

HOW TO SERVE FOR THE MEMBER STATES

RCARO 2003-04 Work Plan Report to the 32nd RCA General Conference 17 September 2003, Vienna

The 31st RCA General Conference in Vienna in September 2002 requested RCARO to report on its 2003 Work Plan to the next National RCA Representatives Meeting. RCARO reported on the 2003 Work Plan to the 25th National RCA Representatives Meeting in Colombo in May 2003. Member States appreciated the activities of RCARO during the past year and welcomed the 2003 Work Plan. However, there were suggestions that RCARO would report on the 2003 Work Plan again to the 32nd RCA General Conference for its recognition by the Meeting. It was also suggested that RCARO should include the 2004 Work Plan in its report.

1. Mandate given to RCARO

When agreed by the Member States to establish the RCA Regional Office in the region in 2001, the mandate given to the Office was 1) to increase RCA awareness to the RCA stakeholders including the public, and 2) to promote RCA partnerships with particular stress on creating additional funds. In addition, RCARO was requested to implement the directives of the Member States.

2. Awareness Increasing Programme

It is noted that RCA has not been properly recognized not only by the RCA stakeholders but also by the third parties. Proper recognition by the RCA stakeholders, potential partners, and the public at large is one of the impending issues that RCA should challenge. In order to fulfill the mandate given to RCA, it is important to increase better awareness of RCA. This will also create a more friendly perception of nuclear technology thus enable a wider application of the technology for the society and population.

Bearing this in mind, RCARO has been greatly emphasizing 'RCA Awareness Increasing Program' since its inception. RCARO has been operating its Internet website for a better RCA information flow. RCARO's information emailing service acquires a wider acclamation from the recipient. At present, over 600 regular recipients enjoy RCA's latest information service. RCARO hopes the Internet homepage will serve as a better information flow among the RCA families as well as the public.

RCARO will make every possible effort to publicize and advertise RCA and its success stories. In 2002, RCARO published the RCA Annual Report highlighting the previous year's success stories. This year, when collected and compiled, RCARO will print a pamphlet embracing the 2002 RCA success stories. RCARO believes such a publication

will serve as a good tool for promoting understanding about RCA to the potential partners.

RCARO also plans to produce 'RCA Information Kit' on the CD-Rom. The kit will contain general information about RCA; purpose, programmes, contributions, success stories, future plans, etc. RCARO will provide the CD-Rom mainly to the RCA event participants in order to increase their awareness at first. It is with regret we note that sometimes some of the RCA event participants do not know what RCA is and what the activities of RCA are. The RCA family members must first know what RCA is. RCARO believes that this is one mandate given by the Member States to the Office.

RCA briefing meetings to particular target groups, such as diplomatic missions of the RCA Member States, nuclear-related industry, international organizations such as UNESCAP, government authorities, academic circles, etc. will also be stressed.

In addition, RCARO plans to visit Member States and have meetings with national RCA project participants to promote their understanding about RCA as well as about RCARO. Through the meetings RCARO hopes to devise fresh ideas to initiate new programmes. Last year, RCARO had such a meeting in Thailand, and this year it plans to visit Viet Nam or Malaysia when available.

RCARO has been presenting its activities to the participants of the RCA regional events, mostly held in Korea. RCARO will encourage RCA project coordinators to explain about RCA programmes on behalf of RCARO at the RCA regional events to be held in the Member States.

In order to increase RCA profile, RCARO was requested by the Member States to redesign RCA logo. RCARO redesigned the logo and will report to the 32nd RCA General Conference meeting with a hope that it would be widely accepted and used.

RCARO also printed a map of the RCA Member States to increase RCA awareness to the public.

RCARO hopes to support LCCs in their endeavors. RCARO hopes to support technical writing workshop or project planning activities, when available.

3. Partnership Promotion Programme

The other mandate given to RCARO by the Member States is to promote partnerships for RCA programmes. Seeking additional funds for RCA programmes is particularly stressed. In an effort to seek financial donors, RCARO ventured to get into Korea's purse while it is still un-crowded. This is RCARO's ground-floor opportunity to create funds since the Office is in Korea. From Korea's national nuclear R and D fund, RCARO could invite post-doctoral fellows from Member States, from Korea's international cooperation fund, a nuclear medicine internship training programme could be arranged, from Korea's advanced science and engineering education fund, the nuclear and quantum engineering master's degree course could be initiated. RCARO plans to establish partnerships with other Korean institutions such as the Nuclear Engineering Department of the Seoul

National University. RCARO will further explore possibility of providing scholarships by these academic institutions.

Though KOICA's envelope is not sumptuous, RCARO will further make every effort to earn and use its fund. When KOICA's fund is available, RCARO will initiate new programmes such as expert services to Member States, regional training workshops that IAEA's finds difficult to support financially but the needs of the region is substantial, and other new programmes for the benefit of Member States.

On the other hand, RCARO has contacted UNESCAP and agreed in principle to cooperate on environmental issues. UNESCAP is now preparing an MOU to implement a cooperative project and when formulated, RCARO will confer with the LC for Environment Project and will request its approval by the National RCA Representatives meeting. The initial program ESCAP proposed is to hold a Forum on hazardous waste management. It is planned that environmental experts from ESCAP and RCA meet together and identify the particulars for cooperation. RCARO hopes through this cooperation, RCA will demonstrate its capability and potentiality to solve the regional environmental problems.

As to the cooperation with other international and/or regional organizations, RCARO have contacted several target organizations such as UNDP-Korea. However, in reality, they also required additional fund for their programmes. Meanwhile, initial contact was made with United Nations University in Tokyo for possible joint programme focused on nuclear knowledge preservation. RCARO will further discuss this matter with INSC (International Nuclear Societies Association). INSC has expressed their keen interest in the nuclear knowledge preservation programme in cooperation with UNU.

Meanwhile, since one of the most important responsibilities of the RCARO is to increase fund sources, RCARO plans to organize a Task Force Team to develop practical methods to create funds for RCA programmes. The Task Force when organized will meet in early 2004 for initiation.

4. Nuclear Knowledge Preservation and Enhancement Programme

In conjunction with the Agency's endeavors to preserve nuclear knowledge for future need, RCARO initiated several new programmes with the full support from Member States.

As to the Post-doctoral fellowship programme, in 2002 a total of 13 fellows have been attached to various nuclear related institutes in Korea for advanced research works. Their post-doctoral programmes were highly recognized and certified by RCARO and relevant institutes. In 2003 a total of 8 fellows have been accepted.

As to the KAIST nuclear and quantum engineering master's degree course, for the 2003 Spring Semester, 1 student has been accepted. But for the 2003 Fall Semester 3 students have been accepted.

The training programme for nuclear medicine professionals is ready to begin in October this year. It is planned to have 15-20 participants depend on budget allocation. However,

the number of applicants is expected to be far exceed this. Based on this year's programme, RCARO hopes to further improve the prospectus.

It is, however, RCARO's wish that these new programmes that are mostly oriented for research work can be amalgamated into the on-going IAEA/RCA projects as research components on a supplementary basis.

5. Supporting IAEA/RCA Future Cycles Upstream Work

RCARO organized a Technical Advisory Committee with local experts on a thematic base. They gave advice on the preparation of RCARO position paper. Also, RCARO had external consultants for advice on general RCA management and the future RCA programmes. The advice and consultations eventually provided a more enhanced understanding about RCA programmes to RCARO. RCARO plans to further strengthen the activities and functions of the advisory and consultant groups.

In an effort to support Member States in undertaking upstream work for future cycles of the IAEA/RCA project planning, in early 2003, RCARO prepared a Position Paper that reflected RCARO's view on RCA management and future cycle programs. RCARO presented the Position Paper at the IAEA-RCA Workshop on National Project Planning, Selection and Designing that was held in Daejeon in July 2003. Also, RCARO briefly reported on the Position Paper to the LCC meeting held in Vienna in August 2003.

Based on this experience RCARO wishes to contribute to the future cycles of the IAEA/RCA programming. RCARO believes that contribution to the upstream work by the Member States for future RCA programmes is one of the mandates given to the Office.

6. Building Operational Basis

With regard to the operational budget of RCARO, the host government contributed approximately 0.4 million dollars (US) in 2002 and 0.48 million dollars in 2003. The host government's contribution for 2004 will account for over 0.5 million dollars. This does not include budget for RCARO initiated new programmes.

With the adoption of an RCA GC Resolution on the Establishment of the RCARO in Korea, it is expected that the host government, Korea, will initiate concluding necessary legal provisions for RCARO. Such provisions enable RCARO not only to carry legal activities locally but also provides a legal status when representing international and regional entities.

The Advisory Committee of RCARO that was formed at the 24th RCA NRM in Korea in March 2002 is a board type body totally responsible for supporting RCARO to enable the Office to undertake the mandate given by Member States.

The Advisory Committee will shortly compose a Selection Committee who will draft terms and conditions for the Director of RCARO and further complete the Vacancy Notice to invite candidates to the directorship from the Member States. In the meantime, it is hoped that the host government will make every necessary arrangements in their best

capacity to ensure the Office functions as a regional office, such as upgrading its administrative capability to an international level and supporting the qualified staffs in this effect.

As to the RCARO staff, at present, there are a total of 6 members. Among them a web-master and an additional administrative staff were recruited in early 2003. RCARO plans to hire 1-2 additional staff locally in 2004.

IAEA's support to allow the placement of fellows from Member States to RCARO would be a most grateful action. Meanwhile, RCARO plans to recruit staffs from Member States. Attachment of Cost Free Experts from Member States is most welcomed. It is hoped that cost sharing of the expert attachment will be considered by the host government. In a special case, RCARO can hire temporary staff from the Member States.

7. Highlights of 2004 Work Plan

With regard to the legal provisions for RCARO, it is planned to establish an agreement, or an MOU between the Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT). This agreement when established will confirm the presence of RCARO in Korea as an international level organization.

RCARO will administratively support the operation of the Selection Committee and also support selection process of a new Director.

RCARO will prepare the operation of RCARO Standing Advisory Committee that will function after the interim operation.

RCARO will explore possibility to increase fringe benefits of the post-doctoral fellows while staying in Korea.

RCARO will initiate other new programmes besides currently on-going programmes with Korean fund, for example, organizing training courses on radiation protection and safety regulation, on advanced NDT, and for government nuclear energy policy makers. Joint R&D project on advanced mutation breeding, eradication of red-tide phenomena, etc. will be another facet of RCARO new challenges.

At the same time, RCARO plans to reinforce its staff members by recruiting 1-2 staff from Member States in early 2004, if budget allows.

8. Further Support Needed from MSs

RCARO plans to expand the number of RCARO emailing service recipients. To this regard, RCARO already requested MSs to provide email addresses of RCA project related professionals, academic circles in nuclear related fields, persons of nuclear related industry, and so on. RCARO hopes Member States will support this endeavor.

RCARO also needs support from Member States for increasing RCA awareness in their respective countries. Particular target groups would be government supported national nuclear research and development institutes, and nuclear related industry including

radiation technology applications companies. RCARO will make presentations on RCA; the spirit, the strategies, the activities, the achievements, the contributions, etc., whenever there is need from Member States

RCARO needs support for strengthening relationship among nuclear related researchers of Member States. RCARO hopes that Member States could also initiate independent nuclear knowledge preservation and enhancement programmes based on the new initiatives of RCARO as a model. RCARO will encourage such endeavors by Member States.