

RCARO Director's Report Progress Report of RCARO 2011 Work Plan

The 33rd NRM Decisions relevant to the RCARO 2011 Work Plan

The Meeting requested the National Representatives to provide their comments on the success story on radiotherapy directly to the RCARO not later than 15 May 2011, and on the promotional video no later than 30 May 2011.

The Meeting decided that the revised version of the promotional video will be presented at the 40th RCA GCM.

Regarding project RAS7015, the Meeting decided to publish the database on the RCA website.

1. Increasing the awareness of RCA

1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness

1.1.1 Publication of RCA Success Stories (the fourth round)

Pursuant to the decision of the 33rd NRM, RCARO had received comments on the draft RCA Success Story - "Improving the Quality of Radiotherapy in the Asia Pacific Region" from the Member States by 15 May 2011. Reflecting the comments from THA, INS and JPN, a RCA Success Story in booklet form has been published.

RCARO also established the publication mechanism and plans including the areas for future publication of RCA Success Stories (Annex 1). In this context, RCARO conducted a survey of the Member States and received recommendations from AUL, INS, SRI and THA on appropriate projects for future Success Stories among the RCA projects for 2009-2011.

The RCA Success Story on radiotherapy in booklet form will be distributed at the 40th GCM, regional/international conferences, IAEA, other international organizations and the Member States.

After the approval of the publication mechanism and plans for future RCA Success Stories by the 40th GCM, RCARO will proceed to publish the 5th RCA Success Stories.

1.1.2 Production of the promotional video on RCA activities

RCARO demonstrated the RCA promotional video at the 33rd NRM for advice and recommendations of Member States. Reflecting the following comments from the NRM and the Member States received by 30th May 2011, RCARO completed the RCA promotional video.

- 1) Comments from AUL, CPR, IND, MAL, PAK, PHI, ROK and the IAEA at the 33rd NRM
- 2) Inclusion of the interviews with the former RCA coordinators, Dr. Machi and Dr. John Easey
- 3) Views from the Member States received by 30th May 2011
 - INS: revision of the presentation and contents of the RCA mission
 - AUL: modification and editorial supervision of the narrator and script
 - SRL, IND: provision of video clips of RCA related activities
- 4) Insertion of a picture of each NR of the 17 Member States

RCARO produced a separate version of video excluding some interviews and the pictures of NRs considering frequent replacement. RCARO also prepared another version of video including Nepal in preparation of Nepal's possible joining of the RCA. Another version of video including Nepal is being kept at the RCARO.

RCARO appreciates the NRs' contribution to the quality improvement and content development of the RCA promotional video.

RCARO will present the RCA promotional video and distribute DVDs to the Member States at the 40th GCM. RCARO will post the RCA promotional video on the RCA website in order for Member States to download the video freely and use it for promotional purposes.

RCARO also plans to use the promotional video on proper occasions such as the 40th RCA anniversary celebration and relevant international conferences and meetings. For the Member States of which the activities are not reflected in the RCA promotional video, RCARO will include these Member States through visits given the opportunities in the future.

1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website

1.2.1 Redesign and operation of RCA Website

RCARO demonstrated the renewed RCA website at the 33rd NRM and collected opinions from the Member States by the end of May 2011, pursuant to the decision of the 33rd NRM. RCARO reflected opinions from INS, AUL and RCA-FP on its revision.

RCARO informed the NRs of 17 Member States of a new ID and PW and opened the new RCA website on 15 July.

1.2.2 Reorganization and updating of database (RCARO+MOH+IAEA provided data)

RCARO reorganized and updated the RCA homepage with the data of RCARO, MOH and data provided by RCA-FP as well. In addition, RCARO uploaded the "Asia-Pacific Aerosol Database (A-PAD) for fine and coarse air particulate matter from the RCA region" on the RCA website,

which is one of the results of the RCA project "Characterization and Source Identification of Particulate Air Pollution in the Asian Region (RAS/7/015)".

1.2.3 Updating data on RCA stakeholders and end-users by Member States

RCARO updated the data of the Member States and other stakeholders including PAK, MAL and BGD with assistance of temporary staff on the RCA homepage.

RCARO established two menus on the RCA website; Member States News and File upload/download which allow Member States to exchange and share information and files freely among Member States through the RCA homepage.

RCARO will continue to update information and RCA data on the RCA homepage reflecting inputs from RCA Member States and stakeholders. In accordance with RCARO's efforts to update the renewed RCA homepage, Member States active participation is required in the provision of data and information.

1.3 Participation in regional/international meetings 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 targeted audiences

Since the 33rd NRM, RCARO participated in the following regional and international conferences;

- 1) UNDP-SU-SSC/ESCAP Exhibition - South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Acceleration of the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific, 19-25 May 2011, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand (Annex 2)
- 2) IMRP Montreal 2011 – International Meeting on Radiation Processing, 13-16 June 2011, Montreal, Canada (Annex 3)

- 3) 2011 World Molecular Imaging Congress (WMIC), 7-10 September 2011, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California

RCARO is also planning to participate in the following regional and international conferences to promote the RCA and its activities;

- 1) 9th Southeast Asian Congress of Medical Physics, 16-19 November 2011, in Bohol, Philippines
- The participation was recommended by National RCA Representative of Philippines.
- 2) UNDP Global South-South Expo, 5-9 December 2011, in Rome, Italy
- The participation was requested by UNDP.

RCARO is in on-going search for events to participant and promote RCA. RCARO will participate in any other appropriate international/regional conferences if necessary.

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

A RCA expert participated in publication on RCA Success Story on radiotherapy and RCARO supported the participation of the RCA expert. RCARO will continue to support RCA experts to increase the awareness of RCA and promote its activities on appropriate occasions.

2. Successful implementation of UNDP project

RCARO has promoted cooperation with UNDP through partnership projects. Since December 2010, RCARO is collaborating with UNDP on the project "Promoting and Accelerating Nuclear SPECT/PET Imaging Technologies in the Region."

RCARO established the project framework and work plan and confirmed the participating Member States, Project Leading Country Coordinator (PLCC), and their National Project Coordinators (NPCs) through consultations with Member States.

2.1 Holding a kick-off meeting

RCARO held a RCA/UNDP project kick-off meeting in Phuket, Thailand for three days from 17th May 2011. 21 Participants, including the National RCA Representative of Thailand, PLCC, NPCs

from 11 Member States, staff from RCARO and UNDP, attended the meeting. The meeting confirmed the 2011 work plan and decided to hold two training courses in Seoul in August and an annual review meeting at the beginning of December 2011.

The two training courses are as follows:

- 1) Train-the-Trainers for two weeks
- 2) On-Site Regional Training Course for one week

For sharing information among RCA and the RCA/UNDP project, NPC of Thailand made a presentation on the outcome of the RCA/UNDP project kick-off meeting at the final review meeting on Strengthening Clinical Applications of PET in RCA Member States (RAS/6/049) held in Bangkok from 23 to 27 May 2011.

RCARO distributed the meeting report of the RCA/UNDP project kick-off meeting to the NRs of participating Member States, participants of the meeting, RCA-FP and IAEA Technical Officer.

2.2 Conducting the basic training on SPECT/PET and on-site regional training

Through cooperation with Seoul National University Bundang Hospital and PLCC, two training courses were held successfully from 8 to 26 August 2011; “Train-the-Trainers” for two weeks and On-Site Regional Training Course for one week. 20 trainees from 11 Member States participated in the training course.

2.3 Monitoring and submission of the progress report

RCARO submitted the project interim progress report and financial report to the UNDP and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) at the end of June 2011. The Annual Report and Financial Report will be also submitted to the UNDP and UNOPS by the end of December.

2.4 Annual review meeting and evaluating of the project

RCARO is planning to hold an annual review meeting in December 2011 in which the progress review and the 2012 work plan will be discussed.

3. Promoting partnerships for RCA

3.1 Pursuing partnership with GEF

At the 33rd NRM, RCARO reported that GEF would not be a suitable organization to develop a partnership project with the RCA since most of the GEF projects address priority development areas at the national level.

Pursuant to the recommendations at the 33rd NRM, RCARO carried out further investigation on funding types, mechanisms and project thematic areas of the GEF Agencies such as United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for seeking an opportunity to build a partnership project with RCA.

3.1.1 Exploring possibility for developing a partnership project with GEF Agencies

UNIDO focuses its projects on agro-based small and medium enterprises and mainly addresses priority development areas at the national level. Thus, the possibility of developing partnership projects with UNIDO seems to be low but further investigation is needed.

The World Bank has a program for regional projects in the fields of health, agriculture and environmental and natural resources management. However, most of the projects are implemented on a loan base by international financial institutions such as IBRD and IDA. In this context, the World Bank might not be an appropriate counterpart for developing a partnership project with RCA.

FAO has annually about 1,500 to 2,000 field projects in operation including technical cooperation. The Technical Cooperation Programme is a part of FAO's Regular Programme, financed from the assessed contributions of its Members to provide FAO's technical expertise to its member countries through targeted, short-term, catalytic projects. Thus, it could be considered to develop a possible RCA partnership project with FAO. In-depth investigation and research is needed to explore the possibilities of developing RCA partnership project and application of nuclear science and technology through consultation with relevant experts.

RCARO will continue further investigation and research to explore the possibilities of developing RCA partnership project and application of nuclear science and technology with FAO and UNIDO including consultation with relevant experts.

3.2 Exploring partnership development with regional/international organizations

In June 2011, UNDP announced its project application plan for 2011. In this regard, RCARO prepared the application of RCA/UNDP project proposal on “Electron Beam Applications for Treatment of Environmental Pollutants and Industrial Products in the Asia-Pacific region”.

RCARO prepared the draft of the proposal on electron beam application technology with regard to the partnership project with UNDP and submitted the final proposal to UNDP on July 13, 2011, reflecting the views by RCARO SAC and the Member States.

13 Member States expressed their intention to participate in the concerned project proposal : CPR, IND, INS, MAL, MYA, NZE, PAK, PHI, SRL, THA, VIE including Cambodia and Nepal which are not RCA member States as the least developed countries required by UNDP.

In addition, on behalf of the 17 RCA Member States, Dr. Anhar Riza ANTARIKSAWAN, the RCA Chair and National RCA Representative of the Indonesia submitted a letter of recommendation to the UNDP expressing the hope that the RCA/UNDP project proposed by RCARO would proceed.

(If selected), RCARO will make the necessary arrangements cooperatively with UNDP and participating Member States to proceed with the project smoothly.

4. Preservation of nuclear knowledge

4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master’s Degree Course

The nuclear knowledge preservation programme was initiated by RCARO in cooperation with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) for Nuclear Engineering Master’s Degree Course. The programme has supported 23 talented experts so far.

RCARO has supported four students in 2011; one from PAK (Feb. 2010 ~ Aug. 2011), one from INS (Aug. 2010 ~), and two students from MAL and INS (Feb. 2011 ~).

RCARO/KAIST will select students from Member States for the 2012 spring semester by the end of September 2011.

4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course

Followed by the successful completion of RCARO/ARCCNM Training Course held in 2009 and 2010, RCARO/ARCCNM will select trainees and hold the nuclear medicine training course in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam from Nov. 28th to Dec. 2nd, 2011.

4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

The workshop on Reactor Utilization and Radiation Application Technology is to be held from 10 to 21 October 2011 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. RCARO requested NRs of 12 Member States to nominate participants for the workshop and selected total 14 participants.

The workshop will be conducted in cooperation with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI).

5. Increased interaction between Member States and RCARO

5.1 Inviting 3-4 temporary staff to RCARO from Member States

RCARO selected 4 temporary staffs from the Member States to work at RCARO in 2011. Two temporary staffs from Malaysia and Pakistan have successfully completed their duties such as assistance in renewal of homepage, reorganization of RCARO, MOH data and data provided by RCA-FP, updating stakeholder/end-user database, implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project and investigation of potential donors for developing RCA partnership projects.

And two temporary staff from Mongolia and Sri Lanka are planned to work subsequently at RCARO in 2011.

5.2 Participation in 33rd NRM

RCARO participated in the 33rd NRM in Bali, Indonesia in April 2011. RCARO provided assistance to the operation of the 12th RCARO SAC Meeting as secretariat at the 33rd NRM.

5.3 Participation in the 12th FNCA Coordinators Meeting

As approved at the 39th GCM, RCARO was supposed to participate in the 12th FNCA Coordinators Meeting to be held in Fukui, Japan on March 17~18 2011, to discuss cooperative matters between RCA and FNCA on behalf of RCA. However, the meeting was postponed due to earthquake on 11 March 2011.

5.4 RCARO development of capabilities in project design and management

As decided at the 32nd NRM, RCARO attended the LCC meeting in February 2011 in Vienna to develop capabilities in project design and management.

Annex 1

Current Status of the Publication of RCA Success Stories and Future Plan

1. Background

Since 2007, RCARO has published RCA Success Stories with the aim of increasing the visibility of RCA under its mandate. RCARO is going to analyze the problems involved in publishing the Success Stories up to now, and establish the publication mechanism and plans for its future publication.

2. Current Status

Until now, RCA-FP has proposed the areas to be issued for RCA Success Stories and RCARO has published them in cooperation with the PLCC and RCA experts.

RCARO has published 4 batches of RCA Success Stories; a total of 16 in 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011. They are 2 leaflets for agriculture, 5 leaflets and 1 booklet for environment, 2 leaflets and 1 booklet for health, 3 leaflets for industry and 2 leaflets for energy. RCA Success Stories published up to now are shown in table 1.

3. Issues to be considered

From the RCARO's experiences in publication of RCA Success Stories, there exist lots of difficulties to publish RCA Success Stories in terms of thematic areas by integrating relevant RCA projects because of the large number of projects involved and the long duration of project implementation. Possible difficulties in collecting opinions and input from relevant PLCCs in making drafts of RCA Success Stories are also expected. In this context, it may be recommended to select the appropriate projects, rather than the thematic areas to be published, for RCA Success Stories.

The project for RCA Success Stories was proposed mainly by RCA-FP until now, but it is also recommended to select the appropriate projects after making an overall review of various proposals received from National RCA National Representatives and RCA-FP and in consultation with

PLCC. The opinions of the Member States which implement the projects should be taken into consideration for the proposals of appropriate projects.

In addition, it is necessary to establish publication mechanism including clear division of roles and procedure to publish RCA Success Stories.

Table 1: List of published RCA Success Stories

Area	Form	Number	Subject	Year
Agriculture	leaflet	2	Cultivating better crops for sustainable agriculture	2009
			Improving Livestock Productivity while Conserving the Environment	2010
Environment	leaflet	5	Nuclear analysis of airborne particles provides a key to alleviating air pollution	2007
			Isotope hydrology helps find water fit to drink	2007
			Turning the tide against marine pollution	2009
			Combating Soil Erosion-Caused Land Degradation in the Asia and the Pacific Region	2010
			Mitigating Coastal Impacts of s Tsunami: th Role of Nuclear Technology	2011
	booklet	1	Combating Soil Erosion-Caused Land Degradation in the Asia and the Pacific Region	2010
Health	leaflet	2	Restoring health and saving lives: global benefits from RCA's trail blazing	2007
			'Distance assisted training' strengthens regional skills in nuclear medicine	2007
	booklet	1	Improving the Quality of Radiotherapy in the Asia Pacific Region	2011
Industry	leaflet	3	New materials from natural polymers: using nuclear technology to improve Nature's gifts	2007
			Strengthen skills in NDT for regional industry	2009
			RCA Innovation Supporting Regional Chemical, Petrochemical and Petroleum Industries	2010
Energy	leaflet	2	Harnessing energy from the heart of the earth	2009
			Enhanced Energy Analysis and Planning Capabilities	2010

4. Publication Mechanism

Selection of the projects for RCA Success Stories

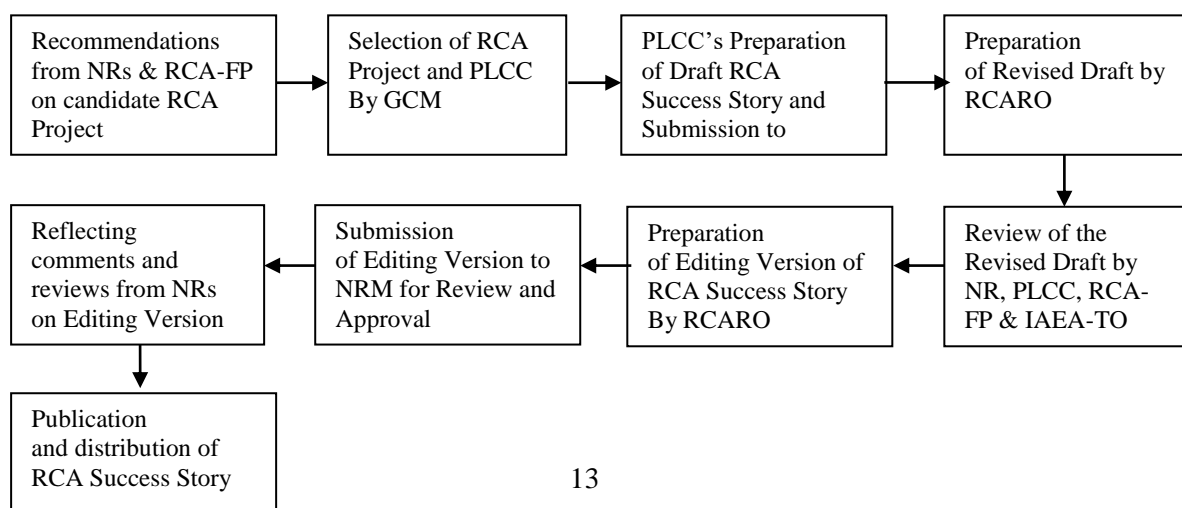
The projects for RCA Success Stories will be selected among RCA projects which were successfully implemented and are expected to make large spill-over effect into other areas and have the possibility to develop partnerships with other international organizations.

The selection will be decided in the RCA GCM based on the result of a survey among the Member States to prioritize the projects. The selected projects will be published as RCA Success Stories in leaflet or booklet form depending on content, target-audience and effect. This will be also decided in the RCA GCM.

Procedure of the publication

Procedure of the publication of selected projects is as follows:

- 1) RCARO collects recommendations from NRs and RCA-FP on candidate projects with priority.
- 2) Selection of the project will be decided in RCA GCM.
- 3) The PLCC in charge of the project makes a draft of Success Story based on the Guidelines for RCA Success Stories and submits it to RCARO.
- 4) RCARO makes a revised draft based on the draft submitted by the PLCC.
- 5) The revised draft will be reviewed by RCA-FP/IAEA TO and the PLCC who prepared the draft.
- 6) Reflecting the opinions and comments from these experts, RCARO will draft an edited version of RCA Success Stories.
- 7) RCARO submits the edited version to the RCA NRM for review and approval.
- 8) RCARO publishes RCA Success Story reflecting comments and reviews from NRs.



5. Publication Plan (draft)

RCARO requested NRs and RCA-FP to recommend two to three projects among RCA projects for 2009-2011 in order to select appropriate ones for RCA Success Stories. The Member States recommended priorities on the RCA projects; RAS/5/046(4), RAS/5/050(2), RAS/7/016(2), RAS/9/042(2), RAS/6/038(1), and RAS/8/109(1), as listed below in Table 2.

Table 2: Survey results of project priorities for the RCA Success Stories among the Member States

Member States	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Remarks
Australia	RAS/5/046	RAS/7/016	RAS/9/042	The topics of following projects have all been covered by published RCA Success Stories. (RAS/5/045, RAS/6 /048, RAS/7/015, RAS/6/053, RAS/7/019, RAS/8/108, RAS/8/109, RAS/8/110 and RAS/8/111)
Indonesia	RAS/5/046 & RAS/5/050			Integration of projects was suggested including RAS5034 and RAS5042 of previous cycle.
Sri Lanka	RAS/5/046	RAS/5/050	RAS/8/109	
RCA-FP	RAS/5/046	RAS/6/038	RAS/7/016	RAS/9/042

Based on the survey results of project priority among the Member States, RCARO is going to publish the success stories as follows:

1) Success Story in booklet form

- RAS/7/016: Establishing a Benchmark for Assessing the Radiological Impact of Nuclear Power Activities on the Marine Environment in the Asia-Pacific region
(PLCC: Dr Ron Szymczak, AUL)

2) Success Stories in leaflet form

- RAS/5/046: Novel Applications of Food Irradiation Technology for Improving Socioeconomic Development
(PLCC : Ms. Gao Meixu, CPR)
- RAS/9/042: Sustainability of Regional Radiation Protection Infrastructure
(PLCC, Dr. K. Sakai, JPN)

6. Publication Schedule

- 1) September 2011: selection of the project by the 40th RCA GCM
- 2) October to November 2011: completion of a draft of a RCA Success Story by the PLCC in charge
- 3) December 2011 to January 2012: revision of the draft by RCARO
- 4) February 2012: review of the revised draft by the PLCC, RCA-FP, IAEA/TO and NRs
- 5) Feb to March 2012 : completion of a edited version of a RCA Success Story by RCARO
- 6) April 2012: review of the edited version by the 34th RCA NRM
- 7) May to June 2012: publication and distribution of a RCA Success Story reflecting opinions of National RCA Representatives

It may be inevitable to adjust the above mentioned schedule to publish a RCA Success Story in booklet form because it takes more time to make its draft.

Annex 2

Participation in the UNDP-SU-SSC/ESCAP Exhibition

Overview of UNDP-SU-SSC/ESCAP Exhibition

The UNDP-Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU-SSC)/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) Exhibition was held on 19-25 May 2011, at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. It is held annually to promote and share success and challenges of regional projects being implemented by UNDP SU-SSC as a key drive of regional collaboration. There were about 500 participants and 15 exhibiting institutions from Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, etc.

Actions Taken by RCARO

In response to the request of UNDP, RCARO participated in the exhibition as one of the successful projects being implemented in cooperation with UNDP-SU/SSC. RCARO set up 4 panels elaborating RCA, RCA projects, RCA/UNDP project and RCARO at the booth. RCARO also distributed RCA brochures and Success Stories to participants. It was a great opportunity to promote RCA and its activities to the experts in nuclear science and technology and related stakeholders of UNDP. Due to the duplicated period of the UNDP-SU-SSC/ESCAP Exhibition with RCA/UNDP Project Kick-Off Meeting, staff of RCARO was not able to attend the exhibition.



(RCARO's Booth at the UNDP-SU-SSC/ESCAP Exhibition)



(RCARO's Booth at the UNDP-SU-SSC/ESCAP Exhibition)

Annex 3

Participation in the IMRP Montreal 2011

Overview of IMRP

The International Meeting on Radiation Processing (IMRP) was held on 13-16 June, 2011 in Montreal, Canada. The IMRP is a regular event which is held every other year where the industry and related experts from the world gather and build networks to share and promote the development and advantages of irradiation technology. There were about 500 participants from approximately 30 countries including Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, China, Canada, France, India, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, and United States.

Actions Taken by RCARO

RCARO set up and displayed 7 panels elaborating RCA, RCA Projects in four sectors (Agriculture, Industry, Environment, and Human Health), RCA/UNDP projects and RCARO. Along with distribution of RCA brochure and Success Stories, RCARO also played RCA promotional video which had reflected comments from Member States at the booth. The RCA promotional video drew significant amount of attention of participants to RCA and its activities. Through the demonstration of RCA promotional video at the IMRP, RCA promotional video was recognized as the most effective tool to introduce and enhance awareness of RCA.

The former National RCA Representative of India, Mr. A.K. Anand visited RCARO's booth and complemented on RCARO's efforts in promotional activities. Additionally, an American media, Executive Intelligence Review expressed its much interest in RCA and interviewed Mr. LEE, director of RCARO at the booth.

RCARO's participation in the IMRP was a great opportunity to increase the awareness of RCA through publicizing RCA and networking with the industry and scientific experts not only within the RCA region but also outside of RCA Region such as North and South America and Europe.



(American Media, EIR's interview with Director of RCARO)



(Visit of Former National RCA Representative of India)



(RCARO's Promotion Activity to a visitor)