



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF

THE 33rd RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

15 September 2021

Introduction

A meeting of the 33rd RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee was held on 15 September 2021, virtually, inviting the members of the RCARO SAC, Ms Suchin Udomsomporn (Current RCA Chair, NR of THA), Mr Abdul Rahim Harun (Immediate past RCA Chair, NR of MAL), Mr Tran Chi Thanh (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of VIE), Jaeun Choi (KONICOF) on behalf of Mr Kim Kiseok (NR of ROK), Mr Prinath Dias (RCA PAC Chair), Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya (DIR-TCAP), Mr Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde (SH-TCAP1) and Mr Sinh Hoang (RCA FP).

1. Opening

Ms Suchin Udomsomporn, the current RCA Chair, NR of THA, 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. Implementation of the RCA/UNOSSC Project on Electron Beam Applications

The RCARO reported on the activities undertaken in 2021 under the RCA/UNOSSC Project on EB Applications. Final review meeting was held in June in conjunction with a technical workshop. Final progress report was produced based on the achievements of a total of seven and a half years of implementation of the project (Phase 1: 2013-2015, Phase 2: 2017-2021. 6.). An online training course on eBeam accelerator and its applications was held for two weeks in September.

The RCARO also briefed on the progress on the follow-up project. As recommended by the 30th RCARO SAC, RCARO explored opportunities for partnerships with other institutes/organizations. The Meeting took note that new partnership with NCEBR (National Center for Electron Beam Research) of Texas A&M University is currently underway. A concept paper on the new project was submitted to the RCARO SAC for review and approval for fast-tracking.

The SAC congratulated the RCARO for the successful completion of the RCA/UNOSSC Project on Electron Beam Applications and appreciated the great efforts made by the RCARO.

The SAC took note of the concept paper on the new partnership project with the UNOSSC and NCEBR (National Center for Electron Beam Research) as a follow-up of the current one and approved the fast-tracking for the new project development.

3.2. Implementation of the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project on Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment under EPR

The RCARO reported on the progress made under the RCARO/ASEANTOM project. The Meeting took note that according to the revised work plan, “Guidelines for Radioactivity Measurements in the Environment and Individual Dose Assessment following a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency” was developed and a Webinar was held to introduce the document to the participating countries. The Meeting also took note of the plan for an online training course on advanced knowledge on radiation monitoring and dose assessment to be conducted in November and the review meeting to be held in Q4 this year in collaboration with ARADOS (Asian Radiation Dosimetry Group) (to be confirmed).

The SAC took note of the progress made under the RCARO/ASEANTOM project. To respond to the strong needs on the capacity building on the radiation monitoring and to facilitate the wider use of the Guidelines, the Meeting recommended RCARO seek for opportunities for follow-up project/activities.

3.3. RCARO Managed Project: Development of a new Research Project

The RCARO briefed on the development of a new Research Project. According to the approval by the 43rd RCA NRM, RCARO conducted a survey of the NRs to identify the regional needs for a new Research Project, and the results showed that radiation oncology is the highest priority area. A total of 9 theme proposals on radiation oncology were received and reviewed by the technical experts and the RCA PAC. The theme proposal from Indonesia on closing the gap in radiotherapy access was evaluated as the 1st priority. Based on the review comments by the PAC, the proposal will be revised accordingly.

The Meeting took note that upon the approval of the NRs, the GPs will be invited to submit research proposals on the selected theme to the RCARO for review by the RRC.

The SAC took note of the results of the survey conducted for the new Research Project.

The SAC recommended the 50th RCA GCM approve the theme proposal on closing the gap in radiotherapy access (INS) to be implemented as the new RCA Research Project.

3.4. Establishment of an Integrated Information System

The SAC was presented with the progress on establishing an integrated information system. The RCARO reported its details to set up dedicated platforms and upgrade the RCA e-Learning Campus to provide expanded information and comprehensive online services. The improvement of the RCA website will be carried out through the second half of 2021 with a target to launch the integrated information system in the first half of 2022.

The SAC took note of the progress made on building the integrated information system. Considering the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and the recent trend of digital transformation, the SAC appreciated the RCARO for its efforts on establishing the integrated online platform.

3.5. Publication of Newsletters

The RCARO reported on the progress on publishing the RCA Newsletter, in terms of the structure and publication procedure. The RCARO presented on the Terms of Reference of the RCA Newsletter Committee. The RCARO plans to publish and distribute the first edition of the newsletters via email to the target readers in March 2022 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the RCA and the 20th Anniversary of the RCARO.

The SAC complimented the RCARO for its efforts in enhancing the visibility of the RCA. The SAC took note of the progress on the publication of the RCA newsletters in terms of the structure and publication procedure, and approved the Terms of Reference for the RCA Newsletter Committee.

For further enhancement of the RCA visibility, the SAC recommended the RCARO consider organizing events (physical/virtual) to disseminate the RCA achievements and best practices.

3.6. Other Matters

The RCARO reported on the other activities: participation in the meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA; supporting the IAEA for RCA administrative matters and coordination of activities; assisting the RCA Chair for facilitating an efficient

implementation of the RCA Programme; implementation of RAS9092 on strengthening capacity to respond to radiological emergencies of Category II & III facilities in the RCA region; and capacity building on radiation application technology.

The SAC appreciated the RCARO for its contribution to the RCA through its activities for the STF, assisting the Secretariat functions and RCA Chair, and implementing capacity building activities.

The SAC recommended the 50th RCA GCM approve the RCARO's plan on launching the new master's degree course with KINGS (KEPCO International Nuclear Graduate School) as one of the capacity building activities for the RCA.

4. Arrangement for the 34th SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 34th RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 44th 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.