach activities for future partnership

Presenter: Dae Ki KIM (RCARO)

- **Reception supported by RCARO**

I. Visibility: Increasing the awareness of the RCA



4. Exhibition during the IAEA Ministerial Conference

- **Title:** Bringing the Prosperity to the Asia-Pacific: RCA
- **Time:** 26 to 28 November 2024
- **Venue:** Rotunda

- **Objective:** To promote the contributions and impact of the RCA towards sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region
- **Proposed Contents:**
 - Panels on the introduction of RCA, RCA Programme focused on the achievements/success stories
 - Promotional materials (brochures, leaflets, newsletter, short documentary on the success stories of RCA, segment on the country profile and achievement through RCA)

I. Visibility: Increasing the awareness of the RCA



Design Sketch from the Special Exhibition during the 50th Anniversary of the RCA

II. Viability: Expanding the RCA Programme



1. Partnership Projects

- [US DOE] Implementation of the “**Project on Supporting the Adoption of eBeam Technology and its Applications in Areas of Food and Agriculture, Industry, Human Health and Environment Treatment (2024-2028)**”
 - According to the work plan, two Expert Missions will be carried out in 2024: One in October to Mongolia and the other in December to Cambodia.
 - A hands-on workshop on the use of the eBeam technology was held on 15-19 April at the National Center for Electron Beam Research (NCEBR) of Texas A&M University, inviting 13 participants from the RCA GPs.
 - In December, a regional workshop that provide hands-on experiments on dose mapping is planned to be held in Research and Development Center for Radiation Technology (VINAGAMMA) in Viet Nam.

II. Viability: Expanding the RCA Programme



- **[ASEANTOM] Implementation of the “Project on Enhancing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities in the ASEAN Region through Building Technical Capacity in Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment (Phase 2) (2022-2024)”**
 - **An introductory workshop** on in-situ radiation detection demonstration and basic gamma spectrometry technique for enhancing EPR capabilities **was held virtually on 20-21 February 2024**, inviting around 50 participants from the region. **A Regional Training Course** on practical application of radiation measurement, and radioanalytical method for environment monitoring **was held on 10-14 June 2024 in Bangkok**, Thailand, co-hosted with the OAP, Thailand. A total of 26 participants from the region were trained.
 - **A Final Review Meeting** will be held at the end of the year as a completion of the project.
 - A follow-up project will be designed and implemented in consultation with ASEANTOM member countries from 2025.
- **[ARCCNM] A workshop will be held in November in Korea** in collaboration with the Korean Society of Nuclear Medicine and the Asian Nuclear Medicine Board.
- **New partnership projects**
 - RCARO will continue making efforts to **develop new partnership projects**. **The RCA Chairs’ Committee will be invited for their review and participation in the roundtable discussions with potential donors**, as appropriate.

II. Viability: Expanding the RCA Programme



2. RCARO Managed Projects

- [RP02] Implementation of the RP on Air Quality and Environmental Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in the Region **(completed in 2023)**
 - RCARO, in cooperation with the Technical Officer of the project and INS Chief Scientific Investigator (CSI), has drafted **an achievement report** of the project elaborating the results and outcomes of the project at the national and regional level to **be published in Q4, 2024**.
- [RP03] Implementation of the RP on Closing the Gap in Access to Radiotherapy in RCA (2022-2024)
 - **Research Training Course on outcome assessment** and **Research Coordination Meeting** were held virtually in February and May 2024 respectively, inviting over **70 participants** including the CSIs, Technical Officer and relevant experts.
 - RCARO will receive final reports from the participating countries for review by the Research Review Committee and draft an achievement report in Q1 2025.
- **Development of new projects**
 - Upon the endorsement of the 46th NRM, **RCARO called for proposals for new projects** in early August. **A dedicated section on the RCA website is now open** for proposal submissions at the following link: **[rcaro.org/proposal]**.

II. Viability: Expanding the RCA Programme



3. EB project

- **[RAS9092] Strengthening the Capacity to Respond to Radiological Emergencies of Category II and III Facilities in the Asia-Pacific region(2020-2024)**
 - According to the work plan, **Expert Missions** are to be implemented based on the requests of the participating countries.
 - A **Final Review Meeting** will be held virtually in December 2024.

II. Viability: Expanding the RCA Programme



4. Capacity Building Activities

➤ Fellowship Programme

- Out of 15 applications, five applicants have been selected to join the RCARO in 2024.
- Two from India and Indonesia has completed their fellowships for two months from June to July and two from Fiji and Philippines are to be invited for their fellowships from October to November, one from Thailand in February 2025 accordingly.

➤ Scholarship Programme

- **[KAIST Master's Degree Programme]** The programme supports students for master's degree in Nuclear and Quantum Engineering for two years. In 2024, three students are supported for their study in KAIST.
- **[KINGS Master's Degree Programme]** It is a two-year programme for master's degree in Energy Policy and Engineering. In 2024, three students are sponsored to study at KINGS.
- **[UST Doctoral Degree or Integrated/ Master's Degree Programme]** This Programme cooperates with two campuses, namely, KAERI and KIRAMS, and its majors include Nuclear Science and Technology, Radiation Science, Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Artificial Intelligence, and Radiological & Medico-Oncological Sciences. In 2024, one student was selected for the spring semester and two students for the autumn semester.

III. Addressing the needs of the Government Parties

➤ Introductory Workshop for the New National RCA Representatives

- RCARO hosted an **introductory workshop for the RCA NRs on 22-25 July 2024 in Seoul, Korea**, inviting **14 RCA NRs**, RCA Focal Person and RCA PAC (Chair and a member).
- **The Workshop provided presentations on the IAEA TC Programme, overall RCA policy matters** to enhance the understanding of the newly appointed NRs on the RCA Programme.

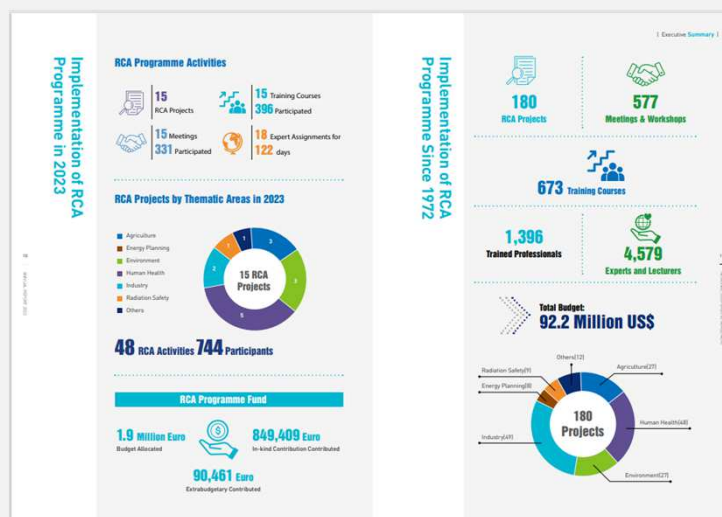


IV. Secretariat functions for the RCA



➤ Provision of Support to the RCA Chair and Policy Meetings

- RCARO assisted the RCA Chair and the IAEA in the preparation of the 46th RCA NRM.
- In cooperation with the IAEA and the GPs, RCARO prepared a draft of 2023 RCA Annual Report with enhancements suggested by the 52nd GCM, including revision of the structure, addition of graphical representations and data as well as welcoming statements from the RCA Chair and senior IAEA officials.



| SECTION 2

2.1 Completed Projects in 2023

In 2023, a total of seven (7) projects successfully concluded their journey, leaving an indelible mark across diverse sectors including management, agriculture, human health, and the environment. The following highlights offer an overview of the completed RCA projects, specifically focusing on the project activities and noteworthy achievements that have emerged from these dedicated endeavours.

1. OTHERS (Management and Implementation)

	Enhancing the Management and Implementation of Activities under the Framework
Objective	To enhance the overall continuing development, improvement and sustainability of the RCA and its programme to support the RCA MTSC 2018-2023 and the related UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Status of Achievement based on LFM

Output	Indicator and Target	Status of Achievement until 2023
Output 1 Legislated and updated documented RCA policies, procedures and practices	Implementation of the decisions made at the 18th and 19th GCMs on the mechanism to increase the synergies between the RCA and IAEA TC on sustainable development.	Target 1: Behind target/Completed Updated RCA policy procedures and practices are implemented at the 18th and 19th GCMs.
Output 2 Proposed mechanisms for increasing synergies between RCA and other IAEA TC, including and harmonised.	Implementation of the decisions made at the 18th and 19th GCMs on the mechanism to increase the synergies between the RCA and IAEA TC on sustainable development.	Target 2: Behind target/Completed Revisions made at the 18th and 19th GCMs on the mechanism to increase the synergies between the RCA and IAEA TC are successfully implemented.
Output 3 Support of newly joining GPs and LDCs.	Implementation of specific actions to address the identified training information needs of newly joining GPs and LDCs.	Target 3: Behind target/Completed Specific actions to address the identified training and information needs for newly joining GPs and LDCs are implemented as planned.
Output 4 Social and economic impact assessment of the RCA programme conducted.	Meetings and expert missions to conduct social and economic impact assessments implemented.	Target 4: Behind target/Completed Meetings to conduct social and economic impact assessments are conducted.

Project Activities for 2023

Event	Title	Summary of Purpose	Dates /Duration	Host Country
	RCA Project Design Meeting	To review and enhance the draft project document under the RCA programme for the 2024-2025 TC cycle, agree on follow-up actions to complete and submit high-quality RCA project documents to the 46th NRM before the scheduled deadline of 27 May 2023.	6-10 Feb	Austria
	RCA Chairs Meeting	To discuss and prepare action plans for development and execution of the RCA Declaration.	27 Feb - 2 Feb	Viet Nam
	4th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives	To discuss strategy, policy and management related to the RCA Declaration adopted in 2022, serve as well as the execution of the RCA Medium Term Strategy, RCA Programme implementation planning for 2024-2025, and the operation of the RCA MTSC.	9-12 May	Australia
	RCA MTSC WG Meeting	To conduct performance evaluation and criteria, gather data sources, formulate recommendations for the RCA MTSC strategy review in 2024, discuss RCA MTSC recommendations, and review update the RCA MTSC Work Plan for 2023.	14-18 Aug	Austria
	RCA IRC Meeting	To discuss and prepare programme measures to enhance the management of the RCA programme.	19-20 Sep	Austria
	RCA Chair and RCARO SAC Meeting	To discuss and review the progress, status and future plan of the RCARO activities including the RCARO report.	21 Sep	Austria
	5th RCA General Conference Meeting	To discuss and agree on strategy, policy and management measures under the RCA programme, the implementation of the RCA Declaration, and the 47th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives (NRM) in Australia, which cycle, aiming to submit high-quality documents to the 46th NRM by May 11, 2023. Subsequent events included the RCA Chairs Meeting in Viet Nam, which focused on preparing action plans for the development and execution of the RCA Declaration, and the 47th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives (NRM) in Australia, which cycle, aiming to submit high-quality documents to the 46th NRM by May 11, 2023.	22 Sep	Austria

Project Highlights for 2023

Throughout 2023, the project actively contributed to support the National RCA Representatives, Working Group and the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC). Initiating the year with the RCA Project Group Meeting in Austria, the project extensively reviewed and enhanced the draft project documentation for the 2024-2025 TC cycle, aiming to submit high-quality documents to the 46th NRM by May 11, 2023. Subsequent events included the RCA Chairs Meeting in Viet Nam, which focused on preparing action plans for the development and execution of the RCA Declaration, and the 47th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives (NRM) in Australia, which cycle, aiming to submit high-quality documents to the 46th NRM by May 11, 2023.

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