

**Report of the 1st Meeting of the
Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA
13th August 2020**

1. Introduction

During the 42nd Meeting of the National Representatives held on 23rd April 2020 a preliminary report of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA was presented and a general agreement has been reached on the composition of the task force and the draft lists of activities to be carried out. The meeting also requested that the task force worked out a more detailed work plan including budget implications to be reported to the next RCA General Conference Meeting in September for considerations of all GPs.

Hence, in pursuant to that, the first Meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA was held on 13th August 2020 via video conferencing. The Agenda of the Meeting is in **Annex 1**.

The Meeting had ten (10) participants and observers comprising representatives from JPN, MAL, ROK, THA, VIE, RCARO, and the RCA-FP. The meeting was chaired by the NR of MAL and JPN, MAL and RCARO were appointed as rapporteurs. The List of Participants is in **Annex 2**.

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare detailed work plans including concrete budgetary proposals for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA for consideration of the 49th GCM.

2. Overview of the Preparation of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA

MAL in its capacity as the current RCA Chair, summarized and explained the objective and the draft list of events proposed to celebrate the Anniversary, as well as the draft work plan approved at the 42nd NRM (**Annex 3**).

JPN noted the necessity to clarify the financial details for each event, such as who is expected to cover the budget, and how much it would be, especially when the budgets are to be covered by the EBT contributions, in order that all the GPs have sufficient information to approve the proposed plan for the 50th Anniversary.

THA noted that the Ministerial Conference would need a concrete plan including finance and contents of the activities. In consideration of the budget constraint that may arise, it suggested to make a list of activities and their required budget for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA for the NRs' consideration.

ROK noted the necessity to prioritize the activities, in precaution that the necessary fund may not be secured. It was also suggested that another Declaration letter for EBT contributions might be helpful for some countries in appealing to the financial authority. The issue of the Declaration letter will be considered in due course, as necessary.

Ultimately, the STF agreed to make a list of activities with their priority and rough estimation of the necessary budget for the Anniversary, and submit it to the 49th RCA GCM for consideration of the NRs. The list is given in **Annex 4**.

The STF decided to prepare a list of activities for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA with their priority on their importance and estimated budget for consideration of the 49th GCM (Annex 4). VIE and RCARO agreed to provide their inputs on the activities related to the Ministerial Conference and RCA Exhibition and Other Activities for review by the STF members prior to submission to the 49th GCM.

Recommendation 1

The STF recommends that the 49th GCM review and approve the list of activities for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA proposed by the STF.

The Meeting noted that it is the responsibility of the GPs to provide support and budget for preparation of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA,

3. Ministerial Conference

VIE presented a preliminary plan for the RCA Ministerial Conference as in the **Annex 5**. Two possible timing and venue, one on the occasion of 44th NRM in March/April 2022, the other on the occasion of the RCA GCM in September 2022 were proposed. He noted that the venue of Ministerial Meeting must be decided in the upcoming 49th GCM since the venue shall govern financial costs. Upon a consensus on the venue and detailed plan

with budget estimation, the plan would be submitted to the Prime Minister of Viet Nam for approval; however, this internal decision – making process takes quite a long time. VIE would be able to partially cover the local cost for the Ministerial Conference when the Conference is hosted in Vietnam.

MAL noted that it would be the first time for the RCA to convene the Ministerial Conference and the participation of the highest possible level from the GPs would be the key to the success of the Conference. The importance of adopting Joint Statement/Declaration was also noted.

VIE also suggested in the presentation a possible agenda and some topics to be included. He also proposed to establish a new WG for the comprehensive preparation for the Ministerial Conference, preferably to first convene in November 2020. RCA-FP responded to check the budget plan for RAS0086 project for the STF to further consider this proposal. JPN asked the possibility of having booth exhibitions by relevant organizations contributing to the RCA activities during the Conference.

The STF members agreed that all the ideas presented are a good base for the discussion, and detailed contents should be discussed in due course after the approval by the NRs.

The pros and cons of holding the meeting in Vietnam and in Vienna were extensively discussed. It was pointed out that it would be easier to attract more participants in Vienna. The STF also shared the view that in order to attract higher level of participation, to maximize synergy effect in the region, and to attract media in the RCA region, Vietnam would be the better venue for the RCA Ministerial Conference, although the decision should be made by the NRs during the next GCM. RCA-FP also noted that the IAEA is ready to cover the cost of traveling of the DDG/Director/RCA-FP, when the Conference are to be held in Vietnam. Whether the IAEA can cover the other cost for the Ministerial Conference would be subject to discussion within the IAEA.

It was also stressed that in order to attract high level participation, it is necessary to negotiate the wording of the outcome document (Joint Statement/Declaration) in advance, since in many cases, it needs approval in each GP at higher level such as in the cabinet, or by the Minister.

Regarding the GPs' additional EBT contribution for the 50th Anniversary, the RCA FP

informed the Meeting that the RAS0086 could be utilized as a channel for consolidating EBT from the GPs for the Anniversary, subject to the approval of the resource country of each fund.

Recommendation 2

It is recommended that the 49th GCM endorse Viet Nam to host the Ministerial Conference in conjunction with the 44th NRM in 2022 and also recommended Viet Nam to present the work plan to the 49th GCM for the NRs' approval.

4. RCA Exhibition and Other Activities

RCARO presented its past experiences in organising RCA Exhibitions on the occasions of the 40th Anniversary of the RCA and 60th Anniversary of the IAEA in 2012 and 2016 (**Annex 6**). It also provided some ideas - and estimated fund necessary for preparation of an exhibition and other activities for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA.

ROK noted the required budget for the RCA Exhibition and Other Activities and explained that it is not possible to guarantee whether it could secure the necessary fund, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RCARO clarified that it is willing to contribute to the preparation of some activities based on the past experiences and it has difficulties in securing necessary funding.

The Meeting noted that it is a shared responsibility of the GPs, and the GPs should try to make financial or in-kind contributions for the Anniversary.

Regarding the RCA Awards, it was questioned whether it is considered as a permanent or periodical event (e.g. for every 5-10 years), or only for this occasion. The STF agreed that such decision should be subject to the NRs' consideration, and the STF would consider the Award only for this occasion.

VIE noted the necessity of establishing a selection committee for the Award, if the Award was to be approved by the NRs. The idea of establishing a selection committee was supported by the STF members.

With reference to the publication of the 50 years of development and history of the RCA, JPN commented that taking the importance of the anniversary into consideration, the publication should focus not only on the results of the socio-economic assessment project

of the TCPC, but also on the achievements, history and development of the RCA during the past 50 years. RCARO shared the view that such publication would require considerable time for collecting data and resource materials and budget for its publication for which a publication committee need to be established to undertake this.

In this context, JPN noted that it is ready to contribute to the contents as much as possible.

It was agreed that any GP might also propose an additional event, if the GP could secure the budget with its EBT contribution.

5. The Way Forward

The STF noted the necessity to further refine the idea, budget and relevant schedule of the 50th Anniversary, and agreed to convene again between the 49th GCM and the 43rd NRM.