

**Report of the 2nd Meeting of the
Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA
18th February 2021**

1. Introduction

During the 49th RCA General Conference held on 18th September 2020, the report of the first Meeting of Special Task Force (STF) was presented and a general agreement has been reached on the activities and estimated budget proposed in the action plan. The meeting also endorsed Viet Nam to host the Ministerial Conference for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA in conjunction with the 44th NRM in 2022. Moreover, the STF was tasked to refine the action plan for the 50th anniversary of the RCA, including the planning of the Ministerial Conference.

Consequently, the second Meeting of the STF for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA was held on 18th February 2021 via video conferencing. The Agenda of the Meeting is in **Annex 1**.

The Meeting had seven 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 and MAL were appointed as rapporteurs. The List of Participants is included as **Annex 2**.

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare detailed work plans including concrete budgetary proposals for the 50th Anniversary for consideration of the 43rd NRM.

MAL, in its capacity as the Chair of the STF, opened the meeting and gave welcome remarks to the participants.

2. Review and Refinement of the Action plan for the 50th RCA Anniversary

A) Ministerial Conference

VIE presented an updated plan, preliminary agenda, as well as the cost estimation for the

RCA Ministerial Conference (MC). The presentation is included as **Annex 3**. The MC is scheduled in conjunction with the 44th NRM in March/April 2022, at Melia Hotel in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The overall schedule includes; Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), 50th Anniversary Ceremony, RCA Ministerial Meeting, as well as the 44th NRM and technical visit. In addition to that, it was suggested to invite the representatives from the RCA Government Parties (GPs) and the IAEA, as well as the representatives from other agreement bodies such as AFRA, ARCAL, and ARASIA, with a view to maximizing its public awareness. VIE also emphasized the importance of issuing a Minister's Declaration/Statements. It was noted that the maximum budget which could be covered by the VIE government would be 40,000 USD, and the rest of the budget should be mobilized from the IAEA, Extra Budgetary contributions from the GPs, or any other sources (**Annex 4**). In this context, VIE stressed the necessity to immediately identify the sponsors and the budget resources as the base for getting the approval and confirmation of the Vietnamese government on hosting the RCA Ministerial Meeting.

The meeting noted that in order to have more participation by Ministers, it would be important for them to have a chance to make Statements during the MC, and that the preliminary agenda should be reviewed from this point of view. In addition to that, it was also noted that there might be some organizations which had some interest in having booth exhibitions, therefore the possibility to have such an occasion should be informed to the GPs as soon as possible. The interested organizations may confirm their participation in such booth exhibitions.

Regarding the Exhibition organized during the MC, it was suggested that the LCCs of RCA projects prepare posters and exhibition materials. RCARO explained that in the 40th Anniversary, the host country (CPR) had led the exhibition, and thematic lead countries of the four thematic areas supported CPR by providing contents of posters. Ultimately it was agreed to ask CPR to share their past experience before finalizing the procedure for preparing the exhibition.

The meeting also noted that it would be necessary to take a possible influence of the COVID-19 pandemic into consideration. It was agreed that the venue and the modality of the MC should be reconfirmed at the 50th RCA GCM at the latest, taking the COVID-19 situation at the time into consideration. VIE expressed their wish that for a smooth preparation of the MC, the final decision of the venue and modality be made within one month of the conclusion of the 43rd NRM. Furthermore, it was also agreed that the STF

would prepare a contingency plan for such a situation.

As for the Joint Declaration, an idea to establish an additional working group which is dedicated to the drafting of the Declaration was suggested. Considering the importance and urgency of drafting the Declaration, the meeting agreed that it would be the most effective that the STF itself would work on it. While there was a view that VIE should take the lead on drafting it as the host country, VIE expressed its view that for the time being it would be difficult for them to work on it. Ultimately it was agreed that JPN would take the lead in preparing the initial draft of the Declaration of about two pages. The draft, which was endorsed by the STF and is included as **Annex 5** to this report, will be submitted to the 43rd NRM for the GPs' preliminary comments, and thereafter, VIE will take the lead on preparing the final draft as the host country of the MC.

Regarding the GPs' additional EBT contribution for the 50th Anniversary, the RCA-FP emphasized 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. The meeting also noted that the contributions for the anniversary should be managed separately from the remaining project funds.

In the end, VIE requested the RCA-FP to initiate the procedure for Host Government Agreement, and to send it to its Permanent Mission in Vienna in order that the preparation could start on time, which was taken note of by the RCA-FP.

Recommendation 1

It is recommended that any GP interested to make Extra Budgetary (EBT) contributions should inform the STF Chair of their possible intention for the EBT contributions within three weeks of the conclusion of the 43rd NRM, in order that the STF can start the actual preparation for the 50th Anniversary.

Recommendation 2

It is recommended that the 43rd NRM review the first draft of the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference, and give preliminary comments to the STF Chair within three weeks of the conclusion of the NRM.

B) RCA Exhibition and Other Activities

RCARO presented the progress on preparation of the RCA Exhibition in conjunction with the 66th IAEA General Conference (GC) in 2022, as well as that of other activities, namely publications, RCA Anniversary Video, and the website (**Annex 6**). RCARO noted the necessity to decide the responsible party and the detailed plan for each activity, considering the lead time for preparation of those activities. It was again emphasized that it was required to discuss how to mobilize resources necessary for the preparation of the 50th anniversary.

VIE suggested to use the same exhibition contents in Hanoi as those for the exhibition planned during the 66th IAEA GC. RCARO explained that the two exhibitions could be different as each would target different audiences. RCARO also noted that the scope and modality of the exhibitions were needed to be discussed and confirmed, and that those of the exhibition during the MC would depend on VIE and it would be practically more appropriate for VIE to take the lead in organizing one as the host country, supported by the GPs. Ultimately the STF agreed that this issue would be discussed again in the next STF meeting.

The STF also discussed who would take the lead of which activities. After some discussions it was agreed that at this moment it was more critical to find out how much budget would be secured, than to decide on who would take the lead of each activity. There was an opinion that prioritization of the suggested activities could be a solution for tackling the issue of limited budget.

Regarding the RCA Awards, JPN noted that taking the fifty years of long history into consideration, it would not be appropriate to select only a couple of organization or person to be honored and suggested that the STF make a comprehensive list of the person/institutions which had contributed to the RCA in the last 50 years, and was nominated by the GPs.

3. The Way Forward

The Chair informed that he was going to retire soon, and that the STF member of MAL would be replaced by the new NR. The STF expressed its appreciation for his achievements as the Chair of the RCA as well as that of the STF. In accordance with the scheduled change in the RCA Chair in the coming NRM, the meeting also nominated THA as the new Chair of the STF.

Recommendation 3

The STF recommends that the 43rd NRM endorse THA to take the role as the new Chair of the STF.

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