

**Meeting Report of
The 5th RCARO Advisory Committee**
11 April 2004, Holiday Inn Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan

1. The 5th RCARO Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting was held on 11 April 2004 at Holiday Inn Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan, prior to the 26th Meeting of National RCA Representatives. AC members participating were AUL (John F Easey), CPR (Deng Ge), PHI (Alumanda Dela Rosa), ROK (Sung-Bong Kim) and IAEA/RCA Coordinator (M P Dias). IND was unable to attend. A quorum was present with the participation of 5 out of 6 members. SRL (J M C A Jayasinghe), the current RCA Chair, and PAK (Munim Awais), the in-coming RCA Chair also attended as observers. RCARO was represented by the Director (Kim, Jin-Kyoung), the Programme Officer (John K Chung) and the Assistant Programme Officer (Young-Shin Kwon). K Yokoyama (Cost-free Expert to IAEA/RCA Office) was also attended. The Meeting welcomed PHI (Alumanda Dela Rosa) as a new member replacing BGD. The Meeting expressed appreciation to BGD (Prof. Naiyyum Choudury) for his past contributions as the AC Chair. The Meeting by consensus elected AUL as the new AC Chair.

2. (Matters arising from the 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting related to RCARO) RCARO reported to the Meeting on the matters arising from the 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting related to RCARO and actions taken. These were 1) Redesigning the RCA logo 2) Publication of RCA success stories by RCARO and 3) Composition of the Selection Committee for a new Director of the RCARO.

Concerning the RCA logo, the Meeting agreed with the view of many Member States that the logo design without national boundaries would be preferable. The Meeting agreed to recommend this design without national boundaries to the NRM for final acceptance and adoption. RCARO circulated draft guidelines on the use of the logo. At the 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting, the RCARO was requested to draft the guidelines. The Meeting agreed that such guidelines would provide a basis for the use of the logo. The Meeting agreed to recommend the guidelines to the NRM for final adoption including an example of the font for the acronym 'RCA' to be used with the logo.

With regard to RCA success stories, the Meeting reiterated the need to have such a pamphlet on a regular basis and requested RCARO to publish it in due time when provided the stories from Member States through RCA Coordinator. The Meeting considered there was a need to provide guidelines to help the Lead Country Coordinators to produce the stories. AUL (John F Easey), PHI (Alumanda Dela Rosa), MAL (Nahrul Alang Md Rashid) and JPN (Hideo Tatsuzaki) were requested to draft the guidelines.

RCARO reported the Meeting that the composition of the 5-member Selection Committee (SC) for the Director of RCARO had been finalized by the AC. They are John F Easey (AUL), Anil Kumar Anand (IND), Corazon Bernido (PHI), Chung-Won Cho (ROK) and M P Dias (IAEA). RCARO reported that they will arrange a SC Meeting to convene in June 2004 in Korea for finalizing the terms and conditions for a new Director.

The Meeting also requested RCARO to provide a time frame for selecting and appointing a new Director. The Meeting agreed to report to the NRM on the composition and future activities of the SC. The Meeting requested RCARO to provide the SC with details of any relevant issues that needed to be defined by the SC before convening the June meeting.

3. (RCARO initiated programmes for endorsement by NRM) The Meeting noted the decision by the 32nd RCA General Conference in Vienna in September 2003 requesting RCARO to submit RCARO initiated programmes to be undertaken on behalf of RCA to the next NRM for endorsement.

RCARO reported to the Meeting on the three main programmes initiated by RCARO since its inception in 2002, i.e., 1) Post-doctoral Fellowship Programme 2) KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course, and 3) KOICA Nuclear Medicine Internship Training Programme. Although the detailed proposals for the programmes have been circulated to the National RCA Representatives before implementation and gained wide support, they have not been formally endorsed by a Meeting of National RCA Representatives. The Meeting agreed to recommend these RCARO initiated programmes to the NRM for endorsement.

Meanwhile, the AC advised the RCARO to explore possible involvement of National RCA Representatives in over-viewing technical aspects of the programmes and also in the selection process for the participants. CPR mentioned that RCARO might consider the financial contributions by the programme partners as in-kind contribution to the RCA programme. AUL reiterated that transparency in the programming, selecting the participants and implementing of the RCARO initiated programmes would be required.

4. (RCARO Issues) RCARO reported to the Meeting on the status of the legal provisions for RCARO and on the 2004 Work Plan of RCARO.

Regarding the legal provisions for RCARO, the RCARO reported to the Meeting that at present it could legally function in Korea, based on the recent Ministerial Rules issued by the Korean Minister of Science and Technology. RCARO added that all administration functions are supported by KAERI, but the Director of RCARO has the full authority and autonomy to operate and manage the Office independently of KAERI.

However, consultations have also been going on with the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) on the possible recognition of RCARO at an international organization level legal status. This would enable the RCARO to formally engage with the regional and international community, particularly potential RCA partners, in its role of attracting additional fund for RCA projects. Also, this would provide a more appropriate legal status for the Director if originating from a Member State other than Korea.

The Meeting noted the current legal status of RCARO and encouraged RCARO in cooperation with IAEA to further explore possibilities for recognition as an international-level organization stationed in Korea. The Meeting agreed to request NRM to signify its

continued support for the RCARO as needed so that RCARO can function effectively and strengthen their capability and capacity to fulfilling the mandate given by Member States.

RCARO reported to the Meeting on the 2004 Work Plan. It mainly focused on increasing RCA visibility and promoting RCA viability. The Meeting voiced appreciation of the RCARO's achievements in the previous year and commended the future plans. As to the partnership promoting activities, the Meeting recommended the RCARO be aware of the organizational structures of the potential donors so that contact at the proper level could be made. AUL mentioned that the RCARO would further highlight the RCA's strengths when addressing to the potential donors using the results of independent evaluations..

Among the various activities for 2004 by RCARO, the Meeting noted some new activities such as a workshop for RCA working-level staff of Member States, supplying computers to Member States for better RCA information flow, temporary staff attachment to RCARO from Member States, and so on.

Regarding the workshop for RCA working-level staff from Member States, RCARO informed that it was planned to have the workshop in mid-June 2004 in Korea. RCARO would support travel and living expenses for the participants. Each National RCA Representatives would be requested to nominate a participant. RCARO would also invite lecturers. Prospectus will be developed with the advice from AC members.

Regarding computer support programme, RCARO reported to the Meeting that two sets of each high-tech desktop computers and a printer has already been transferred to BGD, MYA, PHI and SRL in March 2004.

The attachment of temporary staff from Member States to the RCARO for developing would be used to develop databases on radiation applications in the region and on the global sustainable development matters, RCARO reported to the Meeting that two people had already been selected, one from Sri Lanka and the other one from Indonesia.

The Meeting decided to request the NRM to endorse the 2004 Work Plan of RCARO.

5. (Other Matters) The Meeting decided to have the 6th meeting in September in Vienna in connection with the 33rd RCA General Conference Meeting.

Prepared and reported by
John F Easey (AUL), the Chair of RCARO AC
12 April 2004 in Islamabad, Pakistan