



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**  
**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

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**REPORT OF**

**THE 30th RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

14 April 2020

## **1. Background and Introduction**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, a physical meeting of the 30th RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee was replaced with online reporting and discussion on each item via email. The members of the SAC are Mr. Abdul Muin Abdul Rahman (Current RCA Chair, NR of MAL), Mr. T. M. R. Tennakoon (Immediate past RCA Chair, NR of SRL), Mr. Phiphat Phruksarojanakun (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of THA), Ms. Eun Kyeong Jee (NR of ROK), and Mr. Sinh Hoang (RCA Focal Person).

On 4th of March, 2020, the SAC members were reported with the progress and plans of each RCARO's activity through background papers and were asked to review prior to an originally planned physical meeting on 23rd of March. On 7th of April, the SAC members were reported with updated documents for their review and consideration, including an additional agenda 3.12 on the revision of the Work Plan responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The comments and recommendations from the SAC members were received via email and the RCARO, as the Secretariat, consolidated them to this report. The below part summarizes RCARO's activities undertaken and future plans as well as recommendations from SAC members, under each agenda item.

## **2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur**

The agenda items were reviewed and adopted, including the additional agenda item 3.12. RCARO, as the secretariat, served as a rapporteur.

The SAC adopted the agenda with the additional item 3.12. RCARO, as the secretariat to the meeting, served as a rapporteur.

## **3. Discussion on Major Issues on the RCARO Activities**

### **3.1. Publication of Success Stories**

The RCARO reported on the publication of Success Stories. Two leaflets, one on RAS7029 in the field of air pollution matter and the other on RAS6083 and RAS6071 in the fields of nuclear medicine and radionuclide therapy, have been completed and approved by the RCA NRs.

The SAC congratulated on the completion of the two leaflets of RCA Success Stories – one in the field of air pollution and the other in the field of nuclear medicine and radionuclide therapy.

### **3.2 RCA Information Service through the RCA Website**

The RCARO reported on the operation and management of the RCA Website. The issue of limited information and data was raised which, the RCARO emphasized, requires an active involvement of the relevant stakeholders such as the LCCs.

The SAC agreed that the Website should have a systematic environment to serve as an online RCA's archive. The users should be able to access to both the completed and on-going projects with sufficient up-to-date data and information. In order to do so, a strong commitment of the stakeholders such as the IAEA, the RCA NRs and the LCCs is required. The SAC recommended that the RCARO continuously provide the instructions to the relevant stakeholders, especially the new LCCs, and update the Website to make it a complete project database, which could be evolved to “(tentatively named) RCA Integrated Information Service System”

The SAC further noted that the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic has brought global needs and demands on the web-based platforms for virtual interactions and information sharing. The SAC recommended that, in a long-term, the RCA Website provide functions for online meetings, expert networking, e-learning, etc., in addition to the project database.

The SAC agreed that the Website should have an integrated and systematic environment to serve as a complete project database, containing a larger scope of projects, from the completed to on-going ones. This will enable the Website to serve as an online RCA archive and provide the users to have a holistic and integrated view on the RCA TC Programme.

Noting the importance of the web-based platforms that allow virtual interactions and information sharing, the SAC further recommended that the RCARO consider establishing an information resource portal on the RCA Website that provide platforms for online meetings, expert networking, e-learning, etc., in addition to the RCA integrated project information service system.

### **3.3 Participation in Regional and International Conferences and Exhibitions to Increase the RCA Awareness and Partnership**

The RCARO reported on the RCARO's participation to the below event 2020;

- 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Isotopes (10ICI), 3-7 February 2020, Malaysia

However, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the below event has been postponed to 2021, as reported under the item 3.12.

- 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA15), 11-15 May 2020, Korea

The SAC took note of RCARO's participation to the 10ICI in 2020 and agreed RCARO's plan to participate in the IRPA15, postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.4 Support of RCA Experts for Increasing the Awareness and Promotion of the RCA**

The RCARO reported on the successful completion of supporting the NEP expert to an international event in 2019 and its plans for this year's expert support programme. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, it was informed that the two events where the selected experts (INS and MAL) have originally planned to participate have been postponed to next year.

- 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA15), 11-15 May 2020, Korea
- 20<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Non-Destructive Testing, 8-12 June 2020, Seoul, Korea

The RCARO will make necessary arrangements to support the selectees according to the changed schedule.

The SAC took note of the progress made under the expert support programme and the plans for the next cycle. The SAC also took note of the changed schedule of the planned events this year, where the selected experts would be supported for their participation.

### **3.5 Implementation of RAS9092 on Strengthening Capacity to Respond to Radiological Emergencies of Cat. II and III Facilities**

The RCARO provided details of the progress made under RAS9092 which was approved for its commencement in 2020 to be implemented for four years. The Project Coordination Meeting and Regional Training Course were planned respectively in May and July, but considering the outbreak and the rapid spread of the COVID-19, the two events have been postponed to an unspecified date. Further change of plan will be decided in consultation with the IAEA and the host countries.

The SAC took note of the progress made under RAS9092.

### **3.6 Development of E-learning Modules as a Follow-up of RAS6083**

The SAC was informed of the follow-up activities of RAS6083, the development of e-learning modules on the subject of nuclear medicine. The RCARO reported on the development of a dedicated online platform for online education named as "RCA e-Learning Campus" where a total of 30 modules are uploaded for the public as well as the experts. In

addition, as decided at the expert meeting held in February of 2020, 20 additional modules will be developed and uploaded this year.

The SAC appreciated the RCARO's efforts for the development of the e-learning platform to serve as an effective means for continued training. The SAC took note of the progress made under the project and the work plan for 2020, making 20 additional modules for the e-learning.

It was recommended that this platform be widely and practically used for the sustainability of the current RCA/RCARO projects and activities.

### **3.7 Implementation of the RCA/UNOSSC Project on Electron Beam Applications**

The RCARO reported on the activities undertaken and the plans for 2020 under the RCA/UNOSSC Project on EB Applications. It was noted that the Group Fellowship Programme, considering the COVID-19 pandemic, will be replaced with an online training instead of on-sight training. Moreover, it was reported that the Final Review Meeting be undertaken via online sources and progress reports. With the progress reported by the participating GPs, a video will be created to outreach those achievements in a total of seven years of implementation of the project (Phase 1: 2013-2015, Phase 2: 2017-2020).

The SAC took note of the progress made under the RCA/UNOSSC project and its contingency work plan for 2020.

Noting the completion of the project in 2020, the SAC recommended the RCARO seek for possibilities of a follow-up activity/project for continued support to the region on the subject.

### **3.8 Implementation of the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project on Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment under EPR**

The SAC was informed of the completion of the RTC on the subject of EPR and the launch of a new project on "Enhancing EPR Capabilities through Building Technical Capacity in Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment following the Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies." It was noted that the work plan for 2020 (Project Coordination Meeting, RTC and Review Meeting) is subject to be revised, depending on the change of the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. As reported under the agenda 3.12, the RCARO has prepared plan A and B under this project, and will be carefully monitoring the regional situation.

The SAC took note of the progress made under the RCARO/ASEANTOM Project on Radiation Monitoring and Dose Assessment under EPR and its contingency work plan for

2020.

Taking into consideration that both RAS9092 and RCARO/ASEANTOM Project aim to strengthen EPR capacities of the region, the SAC recommended the RCARO coordinate and manage the projects in ways to amplify the synergy between the two.

### **3.9 RCARO Managed Project: Implementation of a Research Project on Air Quality and Environmental Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in Asian Region**

The RCARO reported on the progress made under the RCARO Managed Project in 2019 and its work plan for 2020. The SAC took note of the launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project, as approved by the 48th GCM, and the work plan in 2020 led under the new phase.

Research Coordination Meeting is planned to be held in Q4 of this year but could be replaced with online assessment, considering the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The SAC took note of the progress made under the Research Project and its work plan for 2020. The SAC congratulated on the launch of its 2nd phase and agreed with the work plan set for implementation of the project.

### **3.10 Holding an Introductory Workshop for New NRs**

The RCARO reported on its plan to hold an introductory workshop for the new NRs in Q4 of 2020, subject to change of plan depending on the situation of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The SAC took note of and welcomed RCARO's initiative to hold an Introductory Workshop for the new NRs. The SAC also noted that there could be change of plan in holding the workshop depending on the situation of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.11 Other matters**

The RCARO reported on its other activities: supporting the IAEA for RCA administrative matters and assisting the RCA Chair for coordination of activities; participation in Working Group on the RCA Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 Coordination; participation in the Meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA; participation in the 21st FNCA Coordinators Meeting; capacity building on radiation application technology; inviting temporary staff from the GPs to the RCARO; and EB contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA. It was noted that some capacity building activities have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation as reported under the agenda item 3.12.

The SAC took note of the other activities of the RCARO: supporting the IAEA for RCA administrative matters and assisting the RCA Chair for coordination of activities; participation in Working Group on the RCA Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 Coordination; participation in the Meeting of the Special Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA; participation in the 21st FNCA Coordinators Meeting; capacity building on radiation application technology; inviting temporary staff from the GPs to the RCARO; and EB contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA.

### 3.12 Implementing Revised/Alternative Activities Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The RCARO reported that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have gone across the countries and the regions, and as a result, face-to-face events such as meetings and training courses need to be adjusted in terms of their timeframe and format. The below proposal was submitted to the SAC on the possible revision of the work plans under each activity/project.

	Existing work plan	Proposed revision of work plan (alternative activities)
<b>Promotional Activities</b>		
Participation in conferences/Expert support programme		
IRPA15 conference	May	January 2021
WCNDT conference	June	Postponed to 2021
<b>Partnership projects</b>		
RCA/UNOSSC project on EB applications		
Review meeting	September	Review through progress reports/ Development of activity video
Group Fellowship programme	Six months (May to October)	Revision of timeframe/ E-training
RCA/ASEANTOM project on radiation monitoring and dose assessment		
Kick-off meeting	April	1 <sup>st</sup> option: meeting in October 2 <sup>nd</sup> option: Development of guideline (2 <sup>nd</sup> year activity)
Regional Training Course (RTC)	July	1 <sup>st</sup> option: RTC in November 2 <sup>nd</sup> option: Development of online materials
<b>RCARO Managed Project</b>		
Research Project on air pollution		

Review meeting	November	Progress reports/Online assessment * in case a meeting in November is not feasible
<b>Capacity Building Activities</b>		
Introductory workshop for new NRs	November	Case study for exploring new partnerships for the RCA * in case a meeting in November is not feasible
RCA/KAERI training course	May	October
RCA/iTRS training course	July	August
KAIST master's degree course	Admission for spring semester	Online education
Temporary Staff	Two months each for three fellows from March	Two months each for three fellows from June

The SAC took note of the revision of the work plan for RCARO's activities this year, considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The SAC agreed that the work plan should remain flexible as the situation is quite volatile and unpredictable at the moment.

The SAC recommended that the RCA NRs endorse the RCARO's revised work plan for 2020.

#### **4. Arrangement for the 31st SAC Meeting**

The Meeting was informed that the 31st RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 49th RCA GCM which is planned to be held in September 2020 at the IAEA Headquarters.