



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF

THE 35th RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

22 September 2022

Introduction

The 35th meeting of the RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee (RCARO SAC) was held on 22 September 2022, in the IAEA Headquarters, attended by Mr Tran Chi Thanh (RCA Chair, NR of VIE), Ms Suchin Udomsomporn (Immediate past RCA Chair, NR of THA), Mr Geordie Graetz (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of AUL), Cheonkyeong Park (KONICOF) on behalf of Ms Si Jeong Park (NR of ROK), Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya (DIR-TCAP), Mr Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde (SH-TCAP1) and Mr Sinh Hoang (RCA FP).

1. Opening

Mr Tran Chi Thanh, the current RCA Chair, NR of VIE, officially opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The agenda items were reviewed and adopted with no amendment. RCARO was appointed as rapporteur.

The SAC adopted the draft agenda with no amendment and appointed the RCARO as rapporteur.

3. Discussion on Major Issues on the RCARO Activities

3.1. 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the RCA Regional Office

The RCARO presented its plan to hold an international symposium for celebrating its 20th Anniversary. The event is to be held on 14 December 2022 in Sejong, Korea, under the theme, “Cooperative Leadership in Nuclear Science and Technology and Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region.” This event is expected to provide the audience an opportunity to look back on the accomplishments of the RCA achieved through close collaboration among the GPs and RCARO and present strategic visions for RCARO to strengthen its commitment to the betterment of the RCA.

The SAC congratulated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the RCARO and welcomed the initiative to hold an international symposium to celebrate the occasion. The SAC confirmed its strong support and cooperation in preparations for the international symposium.

3.2. Holding of a Workshop on EBeam Technology

The RCARO reported on its plan to hold “Workshop on Advancing the Adoption of Electron Beam and X-ray Technologies in Asia and the Pacific” as a follow-up of the RCA/UNOSSC Project on eBeam Applications (2013-2021). The workshop is co-hosted by the Office of Radiological Security (ORS) of the US Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration and aims to provide actionable information to potential end-users and other stakeholders who are interested in adopting machine-based radiation technologies.

The SAC took note of the plan to hold “Workshop on Advancing the Adoption of Electron Beam and X-ray Technologies in Asia and the Pacific” under the partnership with the US DOE. The SAC noted the timeliness of the workshop and emphasized the importance of the event in transferring the advanced technologies to the region. The SAC strongly encouraged continued efforts to hold such capacity building activities in the area.

3.3. Expanded Support for Research in the RCA

The RCARO presented on its initiative to expand its support for research in RCA. Through implementation of RCA Research Projects, RCARO has found a strong demand of the region in the field of collaborative R&D and thus, submitted a proposal to the Government of Korea to seek possibility of additional funding. Based on the budget availability, RCARO will develop projects that can further identify the regional needs and issues and address them through facilitating the R&D.

The SAC took note of the RCARO’s plan to expand support for research and development (R&D) in the RCA and appreciated the RCARO for the initiative, supported by the Government of Republic of Korea. The SAC noted the importance of the collaborative R&D component of the RCA in such areas as the commercialization of technologies. The SAC also noted that these activities can facilitate the development of a stronger research network in the region.

The SAC recommended RCARO to develop new R&D projects that can identify and address the regional needs and issues through the research. The SAC emphasized the benefit of collective advocacy for the success of collaborative research over the long term and recommended the RCA GPs make collective efforts to expand the research component of the RCA.

3.4. Publication of RCA Newsletters

The RCARO presented on the progress of publishing the RCA newsletters. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the RCA and the 20th anniversary of the RCARO, the first issue was published in early April with contributions from the RCA NRs and IAEA experts, and was distributed to RCA stakeholders. The RCARO published the 2nd issue, a special edition on the RCA's 50th Anniversary event. Upon the request of the 34th RCARO SAC Meeting, hard copies have been prepared to be displayed/distributed at the RCA exhibition during the 66th IAEA GC. The RCARO plans to publish the third issue on the outcomes of the ceremonial events.

The SAC congratulated the RCARO on the successful publication of the second issue of the RCA Newsletter as a special edition of the 50th anniversary of the RCA and encouraged such efforts to continue strengthened. The SAC noted the plan for the third edition of the newsletters that will feature the outcomes of the events for the RCA 50th Anniversary, including the RCA Ministerial Level Meeting.

3.5. Other Projects and Activities

The RCARO reported on other activities: participation in the meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA; Supporting the IAEA and RCA Chair in RCA administrative matters and coordination of activities; Implementation of the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project: Enhancing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities through Building Technical Capacity in Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment Following the Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies (Phase 1: 2020-2021, Phase 2: 2022-2024); Implementation of the RCARO Managed Projects: (RP02) Research Project on Air Quality and Environmental Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in the Region (2021-2023) and (RP03) Research Project on Closing the Gap in Radiotherapy Access in RCA Government Parties (2022-2024); and Capacity building on radiation application technology.

The SAC expressed appreciation to the RCARO for its contribution to the RCA through its activities for the STF, assisting the Secretariat functions and RCA Chair.

The SAC noted the progress made under the projects/activities, employing diverse strategies and online/offline measures with the aim of maximizing their impacts.

4. Arrangement for the 36th SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 36th RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day

prior to the 45th RCA NRM.

5. Closing

The Chair of the Meeting thanked the SAC members for their advice and recommendations. The Chair also thanked the RCARO for the excellent work and encouraged the RCARO to continue supporting the RCA.