



MEETING REPORT

33rd MEETING OF THE NATIONAL RCA REPRESENTATIVES

12-15 April 2011

Bali, Indonesia

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33rd Meeting of National RCA Representatives

12-15 April 2011

Bali, Indonesia

Opening Ceremony

The 33rd Meeting of National RCA Representatives was held at the Melia Bali Hotel, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, 12 to 15 April 2011 and was attended by 42 participants from 15 RCA Member States and the RCA Regional Office (RCARO). The list of participants is given in Annex 1. The IAEA was represented by Mr. Kwaku Aning, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, Mr. Dazhu Yang, Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific (DIR TCAP) and Mr. Kesrat Sukasam, RCA Focal Person (RCA-FP). MYA and MON¹ were not represented at the Meeting. Cambodia attended their first RCA Meeting as an observer whilst Nepal's planned attendance as an observer at their second RCA NRM did not eventuate. Dr. Sueo Machi, leading the delegation of Japan on behalf of the JPN National RCA Representative, Mr. Tsutomu Arai, also represented the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA).

The Chairman of the National Nuclear Energy Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BATAN), Dr. Hudi Hastowo, welcomed all participants of the Meeting to Bali and expressed, on behalf of BATAN, his delight to be given the opportunity to host this very important Meeting for the Asia Pacific Region.

Dr. Hastowo offered his deep condolences to the members of the BGD delegation on the sudden and untimely demise of Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and also the National RCA Representative of Bangladesh, who had planned to participate in this Meeting.

On behalf of BATAN, Dr. Hastowo also expressed his deep sympathy to the members of the JPN delegation for the victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami disasters in Japan and the resulting Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. Dr. Hastowo expressed his hope that the problem would be resolved and the nuclear industry would use the lessons learned to improve the safety of nuclear power plants.

Dr. Hastowo advised delegates of plans regarding the technical visit on Thursday and stressed that this would be a good opportunity to combine technical and cultural aspects, particularly for those delegates who were visiting Bali for the first time. In concluding, he wished the Meeting success and for it to be fruitful for all parties.

Mr. Kwaku Aning, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, delivered the opening statement on behalf of the IAEA. Mr. Aning extended his sympathy and condolence to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. He extended a special welcome to the representatives of Cambodia, Nepal and the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA), and thanked the host country Indonesia for organizing the Meeting in the beautiful surroundings of Bali. He acknowledged the sustained and important contribution Indonesia had made to the RCA Programme over the years.

¹ Informed officially by a letter dated 11 April 2011

Mr. Aning expressed delight that his first official visit to Member States as DDG-TC was to the Asia Pacific region and for a meeting of the oldest regional cooperative agreement, which was notable for the commitment and engagement of its Member States. He also took the opportunity to highlight some areas of highest priority, i.e. technical cooperation and nuclear safety, which were integral components of all TC projects.

Mr. Aning noted with satisfaction the RCA's rigorous internal process to ensure programme quality and commended RCA Member States on the timely development and upload of RCA project proposals for the 2012–2013 TC cycle. He emphasized the importance of continued evaluation of progress in RCA project implementation, which was one important task for this Meeting.

The DDG-TC emphasized the importance of technical cooperation between developing countries in the region, and of triangular cooperation between developing and developed countries, and offered his full support for recent efforts to enhance cooperation with the other cooperative agreements, AFRA, ARASIA and ARCAL, which he considered a good initiative for sharing experiences and expertise between the regions.

Mr. Aning congratulated the RCA Regional Office for the work it had carried out over the past years in establishing partnerships with other regional organizations and in preparing awareness building materials for the RCA. In particular, he commended the Regional Office on having successfully established cooperation with UNDP, which had mobilized US\$300,000 to support a project on "Promoting and Accelerating Nuclear SPECT/PET Imaging Technology in the region."

The DDG-TC closed by renewing assurances of the IAEA's full support to the RCA Programme, under his tenure as Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, and the Agency's commitment to continue fulfilling all its obligations under the RCA Agreement, especially through the Division for Asia and the Pacific. He wished the delegates a fruitful meeting and looked forward to learning about the outcome of their deliberations.

Professor M. Syamsa Ardisamitsa, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology, Republic of Indonesia, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Minister for Science and Technology, Republic of Indonesia. He expressed his deep sympathy to the people of Japan on the tragic disaster caused by the recent earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident. He congratulated Mr. Kwako Aning, on his appointment as the Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation of the IAEA and extended his appreciation to the outgoing Deputy Director General, Ms. Ana Maria Cetto, for her hard work and capable guidance of the affairs of the Technical Cooperation Department. He also welcomed Cambodia and Nepal as the new Members of the Agency, and observers to this Meeting.

The Deputy Minister gave an overview of the Ministry's current priorities and expressed the view that nuclear science and technology could make important contributions to many of those fields. In fact, all four thematic sectors of the RCA's Strategic Priorities 2012-2017 were also part of the focus in Indonesia's National Development Strategies.

Professor Ardisamitsa commended the RCA on its pioneering role as a regional agreement amongst the Member States of IAEA and expressed pride in the fact that the Republic of Indonesia had been member of the RCA from its beginning in 1972. He also commended the IAEA for its successes in promoting nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under the three pillars of its mandate, particularly through technical cooperation between the IAEA and its Member States.

The Deputy Minister thanked the RCA and the Indonesian Nuclear Energy Agency, as the host, for preparing this event and wished all delegates well for effective and fruitful deliberations. He then officially declared the 33rd Meeting of the National RCA Representatives open.

1. Welcome Remarks of the Current Chair

Dr. Alumanda Dela Rosa, Director, Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, delivered the welcome remarks as the outgoing Chair. She extended a warm welcome to the Meeting to Bali and referred to recent significant changes for the RCA when, at the past meeting in Manila delegates had farewelled Mr Prinath Dias and were now welcoming his successor Mr Kesrat Sukasam. She expressed delight at Mr Sukasam's high level of experience and that a seamless transition had been achieved, thereby allaying the concerns expressed by National Representatives at the last meeting.

Dr. Dela Rosa gave a brief overview of the most important items for the Meeting and thanked the previous and present RCA Focal Persons, as well as Mr Dazhu Yang, for their strong commitment to and support of the RCA.

Dr. Dela Rosa closed by expressing her condolences to the delegates of JPN on the recent earthquake and tsunami which brought death to thousands of Japanese nationals and caused significant destruction of infrastructure. She also expressed her sympathies to the BGD delegation on the sudden passing of their National RCA Representative.

Designation of Chair / Rapporteurs

Dr. Dela Rosa then called for nominations for the new Chair and rapporteurs. CPR proposed Mr. Anhar Riza Antariksawan, Deputy Chairman for Basic Research and Application, BATAN, Indonesia, to be the new Chair of the RCA. IND seconded the proposal. All delegates agreed with the nomination.

MAL proposed NZE and AUL to be rapporteurs of the Meeting, and Mr. Frank Bruhn (NZE) and Mr. Peter McGlinn (AUL) both agreed to carry out this task.

CPR proposed, Deputy Chairman for Basic Research and Application, BATAN, Indonesia, to be the new Chair of the RCA. IND seconded the proposal. Mr. Anhar Riza Antariksawan was unanimously elected by the National Representatives.

MAL proposed NZE and AUL to be rapporteurs for the Meeting and both agreed to carry out this task.

Remarks of the new Chair

The new Chair thanked all Member States for the honour of being elected RCA Chair and their confidence in tasking him with chairing the Meeting. He expressed his condolences to the delegations from JPN and BGD, and also to NZE, where a recent earthquake in Christchurch had also caused a high death toll and significant infrastructure damage.

Mr. Antariksawan thanked the previous Chair for her excellent work and significant contribution to the RCA over the past year and the IAEA for the prompt appointment of a new RCA Focal Person. He invited all National Representatives to participate in the Meeting effectively and in a spirit of togetherness and harmony, which would set the stage for the development of the RCA over the coming year.

The Chair then invited all participants to briefly introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of the Agenda - RCANRM(33)/1 – Revision 1

The Chair advised that a briefing on the status of nuclear accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant would be provided by JPN under ‘any other business’, Agenda item 17.

The Meeting agreed to adopt the draft Agenda, Revision 1, with the inclusion of a briefing by JPN on the status of the Fukushima power plant under Agenda Item 17.

The adopted Agenda is given in Annex 6.

3. 32nd RCANRM and 39th RCAGCM reports - Matters arising and follow-up actions – RCANRM(33)/2

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to provide a summary of the most important follow-up actions arising from the above meeting reports.

The Meeting took note of the report.

4. RCA Annual Report for 2010 – RCANRM(33)/3

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to provide a brief summary of the report.

JPN queried the difference in criteria between supplementary and normal projects and how the former would be funded. The RCA-FP provided the further clarification that supplementary projects were intended to add support to previous ongoing or completed projects for which the original objectives had not been fully realized, but where the projects were sufficiently important to warrant further funding and time to achieve those objectives. Funding would be acquired as part of the normal TC budget or from extra-budgetary funds.

NZE commented that the main focus of the report was on individual activities and financial information, largely ignoring higher-level strategic aspects and outcomes and expressed the concern that the RCA might be missing an opportunity to showcase its wide-reaching impact. The RCA-FP responded that the reporting was done according to structure as agreed at NRM/GCM and documented in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules. Including more substantive issues in the report would require agreement by the NRs and would need to be discussed.

JPN expressed concern at the lower implementation rate and hoped that this would increase in the future. The RCA-FP referred this issue to the next agenda item and both he and the DIR-TCAP emphasized that the RCA's impact could not be measured solely in financial terms and noted that implementation rate was only one measure of the delivery of the programme. It had been higher in previous years and they were expecting it to increase in 2011. PHI added that the implementation rate only represented the assistance provided by the IAEA and did not take into account the national activities within the Member States.

INS and MAL suggested that the Logical Framework Matrix, which is used for the design of all TC projects, would be another useful way to define the implementation indicators. All impacts and activities should be quantified so that these can be used as criteria for project progress evaluation. This would need to be conveyed to the Lead Country Coordinators.

The Meeting agreed that Member States would provide feedback on the 2010 Annual Report to the RCA Focal Person by 12 May 2011.

5. Report on Regional Cooperative Framework– RCANRM(33)/4

At the invitation of the Chair, the DIR-TCAP gave a brief overview of the developments after the GCM last year. He noted that comments were included in a final draft of the RCF submitted to the National Liaison Officers Meeting in October 2010, to which representatives from non-recipient Member States had also been invited. At that Meeting, the draft was further improved and adopted by the participants. Subsequently the text was submitted to the Member States.

The DIR-TCAP explained that the Regional Cooperative Framework (RCF) addressed a total of ten areas for regional cooperation and now served as a reference document for planning and evaluation for Member States in the Asia and Pacific region. He emphasised that it was based on the IAEA and TC Medium Term Strategies and aimed to strengthen regional cooperation. He went on to note that it could be updated continuously to reflect the needs of the Member States and was not intended to replace the influence of decision-making organs such as the Board of Governors on RCA activities.

JPN commended the Secretariat on the delivery of a very good document, which provided better synergies with the RCA. JPN enquired about the ratio of funding between national and regional projects in the TC programme. Mr Yang responded that the TC programme was needs-based, reflecting the national needs of individual Member States, as well as common challenges faced by groups of Member States. These were different, but complementary purposes, with the national projects based on the country's development plan identified in the respective country programme

framework. The situation in the Asia and Pacific region was further complicated by the fact that there were two cooperative agreements which both had their own mechanisms. The Regional Cooperative Framework provided the background for the entire region but it was not intended to drive budget allocations. A rough estimate from previous cycles was that overall TC hard-core funding was about 2/3 for national projects and 1/3 for regional projects. However, different regions had very different profiles. For example, Europe had a significantly higher ratio of regional projects funded from the TC hard-core budget.

The RCARO commented that the RCF covered a wide range of areas, including aspects of nuclear power, but RCA was not active in all of these areas and asked how RCA could be involved in them. Mr Yang responded that the RCF included as far as possible all areas identified by Member States, based on previous TC programmes. However, some of these areas were applicable only to individual Member States, not groups of Member States. If the RCA wanted projects in these areas then the Secretariat would not object to these plans. However, the RCA had identified regional needs in its Strategic Priorities and decided to leave nuclear power aspects out as these were adequately covered through other TC mechanisms.

INS enquired whether a map of regional needs had been prepared so that those areas of greatest need could be identified for the design of national projects, which would then feed into regional projects. There was also a need to consider the socio-impact of the projects. INS was concerned that this could be beyond the expertise of nuclear science institutions and they would therefore have to consult other agencies with a broader macro-picture of the region. However PHI was of the view that, while this might have been an issue in the past, nuclear agencies could no longer live in isolation and were closely linked with the mainstream of national development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In conclusion, the DIR-TCAP commented on the uniqueness of the Asia and Pacific region, which was home for more than half of the world population and included some of the most highly developed and the least developed countries, as well as many developed and developing countries. The big changes in the region also provided the mechanism to bring countries with different development levels together. According to the IAEA statute, all Member States could participate in TC, which was not exclusive to countries that were recipients of TC assistance. Efforts were on-going to establish collaboration with other UN agencies and development partners, especially participation in the UNDAF exercises.

The Meeting took note of the Regional Cooperative Framework document.

6. Recommendations of the Cooperative Agreements Chairs' Meeting–RCANRM(33)/5

The outgoing Chair, who participated in this meeting last year, introduced the item and presented the four main recommendations resulting from the Meeting.

The subsequent discussion focused mainly on two aspects, namely observer status at meetings and sharing of information on the respective agreements.

Regarding participation in meetings of other Agreements the delegates suggested that any costs should be borne by the Agreement which sent an observer and that the RCA had to make certain it was not creating expectations that it would subsidize the participation of observers. They noted that in the past the four agreements had had meetings in the margins of the GCM and no financial implications arose. It was also noted that, in the past, some agreements were reluctant to allow observers to their meetings. It was concluded that the RCA would need to evaluate the pros and cons including the potential risks of opening its meetings unilaterally. In summary, the Meeting agreed to postpone the final consideration on participation in meetings of other Agreements.

Regarding sharing of information, NZE enquired whether the RCA had received summary information on the other Agreements, given that RCA summary had been prepared and submitted to the AFRA Chair, who was also the Chair of the Quadripartite Meeting. It was suggested that the RCA-FP should communicate with the Focal Persons for the other Agreements on the status of exchanging such summary information. It was therefore agreed that all information, which is in the public domain could be shared with the other Agreements.

The Meeting requested the RCA Focal Person to follow up with the AFRA Chair regarding circulation of the information prepared by the other Agreements.

The Meeting agreed to share all information which is in the public domain with the other Agreements. It also agreed to postpone the final consideration on participation in meetings of other Agreements.

7. Review of the Progress of the RCA Programme in 2010

a) Implementation of the RCA programme in 2010– RCANRM(33)/6

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to provide a brief introduction. The RCA-FP presented an analysis of why the adjusted budget had continuously declined over the past years and concluded that this was primarily due to the reduced number of RCA projects as stipulated in the RCA Medium Term Strategy. This increased focus was intended to enable higher impact of the projects. However, it was noted that the individual budgets of these fewer projects had not increased proportionally and the Lead Country Coordinators had been made aware of this issue for the planning of the 2012/13 cycle. It was also noted that four projects had been closed in 2010 and therefore the combined budget had decreased. Overall, this situation was likely to continue in 2011 but was expected to reverse in 2012.

PAK raised doubts on the interpretation that the overall budget had declined as the result of the decreasing number of RCA projects. A funding decrease could already be observed starting in 1999, whereas the number of RCA projects had decreased only in the last couple of years. PAK expressed the concern that fewer projects but with higher impact should also have had more financial resources available per project. These concerns were shared by JPN.

Overall, the National Representatives raised concerns that, with the RCA now having adopted a policy of having fewer but larger projects so as to achieve higher impact, the reduction in the number of projects should not result in a reduction of funding.

The DIR-TCAP commented that funding allocations under the TC programme were based on the needs expressed by the Member States. Available funds were approved by the Board of Governors and the General Conference. Also recently the Asia and Pacific region had experienced a disproportionate increase, with six out of the ten new IAEA Member States coming from this region. He also noted that the USA had recently committed US\$50 million for five years to support some specific areas such as: nuclear power infrastructure; water and environment; and, food and agriculture and invited other donor countries to contribute to this funding. No preference had been assigned as to whether this additional funding should support national or regional programmes and, therefore, it was up to the RCA to make a strong case for funding from this source, if it were considered appropriate.

The National Representatives noted the report provided by the RCA Focal Person and raised concerns at the continuing decline of the adjusted budget of the RCA programme. It requested the Secretariat to attend to this concern when considering the new TC 2012/13 programme.

b) Progress of the RCA Programme in 2010– RCANRM(33)/7

The progress of the implementation of the RCA projects was presented by each respective Lead Country. The specific projects presented and discussed were:

RAS5050 (LCC-Australia): Annex 7
RAS6038 (LCC – Australia): Annex 8
RAS7016 (LCC – Australia): Annex 9
RAS5045 (LCC – China): Annex 10
RAS5046 (LCC – China): Annex 11
RAS8111 (LCC – China): Annex 12
RAS6049 (LCC – India): Annex 13
RAS8110 (LCC – India): Annex 14
RAS6053 (LCC – Japan): Annex 15
RAS9042 (LCC – Japan): Annex 16
RAS8109 (LCC – Malaysia): Annex 17
RAS7015 (LCC – New Zealand): Annex 18
RAS8108 (LCC – Pakistan): Annex 19
RAS7019 (LCC – Philippines): Annex 20

After each presentation there was a discussion on implementation issues and especially constraints that were affecting the smooth delivery of the project.

The Meeting observed the good progress and satisfactory outcomes of the RCA projects, and encouraged the LCCs and NPCs to continue the good efforts for successful implementation. The importance of engaging end users and strengthening partnership collaboration was emphasized and encouraged.

Timely submission of the progress reports remains an issue, and the Meeting decided that the LCCs specify in their consolidated reports those NPCs who did and did not provide their reports. The RCA Focal Person will then report to the following NRM statistics on the reports received.

For future reports, LCCs were requested to follow a process of sending reminders to NPCs of their projects to submit the reports with copy to the respective National Representative, RCA Focal Person and Technical Officer.

Regarding project RAS7016, the Meeting requested a Working Group consisting of THA, JPN, AUL, PHI, DIR-TCAP and the RCA Focal Person to discuss the proposal by THA on the environmental database in connection with the nuclear accident in Japan. The Working Group was requested to report on the outcomes of the initial discussions for comment by the National Representatives under agenda item 17.

Regarding project RAS6038, the Meeting noted with appreciation the consideration of the TC management to continue the project implementation until the end of 2012 as originally approved by the Board of Governors. The Meeting also noted that with this development, the new supplementary project on this subject will not be pursued in the 2012-13 TC cycle.

Regarding project RAS9042, the Meeting noted that the request of assistance for sustaining the ARAN network is being considered by TC-AP for possible inclusion under a non-RCA programme.

Regarding project RAS7015, the Meeting decided to publish the database on the RCA website.

8. RCA Programme Development

a) Status of the 2012-2013 RCA Programme Development – RCANRM(33)/8

The Chair invited the RCA-FP to provide a brief introduction on the status of the RCA Programme Development for the 2012-2013 TC cycle. He said that all the RCA projects designs had been submitted in a timely fashion and uploaded in the PCMF by the designated Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs). The RCA-FP also presented the timeline for project development:

- Projects to be finalised by 24 June 2011.
- Final clearance by 16 September, to be ready for tabling and discussion at the GCM.
- Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC) to meet on 14-16 November to review the project proposals and to make recommendations for changes or approval.
- Final approval to be granted by 30 November after which the projects will be included in the 'My Projects' section of the PCMF website.

The mechanism for intervention would be via the communications between the LCCs and the project team members at the Secretariat through the PCMF platform.

A number of the MSs requested that NRs should be able to provide input into the project design process and also that the project design documents be made accessible to the Permanent Missions. The RCA-FP noted that the updating of the PCMF remained the responsibility of the LCCs and the project team members at the Secretariat.

Discussion ensued on how to meet the needs of specific MSs that could not be met via regional projects, i.e fellowship and scientific visits. The DIR TCAP advised that MSs should consider using the HR component of national projects to meet such specific national needs.

AUL tabled and distributed copies of a paper on ‘Observations on the participation of RCA Member States and National Project Coordinators in Project Management Meetings - A discussion paper from Australia’ (Annex 21). The intention of the document was to provide an analysis of the project management meetings for the currently active projects and suggestions on a way to support and strengthen good management and information continuity.

The Meeting noted the status of development of RCA projects and the indicative time frame, and requested the RCA Focal Person to include all National Representatives as project team member in the PCMF, and to organise limited access for the Permanent Missions if possible.

The Meeting also noted the suggestion of AUL for appointment of alternate NPCs for each project.

b) Report of the Working Group on RCA Procedure for Programme Development – RCANRM(33)/9

The Chair invited the NR of NZE, as the Chairman of the Working Group (WG) on RCA Procedure for Programme Development, to provide an update on progress. The WG comprised representatives from AUL, CPR, ROK, MAL, NZE, PAK and RCARO.

Recommendations to date of the WG are:

- IAEA to revise concept form to make it more user-friendly.
- RCA and IAEA to liaise to revise form to take specific RCA needs into account while still fitting into overall TC project development process.
- Follow more robust process for projects falling outside the Strategic Priorities. Presentations of proposals and related documents to be shared in advance.
- Establish electronic discussion forum at concept stage to enhance communication at all levels, and provide opportunity for input (including NRs and Chair).
- Provide more support/examples to inexperienced LCCs.

A preliminary report of the WG is appended as Annex 22.

The Meeting noted the limited response to the original questionnaire distributed to MSs by the Working Group on the RCA Procedure for Programme Development.

The existing Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Group covered only the concept design stage. With greater commitment from MSs to the process, it would be beneficial to extend participation beyond the current concept design stage. NZE proposed to expand the scope of the ToR with extended timeframe. The Revised ToR of the Working Group is given in Annex 23, appended to the original ToR.

The Meeting noted the work performed by the Working Group so far, and decided to expand the scope of the Working Group to cover the entire process of project development (concept and design stages.)

The Meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference for expanding the scope of the Working Group on the RCA Procedure for Programme Development

The Meeting requested the Working Group to present the final report at the 40th GCM.

9. Designation and modality for an appointment of a management position for the RCA – RCANRM(33)/10

The outgoing RCA Chair provided a brief review of the information provided in the background paper.

There was consensus that there was no need for a new management position to assist the RCA Chair and that all responsibilities involved with that position could be handled adequately by the current management structure of the RCA. As such, it was agreed to curtail discussion on this agenda item and to end consideration of establishing the management position.

The Meeting decided not to create this new position, and agreed not to pursue the subject any further.

10. Report of the Director of the RCARO – RCANRM(33)/11

The Director of the RCARO made a presentation on the RCARO report. The presentation is appended as Annex 24.

The Director of the RCARO described and demonstrated the proposed new RCA website, pointing out the refined, improved attributes and user-friendliness. RCARO was making every effort to have ‘institutional memory’ of RCA activities included with help of RCA stakeholders. It was stated that each NR would be given only one password to get full access to the information.

Noting that the question of what could be put in the public domain had been raised at the 39th GCM last year, the RCA-FP read out the decision of that Meeting, which accepted the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee recommendation that *the project documents, annual achievement reports, summary of outcomes of the progress review meetings prepared by PLCC, and meeting schedules could be opened to the public.*

The RCARO requested feedback from NRs on the new website by the end of May using the below Test Homepage address, ID and password:

<http://rca.plani.co.kr>, ID: rca, Password: rcaro

The Meeting noted the report provided by the Director of the RCARO. The National Representatives appreciated the successful efforts of the RCARO in

partnership with UNDP, which resulted in UNDP funding support of a cooperative project.

The Meeting also acknowledged the RCARO's considerable and successful effort in re-organizing the RCA Website.

11. Report of the Chair of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee

The Chair presented the report of the meeting of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee, held on 11 April 2011 and which was attended by INS, PHI, CPR, ROK and the RCA-FP. The Director of the RCARO and staff also attended. A copy of the report is attached as Annex 25.

The Chair emphasized that feedback was required from the NRs on two matters: 1) publication of the success stories on radiotherapy, which was included in RCANRM(33)/12 and; 2) the promotional video. He also advised that the video would be shown and discussed on Friday.

AUL enquired about the plan to establish partnership with the Global Environmental Facilities (GEF) as the introductory report of the RCARO implied that it did not have a high possibility of success. The RCARO responded that GEF covered a wide range of environmental issues, and with increased information and understanding about GEF mechanisms, the RCARO was hoping to be able to pursue the possibility of partnership more effectively.

On the topic of the legal status of RCARO, which was included in RCANRM(33)/13, the RCARO advised that there were complications with them trying to enter into partnerships with international organizations when RCARO had no apparent legal standing. It was agreed to postpone further discussion on this matter to Agenda item 14.

The Meeting requested the National Representatives to provide their comments on the success story on radiotherapy directly to the RCARO not later than 15 May 2011, and on the promotional video no later than 30 May 2011.

The Meeting decided that the revised version of the promotional video will be presented at the 40th RCA GCM.

12. Presentation on FNCA

At the invitation of the Chair, Dr. Sueo Machi, the FNCA Coordinator of Japan, gave a presentation on the activities of FNCA and the collaboration between RCA and FNCA. He advised that MON and KAZ had been introduced as new members to FNCA at the FNCA Ministerial-level Meeting in Beijing in November 2010. Dr. Machi's presentation is attached as Annex 26.

The Meeting noted the presentation and the Chair thanked Dr. Machi for his contribution.

The Meeting noted the report provided by the FNCA Coordinator of Japan.

13. Collaboration between RCA and FNCA – RCANRM(33)/14

Progress of the collaboration between RCA and FNCA in the areas of Mutation Breeding, Radiation Processing and Radiation Oncology was covered under the previous agenda item.

14. Extension of RCA Agreement – RCANRM(33)/15

RCA Chair invited the RCA-FP to discuss the renewal of the RCA Agreement, particularly in light of advice provided by the IAEA's Office of Legal Affairs (OLA).

The RCA-FP reminded the Meeting that the current 4th extension of the Agreement would expire on 11 June 2012, leaving little time for the decision making process. He had circulated a draft Fifth Agreement to Extend the 1987 RCA to the NRs, which was consistent with the previous practice whereby extensions of the RCA were effected by means of successive extension agreements. He advised that there were two separate, albeit linked, issues seeking resolution. Firstly, the Meeting would have to reach a consensus to extend the Agreement and, in such case, accept and adopt the draft text of the 5th extension agreement, which was included in RCANRM(33)/15. He also stated that, according to the IAEA Office of Legal Affairs, the date of the adoption of the extension agreement should be the date when the text was definitively adopted by the National Representatives.

Once there was agreement to extend and adopt the draft text of the 5th extension agreement, the Secretariat would send letters, referring to the agreement to extend and the adoption of the draft text, and inviting MSs to be party to the 5th Agreement to Extend the Regional Cooperative Agreement. The MSs would need to respond officially through their Head of States, Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Agreement to Extend the RCA would come into force after the deposit of acceptance by at least two MSs.

ROK raised the issue of amending the text of the Agreement to provide RCARO with legal status, which would assist RCARO in negotiating partnerships with other international organisations. RCARO had previously explained under the Agenda item 11 their reasons for seeking recognition of their legal status in the Agreement.

AUL, CPR, IND, INS, JPN, MAL, NZE, PAK, PHI, THA and VIE confirmed that they were in a position to be able to agree to the 5th extension agreement as drafted, but that any proposed amendments of the Agreement would need further consideration and endorsement by their respective governments. BGD, SIN and SRL advised that they needed to refer the matter back to government before being able to agree officially.

ROK stated that they needed to consult the authorities concerned before being able to confirm acceptance of the 5th extension agreement as drafted. ROK advised that they expected to be able to respond within two weeks.

RCARO advised that, if all other MSs did not want to revise the text of the Agreement then the RCARO would explore other alternatives to resolve the issue of partnering with international organisations.

The Meeting adopted the draft text of the Fifth Agreement to Extend the 1987 Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology and agreed on the recommendation of the Office of Legal Affairs of the IAEA contained in RCANRM(33)/15, while noting that ROK will notify the RCA Chair of its decision on the draft text of the fifth extension by the end of April 2011.

15. Activities for the 40th Anniversary of the RCA

RCA Chair invited CPR, as host of the next RCA NRM, to provide an update on the planning for the 40th Anniversary of the RCA.

CPR asked for suggestions and ideas from the Secretariat and the NRs concerning celebration activities. Ideas offered included an exhibition or presentation on the history of the RCA, from its inception; a poster exhibition from each MS highlighting a particularly successful project that was led by that MS; and invitations to other partner organizations and other future potential donors to describe how they have benefitted from cooperation with the RCA.

AUL suggested that CPR could consider a venue that would allow a scientific/technical visit to demonstrate directly the value of RCA, e.g. where CPR had established value and benefit from leading and participation in a particular project.

In responding to the invitation of CPR to provide suggestions on celebration activities, the National Representatives provided some suggestions. Any further suggestions, including indicative budgets and funding sources, are requested to be sent to the National Representative of CPR, by the end of June 2011, and copied to the RCA Focal Person, RCA Chair and the Chinese Permanent Mission in Vienna. CPR will consolidate these suggestions and provide further information on the planning at the next GCM.

16. Arrangements for the 40th RCA GCM and the 34th and 35th RCA NRMs

The Meeting agreed with the proposal to hold the 40th RCA GCM on Friday 16 September 2011 before the IAEA General Conference.

CPR agreed to host the 34th RCA NRM in 2012. Dates and venue will be notified at the 40th GCM.

Arrangements for the 35th NRM will be discussed at the 40th GCM.

17. Any other business

Update on Fukushima accident (JPN)

Dr Sueo Machi, on behalf of JPN delegation, presented a detailed account of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. A briefing report and supplementary information are appended in Annexes 27 and 28.

MSs widely expressed to JPN their condolences concerning the consequences of the earthquake and tsunami.

There was consensus amongst the MSs that the RCA should provide some activities to assist JPN and potentially affected regional countries. It was suggested that the RCA Secretariat should examine the potential for a new regional project.

The DIR TCAP noted that the IAEA responded in a timely manner to the Fukushima accident, having put its emergency centre into operation on the same day, sent an expert mission to JPN immediately, and that the IAEA Director General had briefed the Member States on that day and since then there had been daily briefings. The DG has also declared a high-level meeting on nuclear safety in June.

Current status of RAS/7/016 and prospect of future marine project (AUL)

In line with the matter raised above on the Fukushima accident, a Working Group consisting of THA, JPN, AUL, PHI, RCA-FP and DIR-TCAP was created and met to consider the current status of the RAS/7/016 project and how that project might be best used to assist in understanding the impact of the Fukushima accident on the marine environment in the region.

A summary document on the outcomes of the WG meeting is appended as Annex 29. Discussion of the document created immense interest from all MSs. It was agreed that the releases of radioactivity from the Fukushima accident could have a potential impact on MSs, particularly in the marine environment. Under a new project, a coordinated approach to the gathering of field data could be instituted, which could then put in to practice the outcomes of previous RCA Marine projects (including RAS/7/016). The proposal put to the Meeting was to complete the objectives of RAS/7/016 by the end of 2011 and ensure that ASPAMARD or GLOMARD/MARIS became a fully functional database easily accessible for use by all MSs. To this end, MSs were asked to encourage the NPCs of RAS/7/016 to promptly provide all available data generated under that project to the LCC by 15 May 2011.

For activities post RAS/7/016, the Meeting proposed that a new project on marine radioactivity monitoring be prepared and requested the Secretariat to consider it on an exceptional basis outside of the regular 2012-13 TC cycle. All MSs expressed interest in participating in the newly proposed project.

DIR TCAP advised that he had had internal discussions in Vienna before leaving for the NRM. He was using this Meeting to assess the views of MSs on potential areas and modalities for regional cooperation related to the Fukushima accident. The Agency was taking this issue very seriously and the DIR TCAP would be taking recommendations back to the IAEA and would be having discussions with the various IAEA Departments. The creation of a regional project to address a defined need would be considered seriously, with the focus especially on RCA Member States but also on other Member States outside of RCA.

As the current Lead Country for RAS/7/016, AUL was asked to prepare a concept design paper for the new project by 21 April, with a full project proposal by the end of April; both to be submitted to the RCA-FP. All Member States were requested to provide inputs and suggestions to AUL to meet the deadlines for the preparation of

the project proposal. It was also decided that any proposals related to non-marine aspects should be sent directly to the RCA-FP.

The Meeting noted the presentation of the JPN delegate on the ‘Nuclear accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station’.

In view of the Fukushima accident, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to consider initiating a new regional project (only radiological impact on the marine environment) or projects (including components beyond marine) on an exceptional basis.

The Meeting requested AUL, as the Lead Country of RAS/7/016, to prepare and submit a draft project proposal on the radiological impact on the marine environment, with inputs/suggestion from the participating countries, to the RCA-FP by 30 April 2011.

The Meeting further requested the NRs to encourage the NPCs of RAS7016 to promptly provide all available data without delay for completion by 15 May 2011.

In the event that Member States have concerns about regional impacts beyond the marine environment, the Meeting requested that NRs submit draft proposals to the RCA-FP by 30 April 2011.

18. Adoption of the Meeting Report of the 33rd Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives

At the suggestion of the RCA Chair, the Meeting reviewed and revised the recorded decisions. The RCA-FP was requested to circulate the draft report without Annexes to the delegates within one month after the Meeting. The NRs should submit their comments within two weeks of receipt. The RCA-FP would circulate the final report within two weeks after receipt of the comments.

19. Closure

RCA Chair invited the representative of Cambodia, as a recent member of the IAEA, to address the Meeting to give his impression of the Meeting. The representative of Cambodia thanked the Secretariat for the invitation and emphasized that the Meeting had provided him with good understanding about the RCA. Cambodia did not have the regulations and nuclear laws yet and the relevant infrastructure was still missing. However, the country had learned more about the RCA and continued their interest and commitment to regional cooperation. Based on the observation of the Meeting, he was hoping that Cambodia would join the RCA in the future.

MSs expressed the hope that Cambodia could join RCA as soon as possible.

PAK suggested that future NRMs should be 5 days due to the fullness of the agenda.

DIR TCAP thanked the Chair for conducting the Meeting in a patient and fair way, and thanked INS for its good arrangements and hospitality. He praised the NRs for their proactive participation in the Meeting. He was pleased and congratulated the

new RCA-FP on the seamless transition from the former RCA-FP, and the good performance which was observed during the Meeting and shared by the Member States.

PHI, on behalf of all Member States, thanked the INS government for the preparation and hosting of the Meeting, and the IAEA, DIR TCAP and RCA-FP for the successful Meeting. She also thanked the Chair for conducting the Meeting in such a professional and productive manner.

The RCA Chair expressed gratitude to all NRs for attendance and active participation that contributed to a successful Meeting. He also thanked the rapporteurs for preparing the draft of Meeting report and the RCA-FP for working hard in assisting him and the DIR TCAP for his support.

Finally, the RCA Chair wished all participants a safe journey back home and was looking forward to meeting again at the 40th RCA GCM in Vienna in September.