

**Meeting Record of
The 2nd RCARO Standing Advisory Committee Meeting
26 March 2006, Bangkok, Thailand**

1. The 2nd RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting (hereinafter referred to as the Meeting) was held on 26 March 2006 (Sunday) at the Amari Boulevard Hotel in Bangkok in connection with the 28th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives hosted by Thailand.

2. Members that attended at the Meeting were the three RCA Chairs (MAL, THA and AUL), ROK as the host country of the RCARO, and the RCA Focal Person of the IAEA. Observers were from PAK and IAEA RCA Office. The RCARO headed by the Director, functioned as the secretariat of the Meeting. The quorum was constituted with the attendance of all SAC members. **A list of the participants is attached as Annex 1.**

3. The Meeting was opened by the out-going Chair (Mr Nahrul Khair Alang Md Rashid, MAL). He expressed appreciation to the RCARO for making sustainable progress during the first year of the full operation and expressed his satisfaction that the RCARO became more instrumental in fulfilling the mandate given by the Member States. The out-going Chair introduced the incoming Chair (Mr Manoon Aramrattana, THA). The in-coming Chair stated that he recognized tangible benefits by the RCARO in recent years and expressed expectation of full support by Member States to the RCARO while requesting contributions by the IAEA with the new managerial change in the TC Department. On behalf of the SAC, the Chair also expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for providing financial support for the operation of the RCARO. The Chair then appointed Mr John K Chung as the rapporteur assisted by Mr Jay Lee of RCARO.

4. The Meeting adopted the agenda with a few more items added for discussion. The additional agenda items were 1) RCA Information Kit 2) Report of the Director, RCARO on 2006 Work Plan, and 3) Evaluation of the performance of the Director of RCARO. The Meeting also agreed to revisit the 'Roles and Functions of the RCARO SAC' and 'Enhancement of the Legal Status of the RCARO' under the agenda item of Other Matters. **The agenda is attached as Annex 2.**

5. (General Discussion)

5. 1 RCA Success Stories: Subsequent to the decision by the 34th RCA GCM, the RCARO reported to the Meeting that it drafted 'RCA Success Stories' in the identified areas. The Meeting thanked RCARO for drafting the write-ups for publication and commented that more focused and attractive writings would be necessary before publication. The Meeting reiterated that the target audiences of the 'RCA Success Stories' should more clearly be defined. The Meeting requested RCARO to seek comments on the draft write-ups from the responsible project leading persons from the related Member States, preferably within two months from now, and request a professional writer to prepare the final draft. AUL emphasized that all success stories would need to be complied based on a common template on an acceptable norm. The RCARO was requested to fund the technical writer, if budget is available.

The Meeting also viewed that a special event for technical communication, preferably during the planned Meeting of the TSLCCs in end of July 2006 in Vienna, would be useful to help them to produce good success stories. In this regard, the Meeting requested the IAEA to look into the possibility of organizing such event in due time and due course.

5. 2 (RCARO 2005 Fund): The RCARO reported to the Meeting that a workshop for developing future RCA environment strategies, in particular the marine environment, had been arranged by the RCARO during 20-23 February 2006 in Daejeon, Korea, with the participation of 22 experts from 15 Member States and representatives from IAEA and UNEP. The workshop recommended three areas of future RCA marine environment projects, i.e. 1) Pollution of marine coastal environment from land-based sources, sedimentation and contaminant transport, and coastal marine environment radioactivity database 2) Seafood safety, and 3) Harmful algal blooms.

The Meeting advised that the recommendations would appropriately be considered in planning the RCA environment sector projects in the context of the RCA Medium Term Strategy.

5. 3 (RCA-UNDP(K) Project): The RCARO submitted a revised concept paper on the UNDP(Korea) Post-Tsunami Environment Impact Assessment Project for final review by the Meeting. The RCARO reported to the Meeting that a project review meeting was organized by the RCARO in 23-24 February 2006 in Daejeon, Korea to complete the final draft of the concept paper and also to develop work plans for the project period.

The Meeting appreciated the valuable efforts by the RCARO in securing additional funds for RCA projects and commented that this would be a positive way to promote RCA partnerships.

The Meeting confirmed that this UNDP supported project would be implemented as the RCARO initiated project independent from IAEA, and advised following the fast track mechanism as outlined in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules.

The Meeting accepted the concept paper and advised some recommended changes to the project proposal, such as a more active interaction with the policy makers as part of the project design. The Meeting requested RCARO to obtain approval for the project according to the procedure for fast track approval.

5. 4 (Collaboration with FNCA): The RCARO reported to the Meeting that it had a discussion with the FNCA to exchange views on the possible establishment of collaborative channel, subject to the decision made by the 34th RCA GCM. The Meeting noted the summary of the outcomes of the discussion between the RCARO and the FNCA on 27 October 2005 in Tokyo and expressed the intention to refer the outcomes to the main meeting when developing further collaborative relationship with the FNCA.

5. 5 (PEMSEA Conference): The RCARO reported on the outcomes from a preparatory meeting on 23 February 2006 in Daejeon, Korea that discussed about the participation of RCA in the 2006 PEMSEA International Conference to be held in December 2006 in China. The preparatory meeting was attended by the PLCC for RAS/8/095 (Mr Ron Szymczak, AUL), NPC of China for RAS/8/095 (Mr Wang XiaoRu, CPR), TSLCC for Environment (Mr Andreas Markwitz, NZE) and IAEA TO (Mr Ross Jeffree, MEL). The Meeting noted that RCA's participation in the PEMSEA Conference would be a part of the RAS/8/095 event which is planned to be held during 6-13 December 2006 in China. The Meeting suggested that the PLCC would further coordinate with the IAEA to that effect and also advised RCARO to coordinate with the PEMSEA Secretariat regarding the participation.

5. 6 (RCA Information Kit): The Meeting reconfirmed the value of producing the RCA Information Kit for increasing awareness of RCA not only for RCA stakeholders but also for the third party target audiences. The Meeting, however, emphasized that the CD-Rom should be updated with accurate and appropriate information for practical use and that the next version should be reviewed before distribution.

6. Report of RCARO 2006 Work Plan

Mr Kun Mo CHOI, Director of RCARO, briefly highlighted some major RCARO activities carried out in 2005 and planned for 2006 which will also be reported to the 28th RCA NRM. The

Director of RCARO explained that the consultancy report prepared by Dr Carlito Aleta, the former RCA Coordinator, which surveyed potential RCA partners, would be one significant background information for promoting future RCA partnerships. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the works done in the previous year by RCARO and expected more enhanced activities in 2006. The Meeting suggested that RCARO also ensure consistency with the RCA Medium Term Strategy when developing future work plans.

7. Evaluation of the Performance of the Director, RCARO

Considering that one of the functions of the SAC is the annual performance evaluation of the Director of RCARO, the Meeting recommended that criteria would need to be developed for that purpose. The Meeting suggested that the working group that developed the RCA Medium Term Strategy would undertake the development of the criteria. The Meeting has the view that, based on the report submitted by the Director, the SAC will evaluate the performance and report to the RCA NRM for consideration.

8. Other Issues

8. 1 (Role and Functions of the RCARO SAC): The Meeting recommended that the current RCA Chair should be the current Chair of the RCARO SAC. The Meeting viewed that the Chair of the current RCA Meeting shall be considered as the current Chair. The Meeting agreed that the SAC would report to the meetings of the National RCA Representatives in the form of recommendations. To facilitate these views, the Meeting suggested that necessary revisions of the related documents would accordingly be made by the RCA secretariat. The Meeting recommended the amendment of its functions to make it consistence.

8. 2 (Enhancement of Legal Status of the RCARO): The Director of RCARO reiterated the need of enhancing legal status of the RCARO in order to effectively and successfully carry out mandates given to the RCARO. He then inquired whether there was any development in the proposed work for amending the RCA Agreement which could incorporate the establishment and operation of the RCARO. He added that at the last RCARO SAC meeting, there was a suggestion to form a working group in early 2006 to look into the overall aspects of the amendment of the RCA Agreement targeting for 2012.

The Meeting considered that enhancing the legal status of RCARO is mainly require to effectively interact with the Korean government and to successfully represent RCARO to the international organizations when seeking partnerships and/or attracting fund for RCA. The Meeting viewed that what is first and foremost needed is to have clear opinion from the Korean

government on what kind of options would be required to deal with the problems that the RCARO are facing.

8. 3 (Next SAC Meeting): The Meeting agreed to have the 3rd RCARO SAC Meeting prior to the 35th RCA GCM in Vienna in September 2006.

9. Closing

The Chair announced closing of the 2nd RCARO SAC Meeting and appreciated the members and RCARO for the dedicated discussion to bring out rightful advice and recommendations on the RCARO operation.

Reflected comments by AUL (Ron) 27 March 2006

Reflected comments by IAEA (Prinath) 27 March 2006

Annex 1

List of Participants in the RCARO 2nd SAC Meeting

SAC Members

- 1) Mr Manoon Aramrattana, THA (Current RCA Chair)
- 2) Mr Ron Cameron, AUL (Immediate Next RCA Chair)
- 3) Mr Nahrul Khair Alang Md. Rashid, MAL (Immediate Past RCA Chair)
- 4) Ms Ji-Young Park, ROK (on behalf of Mr Sung-Kwang Yang)
- 5) Mr Mahendra Prinath Dias, RCA Focal Person, IAEA

Observers

- 1) Mr Asif Salahuddin, PAK
- 2) Mr John Easey, AUL
- 3) Mr Chouvana Rodthongkom, THA
- 4) Mr Somporn Chongkom, THA
- 5) Ms Jindarom Chvajarernpun, THA
- 6) Mr Jeong-Kong Lee, ROK

RCARO (Secretariat)

- 1) Mr Kun Mo CHOI, Director
- 2) Mr John K Chung, Programme Officer
- 3) Mr Jay Lee, Assisting Programme Officer

The 2nd RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
26 March 2006, Sunday (3:00 pm), Amari Boulevard Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks by the Out-going Chair (MAL)
2. Designation of the In-coming Chair (THA)
3. Remarks by the Chair and Appointment of the Rapporteur(s)
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. General Discussion and Recommendations
 - 1) RCA Success Stories
 - 2) RCARO 2005 Fund
 - 3) RCA-UNDP (Korea) Project
 - 4) Collaboration with FNCA
 - 5) PEMSEA Conference
 - 6) RCA Information Kit
6. Report of the Director, RCARO on RCARO 2006 Work Plan
7. Evaluation of the Director, RCARO
8. Other Issues
 - 1) Roles and Functions of RARO SAC
 - 2) Enhancement of Legal Status of RCARO
 - 3) Next SAC Meeting
9. Closing