



REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



MEETING REPORT OF
THE 32ND RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE

Meeting Room V, CO7
IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

17 September 2003
09:00-13:00 H

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Annexes	1
List of Acronyms	2
Introduction	3
I. Opening	
I.1 Remarks by Chair	3
I.2 Messages from IAEA	3
DDG-TC and DDG-NA	
I.3 Adoption of Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur(s)	4
II. 25 th Meeting of National RCA Representatives	
II. 1 Adoption of the Report of the Meeting	4
II. 2 Matters arising from the Meeting	5
a. Follow-up Actions	5
b. Task Force Committee Report	5
c. RCA Logo	6
III. Adoption of the RCA Annual Report 2002	6
IV. RCA Programme for 2004	7
V. Recommendations of the Lead Country Coordinators' Meeting	7
V.1 Proposed Programme for 2005-06	7
V.2 Recommendations on the Operational Matters	10
VI. Resolution on RCA Regional Office	10
VI.1 Report of the RCARO Advisory Committee	10
VI.2 Adoption of the Resolution	11
VII. RCA Regional Office	12
VII.1 Extension of the Interim Period of Operation of the RCARO and Report on the Progress of the RCARO in 2003 and the Proposed Work Plan for 2004	12
VII.2 Report on the Progress of the RCARO in 2003 and the Proposed Work Plan for 2004	12
VIII. 26th RCA Meeting of National RCA Representatives	13

IX. Other Matters	13
X. Closing	14

ANNEXES

Annex I - List of Participants

Annex II - Message of DDG(TC)

Annex III - Message of DDG(NA)

Annex IV - Agenda of the Meeting

Annex V – Follow-up Actions of the 25th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives

Annex VI - Redesigned RCA Logo

Annex VII. - RCA Programme for 2004

Annex VIII - Proposed RCA Programme for 2005-06 Cycle

Annex IX- Recommendations of the Lead Country Coordinators on Operational Matters

Annex X - Resolution on the Establishment of the RCARO

Annex XI- RCARO 2003-04 Work Plan

Annex XII – Follow-up Actions

ACRONYMS

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARASIA	Cooperative Agreement for Arab States for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Advancement of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
DDG-TC	Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation
DDG-NA	Deputy Director General, Nuclear Applications and Research
DIR-TCPA	Director, Technical Cooperation for Africa and Asia and the Pacific
SH-TCAPS	Section Head, Technical Cooperation for East Asia and the Pacific Section
NR	National RCA Representatives
NRM	National RCA Representatives Meeting
GC	(RCA) General Conference
MS	(RCA) Member State
LC	Lead Country (for Thematic Sector)
LCC	Lead Country Coordinator (for Thematic Sector Projects)
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RRU	Regional Resources Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Development Countries
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Assistance and Cooperation
ENO	Electronic Networking and Outreach

INTRODUCTION

The 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) was held on 17 September 2003 at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Delegates from the 17 RCA Member States; Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), China (CPR), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), 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) and Vietnam (VIE) attended the Meeting. Representatives of RCA Regional Office (RCARO) also participated.

DDG-TC (Ms. Ana Maria Cetto), DDG-NA (Mr. Werner Burkart), DIR-TCPA (Mr. Manase Peter Salema), SH-TCAPS (Mr. M.N. Razley) and the RCA Coordinator (Mr. P. Dias) represented the IAEA. Agency's Technical Officers, Project/Country Officers and support staff also attended. The list of the participants is attached as Annex I.

I. OPENING

I.1 Remarks by the RCA Chair

Prof. Rohini Hewamanna (SRL), the current RCA Chair, in her opening remarks, welcomed the participants to this important meeting. The Chair also welcomed the DDG-TC, DDG-NA, DIR-TCPA and SH-TCAPS and thanked them for their presence. The Chair also recognized the newly appointed Australian National RCA Representative Dr. Ron Cameron, and welcomed him to the Meeting.

The Chair reiterated the importance of this Meeting and expressed the hope that it would generate productive outcomes for further improvement of the RCA.

I.2 Messages from IAEA

The Chair invited the DDG-TC to deliver her message on behalf of the Agency.

The Deputy Director General (Technical Cooperation) thanked the RCA Member States for inviting her to attend the meeting. She spoke on the responsibilities of the National RCA Representatives and the Agency policy on national and regional programmes. She noted that the regional projects should be of regional interest and remarked on the need to consider the advantages of the regional agreements in designing regional projects. She commented on the important step taken by the RCA in establishing a Regional Office and commended the Government of Korea for its support. She wished the delegates a successful meeting.

The Message of the DDG-TC is given in Annex II

The Chair thanked the DDG-TC for her remarks and invited the DDG-NA to deliver his message.

The Deputy Director General (Nuclear Sciences and Applications) thanked the Member States for inviting him for the Meeting. He congratulated the National RCA Representatives for the progress achieved in the RCA and spoke on the close collaboration between the RCA and Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications. He noted that a majority of the world population lives in RCA countries and noted that the Agency was willing to provide assistance to overcome development and humanitarian problems faced by the region. He wished the Member States a successful Meeting.

The Message of the DDG-NA is given in Annex III.

The Chair thanked DDG-NA for his remarks.

I.3 Adoption of Agenda

The Chair invited comments from the floor regarding the proposed agenda. The Agenda was adopted after changing item VII.1 (Report of the RCARO Advisory Committee) to VI.1, item VI.1 (Adoption of the Resolution) to VI.2, Item VII.2 (Extension of the Interim Operation of the RCARO) to VII.1, and item VII.3 (Report on the Progress of the RCARO in 2003 and proposed Work Plan for 2004) to VII.2. The adopted Agenda is given in Annex II.

RCA Coordinator said that although every effort was made to post all the relevant documents needed for the Meeting on the RCA web-site it had been brought to his notice that most of the National RCA Representatives had experienced difficulties in accessing the web-site. He apologized to the National RCA Representatives for the inconvenience and said hard copies of the relevant documents have been included in the folders distributed to the NRs on account of this.

SH-TCPAS explained that the Agency understood the difficulty to access the website. However, he noted that it was the Agency's general policy to post meeting documents on the RCA Members Only Website instead of preparing hard copies. Nevertheless he shared some MSs' views about the difficulties of using the website to retrieve necessary information and making copies of the documents. He emphasized the need to upgrade electronic communication capability among MSs and also with the Agency.

RCA Coordinator Mr. P. Dias and Mr. John Chung of RCARO were appointed as the rapporteurs of the Meeting

II. 25th Meeting of National RCA Representatives – Colombo Sri Lanka, 26th –28th May 2003

II.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report

The RCA Coordinator explained that the draft of the 25th National RCA Representatives Meeting report had been circulated to MSs for their comments. He said that the report was amended based on the comments received from the Member States but two revisions proposed by RCARO could not be incorporated into the version tabled at the Meeting. The report was adopted by the Meeting with the two amendments proposed by RCARO.

The Meeting adopted the report of the 25th meeting of the National RCA Representatives.

II.2 Matters arising from the Report

II.2 a. Follow-up Actions

The RCA Coordinator presented the follow-up actions arising from the 25th NRM Report and highlighted some of them. (Annex III)

He said that the publication of a pamphlet on RCA success stories could not be completed before the General Conference meeting owing to insufficient feed back. The RCA Coordinator said that the LCCs will be requested again to submit success stories and to provide them by November so that it could be printed within 2003. It was decided to include success stories over recent years without limiting to 2002.

Regarding the Resolution on the RCARO, the RCA Coordinator recalled that MSs had been requested to submit their views in writing to the RCARO Advisory Committee by 20 July 2003. Only Japan has submitted its views in writing and the RCARO AC has clarified the issue raised.

The RCA Coordinator offered to clarify any other issues regarding the follow-up actions.

II.2. b. Task Force Report on RCA Management Issues

AUL presented the interim report of the Task Force* that was appointed at the 25th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives to look into the management issues of the RCA. AUL requested the Member States and the RCA Office to provide past RCA Meeting Reports and other documents needed by the Task Force. The Chair suggested the appointment of a convenor to facilitate the functioning of the Task Force. AUL suggested an informal meeting of the Members of the Task Force at the end of the RCA General Conference Meeting be convened.

** Task Force Members; AUL, MAL, NZE and PHI.*

The Meeting decided that MSs should provide necessary information to the Task Force within the next two months. The Meeting also decided to appoint a convenor to the Task Force.

II.2. c. RCA Logo

The Chair invited the RCARO to report on the draft design of the RCA logo. The RCARO reported that the RCA logo had been redesigned based on the Mercator's projection method in order to geographically accommodate all MSs in the logo. The Meeting expressed its appreciation of the RCARO's efforts. CPR suggested that it would be useful if the Meeting would also set out guidelines for the practical use of the logo, such as the location of the word "RCA" when it is used with the LOGO. The revised logo is given in Annex IV.

The Meeting decided to provide comments on the newly designed RCA logo to RCARO as early as possible and discuss the matter together with guidelines of using the logo at the next NRM.

The Chair brought to the notice of the Member States that three items, namely, 1) implementation of RCA Vision, 2) sustainability and self-reliance of nuclear institutions, and 3) harmonization of non-RCA projects, were deferred at the 25th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives. The Meeting decided to discuss these items at the 26th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives since there was insufficient time to deal with all the issues at the General Conference Meeting.

The Meeting decided to defer the discussions on the three items deferred at the 25th NRM to the 26th NRM.

III. Adoption of the RCA Annual Report 2002

The RCA Coordinator was invited to report on the status of RCA Annual Report 2002. The Meeting was informed the report has been posted on the RCA Members Only Web-site with editorial inputs from the Philippines as decided at the 25th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives. PHI was thanked for its contribution.

MAL recalled the decision made at the Colombo NRM that the Annual Report be posted on IAEA TC website.

Mr. Bill Wallin Technical Officer for the project "Use of Isotopes for Dam Safety and Sustainability (RAS/8/093)" inquired why dam safety and ground water had not been included in the Annual Report as part of the project achievements. PHI clarified that the 'Access To Clean Drinking Water' project had been included in the executive summary.

AUL said there had been difficulties in accessing the Annual Report from the RCA Website and urged that quick access should be facilitated for important documents such as the Annual Report. AUL also said that there were number of errors and omissions in the Report and therefore, AUL was unwilling to accept the report at this point. AUL proposed that the Annual

Report be adopted after it is corrected based on the comments of the National RCA Representatives.

The Chair suggested that MSs should forward their comments on the 2002 Annual Report to the RCA Office within one month. The Chair requested MSs to thoroughly review the Report and make any comments necessary. The RCA Coordinator was requested to send the Annual Report to the National RCA Representatives by E-mail.

IND agreed that the one-month time frame would be sufficient since final adoption of the Report as the next NRM would be too late.

CPR stated that when the Agency communicated with MSs, it was hoped that the Agency would use not only electronic means but also alternative transmission method such as fax and in special cases hard copy of the document were required.

The Meeting decided that the National RCA Representatives should submit their comments on the RCA Annual Report for 2002 within one-month and to adopt it after the amendments are made based on these comments.

IV. RCA Programme for 2004

The RCA Coordinator made a presentation on the status of RCA programmes for 2004. There were 35 active projects in 2003 out of which 9 projects are to be closed before the end of the year. It was noted that the number of events for 2003 comprised of 23 Training Courses and 31 Meetings and Workshops. Programme for 2004 comprises of 31 Training Courses and 25 Meetings and Workshops. Details of events planned for 2004 were included in the folders distributed to the National RCA Representatives who were requested assist implementation of the programme by hosting the events. Details of the programmes for 2003 and 2004 are given in Annex V.

The Meeting decided that the National RCA Representatives should inform the RCA Office of the events they can host in 2004, as early as possible.

V. Recommendations of the Lead Country Coordinators' Meeting

The Chair invited the RCA Coordinator to present the recommendations of the Lead Country Coordinators' Meeting held in August 2003 and thanked AUL for preparing the meeting report.

V.1 Proposed Programme for 2005-06

The RCA Coordinator said that the Lead Country Coordinators' Meeting was held on 4-8 of August 2003, and the LCCs were given an opportunity to interact with IAEA Technical Officers in their respective areas. 84 project proposals were received by the RCA Office in all the thematic sectors, and after evaluating the project proposals and the past activities in the respective thematic sectors, the Lead Country Coordinators recommended a programme

comprising of 24 projects for 2005-2006. These 24 proposals comprise of 9 new projects, 3 continuations* and 7 extensions**. In addition there are 5 new projects with objectives similar to the projects implemented under the current cycle and therefore can be considered as either new projects or extensions. The total budget of the proposed programme is US\$ 5.42 million.

** Continuations – Projects for which funds have been allocated for the extended period at the time of approval.*

*** Extensions – Projects that are to be extended beyond one TC Cycle with no allocation of funds for the extended period, at the time of initial approval.*

AUL expressed the need for a long-term strategy and to identify the long-term needs of each thematic area commented on the large number of project proposed by the Member States and of the necessity to reduce the number of RCA projects.

IND endorsed the views expressed by AUL and queried when and how the RCA will develop such a strategy. IND noted that the LCC for Industry has only proposed two projects for the next cycle and regretted that the other sectors have not followed suit. A review of the percentages decided by Dhaka NRM on allocation of funds for each thematic sector was also suggested. IND further observed that the ENO sector has the potential to reduce the cost of conducting meetings by developing the means to conduct virtual meetings, but no separate allocation has been for this sector. The absence of indications of possible linkage with the FNCA in project formulation, in spite of the references in the past reports to the synergy with the FNCA was also noted.

PHI concurred with AUL and IND about the need for developing long-term strategies and noted that the National RCA Representatives have lost sight of the technical aspects of the programme. PHI expressed the need for inputs from National RCA Representatives in project formulation and stated the need to identify the regional status of the Radiation Protection Programme before finalizing the national projects in radiation protection.

AUL informed that a Consultant's Meeting will be held in December 2003 to identify the national and regional needs in radiation protection.

ROK said although a request was made at the at the 25th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives for the results of the evaluation of the Lead Country Coordinators to be provided to the National RCA Representatives, it was not done. The RCA Coordinator informed that the Lead Country Coordinators were requested to do so, but the report of the Lead Country Coordinators Meeting could be only finalized a few days before the General Conference, since the LCC Meeting was held in August.

BGD also stressed on the need for fewer and better projects and commented on the need for improvement of communication between the Lead Country Coordinators and the National RCA Representatives. The need to submit project proposals through National RCA Representatives was stressed. BGD also pointed out that the present procedure for selecting projects is not satisfactory and stated that there is a need to evaluate the impact of the projects implemented in

the past. Development of a Regional Profile Framework similar to Country Profile Frameworks used for national projects was proposed by BGD.

SH-TCAPS informed the Meeting that it is most unlikely that a Regional Profile Framework could be prepared because it would be a very complicated task. Instead of a Regional Profile Framework, preparation of a regional profile for each sector identifying the future needs was suggested.

PHI commented on the need to set a new direction for RCA so that it can make a difference and proposed that a day should be devoted for brainstorming on this issue at the next meeting of the National RCA Representatives.

AUL suggested that the Lead Country Coordinators should identify regional priorities for each thematic sector. IND supported this view and said this information should be made available to the National RCA Representatives one month prior to the next Meeting of the National RCA Representatives.

CPR expressed its support for the proposed 2005-2006 programme. CPR also mentioned need to be informed of who the Lead Countries are. The Meeting was informed that the proposals in the Health sector submitted by CPR has not been considered and it is necessary to make sure all the proposals are received by the Lead Country Coordinators. CPR said it was not formally informed of the change of LC for Health sector from INS to JPN and therefore CPR submitted Health sector new proposals to INS only.

SH-TCAPS stated that it was decided to periodically review the appointment of the Lead Country Coordinators at the 24th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives held in the Republic of Korea. JPN was designated as the Lead Country Coordinator for Health from 2005 onwards and INS for 2003-2004 at this Meeting.

The Meeting approved the programme recommended by the Lead Country Coordinators, given in Annex VI.

The Meeting approved the project proposals recommended by the Lead Country Coordinators for 2005-06.

The Meeting decided that the Lead Country Coordinators should identify the priorities in each thematic sector and submit for the review of the next Meeting of the National RCA Representatives, one month before the meeting.

SH-TCAPS reiterated that the project proposals that are to be submitted for Agency support under Technical Cooperation Fund should be submitted to the Agency before the 31st of December 2003 and should be prepared according to the Agency format. The National RCA Representatives were informed that there would not be a fixed allocation of funds for the RCA and as the DDG-TC stated in her remarks to the Meeting, the Agency would allocate funds to optimise the benefits to the Member States. The same appraisal procedure that applied for

national projects would also apply for the regional projects. It was suggested that Lead Country Coordinators and Project Committees be utilized to ensure the project proposals met the requirements of the Agency and demonstrated the value-addition of the projects under the RCA Agreement. Submission of the project proposals by the Chair of the RCA on behalf of all Member States was suggested since it is not possible for all Member States to sign the project proposals.

Member States expressed several views in this regard. MAL queried whether this would include the obligation to pay Assessed Programme Cost. After a lengthy discussion the Member States decided that as an interim measure, the Chair of the RCA would submit the Project Proposals to the Agency on behalf of all the Member States and the National RCA Representatives would further discuss the procedure to be adopted for submission of project proposals to the Agency at the next Meeting.

The Meeting decided as an interim measure the Chair of the RCA would submit the Project Proposals to the Agency for 2005-2006 projects.

The Meeting requested the Secretariat to revise the project request form for regional projects and submit it for review at the next Meeting of the National RCA Representatives.

V.2 Recommendations on Operational Matters

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA Coordinator introduced the recommendations made by the Lead Country Coordinators Meeting on operational matters and said these recommendations concern the definition of the role of Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators, improving the procedure for preparation of project proposals, clear definition of the channels of communication, a proper procedure for designation of Lead Countries, coordination between national and regional projects and development of strategic plans for each thematic sector. The difference between the current practices adopted by the RCA and the procedures stipulated in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules was also highlighted. The recommendations of the Lead Country Coordinators on operational matters are given in Annex VII.

IND requested the RCA Coordinator to revise the Guidelines and Operating Rules and provide a draft for the consideration of the next meeting of the National RCA Representatives.

The Meeting decided that the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules should be revised to make them consistent with the procedures followed and requested the RCA Coordinator to prepare a draft for the consideration of the next Meeting of the National RCA Representatives.

VI. Resolution on RCA Regional Office

VI.1 Report of the RCARO Advisory Committee

The Chair of RCARO Advisory Committee (AC), Prof. N. Choudhury (BGD), reported that the 4th AC meeting was held at the IAEA Headquarters on 13th September 2003 with the participation of the members of the Advisory Committee (AUL, CPR, BGD, IND, ROK and the RCA Coordinator) the RCA Chair, representatives from RCARO and SH-TCAPS.

The Meeting was informed that the AC has reviewed the draft Resolution on the Establishment of the RCARO, revised the draft following consultations with National RCA Representatives and the amended draft Resolution is now tabled for adoption.

The Chair of RCARO also reported that the AC has reviewed the RCARO 2003-04 Work Plan and advised RCARO to consult with AC, NRs and the RCA Coordinator when initiating new programmes.

VII. 2 Adoption of the Resolution

The Chair requested the Meeting to consider adoption of the Resolution and invited comments.

AUL announced its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for financially supporting RCARO and commended RCARO's efforts up to now. AUL hoped that the Meeting would adopt the Resolution without deferring it further, so that the RCARO could demonstrate the support of RCA MSs for the establishment and operation of the RCARO, to the host government. AUL brought to the notice of the Meeting that the resolution is not on the operational aspects of the RCARO but is an instrument to demonstrate its recognition by the Member States.

MAL also expressed its appreciation of the efforts of the ROK in this regard. Referring to the remarks of the DDG-TC at the opening, MAL said that the RCARO was an important step in the progress of the RCA. MAL brought to the notice of the Meeting that this was the first time the RCA is adopting a resolution on a decision made and expressed the view that the exact wording of the decision of the 30th GC Meeting should be used in the resolution.

AUL said that the adoption of a resolution is new to the RCA working process, but this option has been decided on after considering all the other available options.

The Meeting decided to adopt the resolution with the following amendments.

1) Preambular paragraph e) to be revised using the exact wording of the decision of the 30th RCA general Conference Meeting.

2) Preambular paragraph f) to be revised using the exact wording of the decision of the 31st RCA general Conference Meeting.

3) Operational paragraph 1. to be revised to indicate the duration of the interim period.

At the request of MAL the Chair read out the amended paragraphs.

The amended Resolution is given in Annex VIII.

Upon adoption of the resolution, ROK expressed its appreciation to the Chair, MSS, IAEA, and the RCARO AC .

VII. RCA Regional Office

VII.1 Extension of the Interim Operational Period of the RCARO

The Chair invited BGD (RCARO AC Chair) to present the recommendations of the RCARO Advisory Committee in this regard. BGD reported that the AC has recommended an extension of the current two-year interim operational period by one more year in order to make it possible to take the measures needed for the full operation of the RCARO.

BGD also said that the AC supported the enthusiasm of the RCARO in the past year and advised the RCARO to work in close cooperation with UNESCAP and other funding agencies.

ROK said a one-year extension of the interim period was sufficient to take the necessary legal measures.

The Meeting decided to extend the interim operational period of RCARO by another year, until March 2005.

BGD also informed the Meeting of the need to appoint a committee for the selection of the Director of the RCARO and requested IAEA and ROK to nominate representatives. Three more representatives are to be nominated by the Member States.

The Meeting decided to nominate three representatives to the Committee for Selection of the Director of the RCARO and to request ROK and the IAEA to nominate their representatives

VII.2 Report on the Progress of the RCARO in 2003 and the Proposed Work Plan for 2004.

The Chair invited the Director of RCARO (Mr. Jin-Kyoung Kim) to report the 2003-04 Work Plan. The Meeting was informed that activities of RCARO were largely focused on increasing

the RCA awareness and promoting RCA partnerships according to the mandate given to the RCARO by MSs. Since at present RCARO was under interim operation, emphasis was also placed on building the operational basis so as to establish the necessary legal measures for operation of the RCARO. The RCARO Director noted that some of the new initiatives such as the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme, the Master's Degree Programme in Nuclear Energy, and a few more activities consistent with the Agency's effort to preserve nuclear knowledge are being carried out and hoped the programmes initiated by the RCARO would be endorsed by NRM. When initiating new programmes in the future, RCARO would consult with AC, MSs and report to NRM for endorsement. MSs advised the RCARO to report on its new programmes when initiating, for endorsement by NRM. The Work Plan of RCARO for 2003-2004 is given in Annex IX.

PHI commented that the activities of the RCARO should reflect the RCA and the Member States should have the ownership of the RCARO.

PAK commended the RCARO and indicated its support for activities undertaken within its mandate and with the endorsement of the RCA Member States.

The Meeting decided that the activities proposed to be undertaken by the RCARO on behalf of RCA, should be submitted to the National RCA Representatives for their endorsement

VIII. 26th Meeting of National RCA Representatives

PAK confirmed its offer to host the 26th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives, which would be held during the first week of April 2004. MSs welcomed the proposal for a strategic planning session and a Scientific Forum during the Meeting, and hoped the host country could plan to hold these events. The importance of taking follow-up action arising from the Scientific Forum held during the 23rd NRM in Dhaka was also stressed.

THA was proposed as the alternative host for the 26th Meeting.

The Meeting decided to hold the 26th NRM in PAK in April 2004 over a period of four days, with one day devoted to a "brainstorming" session on strategic planning, and with a Scientific Forum to be held during one afternoon.

IX. Other Matters

The RCA Coordinator reported that the Quadripartite meeting of the RCA, AFRA, ARCAL and ARASIA would be held on 18 September 2003 at 15:00 pm at C07 Room V of the VIC, and will be Chaired by ARCAL. As decided, at the 25th NRM, the current, past and next

Chairs (SRL, ROK and PAK) and Lead Countries for Environment (NZE) and Industry (IND) would represent RCA. The RCA Coordinator, representatives from RCARO would also participate in the meeting as observers. NZE and IND would present success stories respectively on RCA environment and industry projects.

AUL proposed that the RCA project RAS/6/038, ‘Strengthening Medical Physics through Education and Training’ be implemented in collaboration with the Asia Federation of Medical Physicists (AFOMP). The participation of the AFOMP, one of the chapters of the International Organization of Medical Physics (IOMP), was seen to be a crucial partner. AFOMP was regarded as the highest authority in medical physics in the region. It was important that the project was implemented in partnership with this organization. The project was discussed with the representatives of AFOMP and areas of cooperation were defined. The agreement of the RCA NRs was required to regularize this arrangement. AUL requested endorsement by the Meeting for this joint interaction.

The Meeting endorsed the involvement of the Asia Federation of Medical Physicists in the RCA project.

AUL commented on the long delay in finalizing the Meeting Reports and said that this should be rectified.

It was decided that the RCA Coordinator should circulate drafts of the meeting reports to National RCA Representative within one month after the meeting, the National RCA Representatives should submit their comments within two weeks and the RCA Coordinator should circulate the final draft within two weeks after receiving the comments of the National RCA Representatives.

SH-TCPAS informed the Meeting that from the next Meeting of the National RCA Representatives, the announcement of the Meetings would be made by the RCA Coordinator and not by DDG-TC. The Meeting agreed to this change in procedure.

PHI distributed copies of CDs prepared for use in secondary schools for teaching nuclear physics and hoped it would also be useful for the other Member States. The National RCA Representatives expressed their appreciation to PHI.

X. Closing

The Chair thanked the National RCA Representatives, RCARO and IAEA Secretariat for their cooperation in conducting the Meeting. She also thanked the engineer for his technical support.