

## **RCARO Director's Report on the Progress of the RCARO 2013 Work Plan**

### **The 35<sup>th</sup> NRM Decisions relevant to the RCARO 2013 Work Plan**

**The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the SAC report and commented that the RCARO could hold its workshop in areas which meet the needs of the RCARO and RCA Member States.**

**The Meeting approved the appointment of Mr. Choi as the new Director of RCARO by acclamation.**

## **1. Increasing the awareness of RCA**

### **1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness**

#### **1.1.1 Publication of RCA brochures**

Pursuant to the decision of the 35<sup>th</sup> NRM, RCARO proceeded to publish two different types of brochures: one for general public and the other for decision makers/end users in consultation with the National RCA Representatives (NRs).

One for general public will be published in leaflet form and contains the basic and principal information on RCA. The content will be written as reader friendly as possible to approach the general public easily

The other for decision makers/end users will be published in booklet form with updated information on RCA projects, achievements as well as general information of the 2010 version.

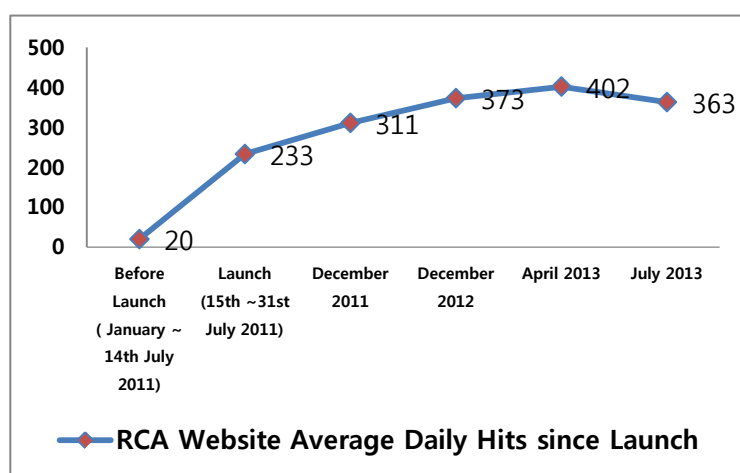
Draft of the one for decision makers was prepared by RCARO and circulated to the SAC Members and NRs for their comments. Reflecting the comments received from the Member States, brochure is expected to be distributed to the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCM and copies will be further handed out for promotional uses on appropriate occasions.

As for the brochure for general public, RCARO is preparing its draft and it will go through the same procedure for the one for decision makers and is expected to be published and distributed to the Member States in the second half of the year.

### **1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website**

#### **1.2.1 Updating data on RCA and RCA projects**

Recognizing the notable increase of daily hits of the RCA website, RCARO continued maintaining and updating the RCA website with information on RCA and its activities; policy meetings (NRM, GCM), projects, Best Practice awards, and news for Member States. There were over 300 visitors per day since its launch.



RCARO also upgraded the RCA website in a more user-friendly manner as below:

- Redesigned the main page, i.e. the world map and description of the RCA on the top and national flag of the Member States on the bottom;
- Added a function to preview sub-menus below the main menu line;
- Added icons of Facebook and Twitter to put a link to social network services;
- Installed a data uploading programme for posting big-sized files up to 2 gigabytes; and
- Set a link between project meetings menu and schedule calendar to show schedule of RCA project meetings at the main page

RCARO will continue to update information and RCA data on the RCA website reflecting inputs from RCA Member States and stakeholders. In line with this, Member States are encouraged to provide RCARO with relevant data and information.

### **1.2.2 Updating data on RCA stakeholders and end-users by the Member States**

With the assistance of temporary staff, RCARO updated the national homepage and data of the Member States including AUL, BGD, IND, MYA, NZE, PAK, PHI, SRL, and THA on the RCA website.

### **1.3 Participation in regional/international events and support for the promotion of RCA activities**

RCARO has made its efforts to present on RCA and its activities to target audiences in order to enhance awareness of RCA in the beneficial application of nuclear science and technology and to build partnership with regional and international organizations.

### **1.3.1. Presentation and exhibition on RCA/RCARO activities to target audiences**

RCARO had proposed the following events at the 16<sup>th</sup> RCARO SAC meeting for promotion of the RCA:

- The 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NormVII), April 22-26, Beijing, China
- International Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, May 29-31, Tokyo, Japan
- International Conference on the Sources, Effects and Risks of Ionizing Radiation, Oct. 10-11, Bali, Indonesia

The 16<sup>th</sup> RCARO SAC suggested surveying the Member States on the regional and international conferences with a modified survey template including justification for each event proposed. RCARO conducted a survey of NRs after the 35<sup>th</sup> NRM and proposed a modified plan as tabled below, reflecting survey results including comments from the NR of New Zealand (NZE). The NR of NZE proposed promotion of the RCA at the two events to be held in Australia and New Zealand on his participation, supported by RCARO with the promotional materials.

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Title of conference	Date and Venue	Participation	Remarks including justification
12th Australasian Environmental Isotope Conference	10- 12 July Perth, Australia	NR of NZE (at his own cost)	- RCARO will provide promotional materials for exhibition. - Opportunity to promote the RCA to delegates mostly from AUL and NZE in the area of environmental isotopes cost-effectively
International Conference on the Sources, Effects and Risks of Ionizing Radiation	10-11 October Bali, Indonesia	RCARO	- Recommended by the NR of INS - The conference addresses issues and trends regarding sources, effects and risks of the ionizing radiation.

2013 IEEE Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference	27 October - 2 November Seoul, Korea	RCARO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommended by the NR of NZE</li> <li>- Covers nuclear medicine relevant to the RCA thematic sector, a large audience is expected in the conference.</li> </ul>
26th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium 2013	18-21 November Rotorua, New Zealand	NR of NZE (at his own cost)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RCARO will provide promotional materials for exhibition.</li> <li>- Opportunity to promote the RCA to experts in the area of environment and possible end-users cost-effectively</li> </ul>

Upon approval by the SAC, RCARO had sent promotional materials such as RCA brochure and Success Stories related to environment area to the NR of NZE for his promotional activity at the 12th Australasian Environmental Isotope Conference held on 10- 12 July in Perth, Australia. Picture of his participation is uploaded on the RCA website.

### **1.3.2. Support to RCA experts for increasing the awareness and promotion of RCA**

RCARO has been providing support for RCA experts in their activities that could enhance the RCA's awareness and the promotion of RCA activities, such as participation/presentation in regional/international meetings/conferences.

RCARO requested NRs to nominate RCA experts to take part in RCA promotional activities between September 2013 and August 2014, taking the opportunity of their attending the meetings/conferences. RCARO will take follow-up process upon receiving nominations.

## **2. Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology**

RCARO is carrying out the RCA/UNDP partnership project entitled as "Promoting and Accelerating Nuclear SPECT/PET Imaging Technologies in the Region" since December 2010.

### **2.1 Reporting to the 35<sup>th</sup> NRM**

RCARO reported the status and progress of the project in 2012 during the 35<sup>th</sup> NRM.

## **2.2 Establishment of an expert network**

RCARO established the expert network on the RCA website for sharing information and discussion. Related experts such as NPCs and LCC were given IDs and PWs for access to the website.

## **2.3 Conducting the basic training on SPECT/PET and on-site regional training course**

According to the work plan, RCARO held the basic training course on SPECT/PET (train-the-trainers) for one week and on-site training course for two weeks consecutively from 17 June to 5 July 2013 in Seoul, Korea in cooperation with LCC. 20 participants from 10 participating Member States were trained with more advanced and practical topics on Nuclear Imaging Technologies and received extended practical training course, reflecting recommendation from the 2012 Annual Review Meeting.

RCARO conducted a satisfaction survey on the training courses and it showed that the participants were very satisfied with the training courses in terms of information sharing, quality and content of lectures, and especially with the on-site training course, which provided participants with the opportunity to apply the gained knowledge and technologies on site. The lecture materials are uploaded on the RCA website (<http://www.rcaro.org/undp2010>) for Member States.

## **2.4 Monitoring and submission of the progress report/financial reports**

The project interim progress report and financial report were submitted to the UNDP and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) respectively at the beginning of July 2013.

## **2.5 Final review meeting and evaluation of the project**

RCARO will hold a final review meeting in November in which the progress in 2013 and the overall project performance will be reviewed and discussed for successful completion of the project in 2013. The annual report and financial report will also be submitted to the UNDP and UNOPS by the end of December 2013. The final report will be issued by March 2014 and circulated to the Member States, UNDP and other target readers.

### **3. Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on electron beam(EB) applications**

#### **3.1 Holding a kick-off meeting**

According to the work plan of the project, a kick-off meeting was held on 2-3 May in Phuket, Thailand, inviting National Project Coordinators (NPCs) and alternate NPCs who were nominated by the participating countries for project implementation. 23 participants attended in the meeting, including 18 NPCs and alternate NPCs from 15 countries, LCC, participants from Office of Atoms for Peace of Thailand, UNDP and RCARO.

Country reports received by the NPCs were analysed by the LCC and presented at the meeting for further discussion to establish work plan of the project. At his presentation, the LCC indicated a wide technical gap existing among the participating countries and suggested organizing two workshops instead of having an annual review meeting in 2013 to narrow the gap among the countries with/without EB facilities. The suggestion was welcomed by most of the participants, while some of participants hoped to have an annual review meeting as planned. In this regard, RCARO, from the managerial point of view, pointed out the budget constraint and suggested having only one workshop for the countries with no EB facility.

After discussions, it was concluded to have an annual review meeting as planned and made a recommendation that a workshop be considered for the policy making bodies from the countries with no EB facilities with enhanced budgetary allocation from RCARO/UNDP. As suggested by the 16<sup>th</sup> SAC and recommended by the participants of the meeting, RCARO will consider modifying the work plan to support countries interested in developing Electron Beam infrastructure.

And decided by the kick-off meeting, RCARO created a new corner on the RCA website to establish expert network for sharing information and to provide the experts with a place for discussion. Related experts such as NPCs and LCC were given IDs and PWs for access to the new corner.

The meeting confirmed the work plan for 2013 and details of annual review meeting and training courses such as date, venue and qualification of the participants and the report was distributed to the participants of the meeting and uploaded on the RCARO website.

(<http://www.rcaro.org/undp2012>)

### **3.2 Conducting a regional training course**

In cooperation with the Advanced Radiation Technology Institute (ARTI), two training courses will be held in Jeongup, Korea as follows:

- 1) Electron beam application for value addition to industrial products for one week on 19-23 August 2013
- 2) Electron beam application for environmental remediation for one week on 7-11 October 2013

The necessary arrangements are being made for its implementation in a timely manner.

### **3.3 Annual review meeting and evaluation of the project**

RCARO is planning to hold an annual review meeting on 21-22 November in which the progress review and the 2014 work plan will be discussed. The venue will be decided by RCARO giving priorities to Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar, as decided at the kick-off meeting.

## **4. Preservation of nuclear knowledge**

### **4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course**

One student from INS is having the second year of the course and two from INS and BGD are selected for spring semester in 2013.

### **4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course**

This programme has been held in association with scientific occasions to provide participants with the opportunity to experience more of the advanced nuclear medicine as well as training programme held by Asian Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine (ARCCNM). In



2013, it is to be held on 12-15 Dec. in Mumbai, India, in conjunction with the Indian Society of Nuclear Medicine.

#### **4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop**

The workshop on application of nuclear technology will be held from 7 to 18 October 2013 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. RCARO requested NRs of 12 Member States to nominate participants for the workshop. It will be carried out in cooperation with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI).

#### **4.4 Supporting the establishment of ICT infrastructure of Member States by providing ICT equipment**

RCARO planned to initiate a pilot project for 2-3 years to provide PCs to Member States in an effort to increase RCA information flow activities and further support the establishment of ICT infrastructure of Member States.

In this regard, the 16<sup>th</sup> SAC recommended that a Working Group be established to provide guidance to the RCARO on the scope and approach to be used in the project and RCARO will take full responsibility of establishing the Working Group.

On the occasion of the RCARO Workshop to be held on 7-9 August, a Working Group will be organized and the details of the project will be discussed and established. The meeting report including the details of the project will be reported to the 17<sup>th</sup> SAC to discuss follow-up actions.

### **5. Increased interaction between Member States and RCARO**

#### **5.1 Increased participation of Member States in RCARO activities**

Recommended by the NRs for the RCARO Fellowship Programme, the following 3 persons from PAK, VIE and MYA were selected in 2013. A fellow from PAK contributed to implementing the RCA/UNDP partnership projects on nuclear imaging technology and Electron Beam applications

and assisted in revising the RCA brochures. A fellow from VIE has been working with RCARO since July.

## **5.2 Holding of a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with Member States**

As recommended by the 35<sup>th</sup> NRM, RCARO received suggestions for the themes from the Member States which meet the needs of RCARO and RCA Member States, avoiding areas similar to the RCARO workshop in 2012.

Suggestions were received from Mr. Waqar Ahmad, NR of Pakistan and Mr. John Easey, RCA expert. Mr. Ahmad proposed to hold an induction workshop for new NRs and Mr. Easey's was to hold a workshop to discuss better communication and information exchange among people in the RCA.

Reflecting opinions, comments from the Member States and the above suggestions, RCARO decided the themes and programme of the workshop in consultation with the SAC members.

A Workshop on "strengthening the RCA/RCARO Activities and its Efficiency" was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 7-9 August 2013, inviting SAC members, NRs and RCA experts. The workshop consists of the following four sessions:

Session I: Improvement of information exchange and communication in RCA

Session II: Enhancement of RCA networking among the Member States

Session III: Review of the RCA Agreement

Session IV (if time permits): The Past, Present and Future of RCARO

The report of the workshop will be reported to the 17<sup>th</sup> SAC meeting for discussion.

## **5.3. Participation in the RCA policy meetings**

RCARO participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> NRM and the 16<sup>th</sup> RCARO SAC Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 18-22 March 2013.

## **5.4 Participation in the RCA project design meeting**

Having been recommended by the 39<sup>th</sup> GCM in 2010 to develop capabilities in project design and management, RCARO participated in the regional meeting on project design of RCA proposed concepts for TCP 2014-15 held on 18-22 February in Vienna as an observer.

#### **5.5 Participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> FNCA Coordinators Meeting**

On behalf of the RCA, RCARO participated in the FNCA meeting on 11-12 March in Tokyo, Japan and submitted a report on its result to the RCA FP.

#### **5.6 Operation of the committee for the selection and appointment of the RCARO Director**

RCARO reported to the SAC on the progress of selection and appointment of a new RCARO director. The SAC noted the selection process and the assessment of the Selection Committee (SC) members on a candidate and endorsed it for approval of NRM. The NRM approved the appointment of Mr. Kun-mo Choi as the new director of RCARO by acclamation.

#### **5.7 Extra-budgetary contribution of RCARO to the IAEA**

An EB contribution will be made in 2013, subject to the budget availability of RCARO.