

RCARO Work Plan for 2006 and Activities in 2005

Kun Mo CHOI
Director, RCA Regional Office

Mandate of RCARO

- Increasing RCA Awareness
- Promoting RCA Partnerships
- Other Directives from Member States

Major Activities in 2005

- Significances in the Operation of RCARO
- Awareness Increasing Activities
- Partnership Promoting Activities
- RCA Nuclear Knowledge Preservation and Enhancement Programme
- Other Activities

Work Plan for 2006

- Awareness Increasing Activities
- Partnership Promoting Activities
- Other Activities
- Initiation of RCA-UNDP(K) Environment Project
- Operational Aspect of RCARO
- Near Future Tasks to Undertake
- Special Report (Meeting for Collaboration with FNCA)

RCARO Major Activities in 2005

Significances in the Operation of RCARO

- Full operation from April 2005 after 3 years of Interim Operation. (Decision by 27th NRM)
- New Director appointed after selecting process. (27th NRM)
- Constitution of RCARO SAC
 - Guidelines on Operation of RCARO SAC adopted (27th NRM)
 - 6 Members (former/present/future RCA Chairs; former RCARO IAC Chair – AUL; RCARO Host Country – ROK; IAEA/RCA Coordinator)
- RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules revised incorporating “Procedures for RCARO Initiated Projects” supplementing “Fast Track Process” (34th GCM)

Awareness Increasing Activities

- RCARO Website Equipped with pin-point Search Engine
 - “RCA Who’s Who” corner newly established
- Provision of RCA Information Kit
 - Basic information on RCA and RCARO such as operational structure, people, activities and

- guidelines introduced
 - Distributed to NRs and RCA project participants
- Production of 2005 RCA Brochure
- Presentations on IAEA/RCA and RCARO to the Target Audiences (More than 30 presentations)

Promoting RCA Partnerships

UNESCAP

- Discussion on Future Cooperation between RCA and UNESCAP
 - RCA: RCARO Director, TSLCC (Mr Andreas Markwitz), and IAEA-TO (Mr Andrzej Makowicz)
 - UNESCAP: Executive Secretary (Mr Hak-Su Kim), Director for Economic Sustainable Development Division (Mr Rae-Kwon Chung), Expert (Dr Anatoly Kadushkin)
- Major UNESCAP Projects of RCA's Interest
 - Clean drinking water
 - Dam construction and the safety
 - HAB (Harmful Alga Bloom)
 - Further interactions are needed for developing tangible joint projects.

ADB

- ADB and RCARO exchanged information on environment projects
 - ADB: Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Program
 - RCARO: RCA Air Pollution related Projects in Environment Sector
- RCARO, RCA-TSLCC, IAEA-TO for Environmental Sector attended 'The 2nd Regional Dialogue of Air Quality Management Initiatives and Programs in Asia' organized by ADB and made presentations on RCA environment projects (July 2005, Bangkok)

PEMSEA

- Cooperation with PEMSEA will be presented in the 2006 Work Plan

Other Activities

- Brain-storming Workshop to Envisage RCARO Vision (Jeju, ROK in June 2005)
 - Participants: RCARO staff, Experts from MSs, IAEA/RCA Coordinator, experts and MOST from the host country
 - Purpose: To revisit the past activities of RCARO and to develop mission-oriented future strategies for fulfilling its mandate
 - Summary of Suggestions
 - In order to build credibility on RCA and RCARO, more comprehensive work to achieve visibility is required
 - Increasing RCA visibility will be the basis for enhancing RCA viability
 - Profiling other development agencies available as well as possible funding agencies is needed
 - Regarding legal framework of RCARO, benefits of revising RCA Agreement or adding supplementary agreement should outweigh difficulties
- Consultation Work to Develop Strategies to Promote RCA Partnership
 - Consultant: Dr C.R. Aleta (former RCA Coordinator)
 - Information on the possible partners in the region as to their targets, programs, areas for potential partnerships and the records of their previous contacts with RCA or IAEA have been compiled (23 organizations surveyed)
 - Recommendations from the Consultation
 - To pursue dialogue with identified organizations that are ready for a partnership with

RCA:

- Move towards forging partnership with: FAO, UNESCAP, AIT, IRRI
 - Proceed cautiously on nuclear power areas but promptly on other areas with: UNEP, ASEAN, ADB
 - Encourage country interaction with: UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP (local), FAO (local)
 - Harness the strength of: OAP, BATAN, PNRI
- Computer support program for better networking among RCA MSs (also earmarking for future ENO activities)
 - Support RCA information flow works of RCA office of MSs
 - INS, MON, THA, VIE (2005)
 - PHI, SRL, MYA, BGD (2004)
 - Contribution by MSs through Attachment of Temporary Staff to RCARO (2005)
 - Bangladesh (Mr Kabir Hossain, 4 months), Vietnam (Ms Le Thi Phu Van, 3 months)
 - Survey of regional/international development organizations, etc.

Summary: First year in full operation

- Awareness: Remodeled website
Drafting of success stories
Information Kit & revised brochure
- Partnership: UNDP project (role model for joint project) PEMSEA
conference (role model for joint activity)
Information exchange with UNESCAP, ADB, etc.
- Better legal framework: Full operation
New Director appointed by NRM
Modified RCA guidelines and operating rules
- Ideas for the future: Jeju workshop for RCARO vision
Environment strategy workshop
Consultation to find means for better partnership

RCARO Work Plan for 2006

Awareness Increasing Activities

- Continued Efforts to Increase Awareness of RCA
 - Better operation of RCARO website
 - Increased e-mailing service (3,100 recipients)
 - More presentations on RCA to target audiences
 - RCA stakeholders
 - Regional and international development organizations
 - Government policy makers
- Information Kit is to be newly revised reflecting users' views.

RCA Success Stories

- List of success stories for first edition

- Tissue banking
- Air pollution monitoring
- Ground water contamination
- Modification of natural polymers by radiation processing
- Distance assisted training (DAT) for nuclear medicine technologists and radiation oncologists
- RCARO has drafted summary write-ups of those success stories based on the materials provided by project leaders
- Follow-up actions
 - Professional re-writing of the stories
 - Publication

Promoting RCA Partnership

- Strategies: Step-by-step Approaches
 - Step 1: Promotion of understanding & information exchange
 - Step 2: Exploration of joint activities
 - Step 3: Implementation of joint projects
 - Development of modalities including financial provisions
- * Implementation of RCA-UNDP(K) project and the participation in the PEMSEA conference can be regarded as role models for RCA's partnerships with others.
- Participation in the PEMSEA International Conference (Decision by 34th GCM)
 - Prospectus of the Congress & Conference
 - Title: The East Asian Seas Congress (constituted by the conference, council meeting and ministerial forum)
 - Theme: "One Ocean, One People, One Vision"
 - Duration: 12-16 December 2006
 - Venue: Haikou City, Hainan Province, China
 - Conference (12-13 Dec.): 7 workshops and seminars
 - Seminar on "Management related Science and Technology"
 - Session on "Radio-isotope technology for coastal and ocean management"
 - To address the role of nuclear technology in solving environmental problems
- * PEMSEA: Partnerships for Environment Management of Sea of East Asia supported by IMO and GEF.
 - RCA's participation in PEMSEA Conference discussed during RCA Environment Meetings in Daejeon in Feb. 2006 –
 - Some salient points discussed
 - 1) RCA Session shall take place on 13 December 2006 afternoon for 120 minutes
 - 2) RAS/8/095 event recommended be held during 6-11 December 2006 in conjunction with the PEMSEA International Conference
 - 3) China makes necessary local arrangements
 - 4) PLCC will finalize speakers and participants latest by June 2006
A key-note speech and 4-5 presentations recommended
 - 5) RCARO coordinates with PEMSEA secretariat for general administration
(Dir.-RCARO is a member of the Organizing Committee)

Other Activities

- Environment workshop supported by the RCARO fund
 - The 33th GCM approved that the fund should be utilized for a workshop in the environmental sector, in particular marine environment, to identify future priorities of RCA environment projects beyond 2008.
 - The workshop in Daejeon, ROK in Feb 2006 was held with 19 region experts including TSLCC and IAEA-TO.
 - The following three areas for the long term priorities recommended:
 - Land-based pollution from domestic and industrial sources to the marine coastal environment.
 - Seafood safety including HAB management
 - Establishment of marine and coastal environment radioactivity database

Initiation of RCA-UNDP(K) Project

- Background
 - RCARO applied for UNDP(K) program in March 2005.
 - Theme of the project: Tsunami Relief Effort using Nuclear Technology
 - UNDP(K) and MOST of ROK committed to fund 200,000~300,000 USD for 3 years.
 - RCA experts examined the feasibility of this initiation.
 - The 34th GCM decided that RCARO should prepare a concept paper together with TSLCC for environment and, after review by the SAC, submitted to NRs for approval.
- Prospectus of the concept paper
 - Title: Mitigation of coastal Impacts of Natural Disasters Like Tsunami Using Nuclear or Isotope based Technologies
 - Objectives:

Using nuclear and isotopic analytical techniques,

 - To assess the level of toxic element contamination in the marine & coastal ecosystem by studies of the trace element profile of coastal sediment samples.
 - To assist in providing safe drinking water and ensure sustainability of agriculture and fishery production in the tsunami-affected areas by assessing the impact of marine deposits in coastal agricultural areas.
 - To define the impact of tsunami-deposited sediment contaminants on the health and long-term viability of coral reefs and associated fisheries by looking at the impact of selected toxic elements in sediments on the health of coral reef.
 - Work plan
 - 1ST year (6 months) : training and expert missions, sample collection (Pukhet, North Aceh), analysis of initial data,
 - 2nd year : training and expert missions, in-depth sampling and detailed analysis, and
 - 3rd year : training and expert missions, analysis of the data produced, networking establishment among participating member states, result dissemination.
 - Budget: USD 300,000 (or less) / 3 years
 - Participating MSs (Initial): 14
 - PLCC: The Philippines (Dr Elvira Sombrito, PNRI)

APLCC: Indonesia (Dr Zainal Abidin, BATAN)
TSLCC: New Zealand (Dr Andreas Markwitz)
TO: To be decided (either from IAEA or from the region)

- Time Frame for Future actions
 - Endorsement of the concept paper by the 28th RCA NRM (March 2006)
 - Confirmation of the participating MSs with designated NPC (April 2006)
 - Submission of the project proposal to UNDP(K) (April 2006)
 - Conclusion of the project contract with UNDP(K) (May 2006)
 - Implementation of the project (June 2006 - December 2008)
 - Securing fund for 2007 from the host government (June 2006)

Operational Aspects of RCARO

- Budget: 6.8 mil USD in 2005 → 7.3 mil USD in 2006
- Attachment of Temporary Staff from MSs
 - 2 staff planned (financial support from RCARO)
 - One cost-free expert from China expected for 1 year attachment

Near Future Tasks to Undertake

- Formulating strategies for enhancing RCA partnerships
- Operating more efficient and user-friendly RCARO website
- Improving legal status of RCARO
- Surveying RCA capabilities and potentials
- Developing RCA new programmes through workshop with RCA leaders

Special report Meeting with FNCA

- Background
 - Based on the decision of the 34th GCM, RCARO, representing RCA, met with FNCA to discuss the cooperation between RCA and FNCA.
- Purpose
 - To exchange views on the development of a mechanism for communication, cooperation and coordination between FNCA and RCA
 - To exchange views on possible modalities for each cooperation
 - To exchange views on transfer of information, data and technologies between FNCA and RCA in non-sensitive areas
- The results of the meeting
 - RCARO: Mr Kun-Mo CHOI (Director), Mr John Chung (Project officer)
 - FNCA: Mr Machi Sueo (FNCA coordinator of Japan) and ACC StaffsDate: 27 Oct. 2005 (in Tokyo)
- Major outcomes of the meeting
 - FNCA stated that their projects are mostly for R&D, while RCA highlights capability-building through training activities and information dissemination.
 - Hence, FNCA viewed that there would be no overlapping between both projects in principle.
 - FNCA reiterated that they have provided some R&D findings to IAEA-NA for use by IAEA. They mentioned that FNCA will continue to cooperate with IAEA in this regard because FNCA wished that their R&D outcomes can be used more extensively, not limiting to RCA region.
 - FNCA deemed that IAEA-TC would be the appropriate channel for cooperation with FNCA

since IAEA regional cooperative activities are largely carried out under the framework of TC Dept.

- As to the desirable cooperation modalities between RCA and FNCA, they viewed that it would be effective to have a meeting between the representatives of the two entities to identify cooperation areas in detail with foreseeable substances.
- Regarding the membership of FNCA, they said that they will consider, in the future, the participation of the non-NPT countries.