



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**



REPORT OF

THE 38th RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

13 May 2024

Introduction

The 38th Meeting of the RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee (RCARO SAC) was held on 13 May 2024, in Beijing, China. The Meeting was attended by Ms Lili Xiao (Representative of CAEA) on behalf of Mr Huang Ping (Incoming RCA Chair, NR of CPR), Ms Natascha Spark (Immediate Past RCA Chair, NR of AUL), Mr Shalendra Prasad (Immediate Next RCA Chair, NR of FII), Mr Sangwan Shim (Secretary, Ministry of Science and ICT of ROK), and representatives from the IAEA, Mr Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde (SH-TCAP1) and Ms Khemphone Phaokhamkeo (RCA FP).

1. Opening

Ms Lili Xiao, the representative of CAEA, CPR, officially opened the Meeting.

Mr Dae Ki Kim, the Director of RCARO, welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The SAC adopted the draft agenda with a revision to add the below item for coherence with the background documents:

- **Agenda 3.6 Other Projects and Activities**

RCARO was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Discussion on Major Issues on the RCARO Activities

3.1. RCA Think-tank: Providing Support to the Development of the RCA - RCARO/SAC(38)/3.1

RCARO reported on its efforts to serve as the think-tank for the RCA. RCARO provided assistance to the RCA Chairs Committee in the arrangements of RCA policy meetings and discussions on the RCA policy matters. In addition, the draft 2023 RCA Annual Report was prepared, reflecting the suggestions of the 52nd GCM, and RCARO also continued with publishing the RCA Newsletter.

RCARO presented mainly on the two key issues under this agenda: #1) RCARO will hold an Introductory Workshop on the RCA Programme and Its Policy on 22-25 July 2024 in Seoul, Korea, inviting new RCA NRs appointed within last 3 years; #2) RCARO, in cooperation with the Agency, will host an RCA side-event during the week of the 68th IAEA General Conference to provide a forum for discussions on the RCA.

The SAC took note of the progress made in serving as the RCA Think-tank, including

its assistance in policy-related matters, updates of the RCA Annual Report and the publication of RCA Newsletters.

In regards to the RCA Annual Report, the SAC appreciated the efforts by the RCARO to reflect the suggestions by the 52nd GCM. The SAC suggested to give enough time for the RCA NRs to review the report and provide input.

The SAC highly welcomed the RCARO's initiatives to host an Introductory Workshop for the new NRs and an RCA Side-event during the 68th IAEA GC, and confirmed its strong support to organizing the events.

This NR Workshop will combine the two meeting outcomes from the 45th NRM and the 52nd GCM relating to RCA education and IAEA TC project life cycle.

The SAC suggested that the participants to the Introductory Workshop not be limited to the newly appointed NRs but include the other NRs previously enrolled as well, subject to the budget availability, as the event is seen to be highly important and informative. The SAC expressed its willingness to support the RCARO in the preparation of the Workshop and the Side-event, including drafting the agenda and inviting appropriate lecturers.

3.2. Complementary Projects: Addressing Regional Needs for Technology Development - RCARO/SAC(38)/3.2

RCARO reported on the implementation of the complementary projects including the RCA Research Projects and EB-funded project. With completion of the Research Projects, RP02 (2023) and RP03 (2024), RCARO will publish project achievements reports. RCARO, as the LCC of the RCA project (RAS9092), will continue carrying out planned activities until the project ends in 2024.

As the Key Issue #3, RCARO presented its plan to launch 1-2 new project(s) under the framework of the RCARO Managed Projects. The projects will be developed based on the needs of the GPs, aiming to be initiated within 2025.

The SAC took note of the progress for implementing the RCA Research Projects (RP02 and RP03) and the RCA project (RAS9092) and thanked RCARO for implementing such activities and projects to complement the RCA Programme.

The SAC welcomed RCARO's plan to launch new projects which will address the needs of the GPs for cooperative research focused on the regional issues. The SAC recommended that RCARO take into consideration the ways to link the new projects

with the IAEA's initiatives and the UN SDGs.

3.3. RCA Information Service: Effective Management of the RCA Information and Data - RCARO/SAC(38)/3.3

RCARO reported on its progress made and plan for providing the RCA information service. RCARO continued its efforts in collecting and sharing documents under the RCA through the RCA Website. As endorsed by the 52nd GCM, RCARO has been developing a “Data-hub” which is designed to offer expanded information on NS&T in the region, aiming to support developing directions and projects of the RCA.

Noting the shift in the responsibilities for future project information from LCCs to the NRs at the 56th RCA GCM, further discussions will be held between the IAEA and the RCARO on different roles of the websites (PCMF and RCA Website).

The SAC took note of the progress made in the RCA information service, including operation of the RCA website as the repository of RCA documents and development of a “Data-hub”.

The SAC agreed that an effective archiving and sharing of the RCA project documents is highly crucial. In this regard, the meeting recommended RCARO and IAEA to discuss ways to create synergy and avoid duplications between RCA Website and the PCMF.

Noting the shift in the responsibilities for future project information from LCCs to the NRs at the 52nd RCA GCM, further discussions will be held between the IAEA and the RCARO on different roles of the websites (PCMF and RCA Website).

Information and data for projects funded by the IAEA TC are uploaded on the PCMF while information and data for projects funded by the RCARO are uploaded on the RCA Website.

The SAC recommended to add one session during the upcoming NR Introductory Workshop that focuses on the roles of the two websites and provide training on the procedures to collect and share project information.

3.4. Capacity Building: Nurturing Professionals for Sustainable Development - RCARO/SAC(37)/3.4

RCARO reported on the progress and plan for capacity building activities. In order to expand the beneficiaries of the activities, RCARO will keep promoting the RCARO Scholarship

Programme while increasing the number of selectees for the Fellowship Programme. RCARO will also support a Malaysian expert's participation in the 20th World Conference on NDT, to be held in May in Korea, which was decided in 2019 but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the Key Issue #5, RCARO presented its initiative to expand the capacity building programme by developing on-the-job training activities and a post-doctoral programme and expanding its support through the Expert Support Programme.

The SAC took note of the progress made under the capacity building programme and its plan to expand it. The SAC welcomed RCARO's initiative to expand the current activities and diversify them, including the introduction of the post-doctoral programme and on-the-job training.

The SAC highlighted the importance of considering the issue of gender equality during the selection processes. The Director of RCARO acknowledged that gender criteria are part of the selection process and shared the excellent results.

3.5. Partnerships: Engaging with Partners for Expansion of the RCA - RCARO/SAC(37)/3.5

RCARO reported on the activities conducted or planned under the partnership projects with the US DOE, ASEANTOM and ARCCNM. As the partnership project with ASEANTOM is to be completed this year, RCARO plans to develop a follow-up project in cooperation with the relevant experts.

Moreover, RCARO will seek for potential partnership with other global partners, such as the UN CTCN, ASEAN, EU and FAO.

The SAC thanked RCARO's efforts in expanding the partnership with other international and regional organizations, and confirmed its strong support in exploring potential donors for promoting resource mobilization.

The SAC encourages NRs to join RCARO in discussions with, and conduct outreach with potential donor partners.

3.6. Other Projects and Activities - RCARO/SAC(37)/3.6

The RCARO reported on the other projects and activities: cooperation with the FNCA; holding a special exhibition at the IAEA Ministerial Level Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology

and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme in November 2024; and the Korea R&D Programme.

The SAC noted the importance of the IAEA Ministerial Level Conference and welcomed the initiative to hold RCA's Special Exhibition during the conference to enhance the visibility of the RCA to the ministerial-level participants.

In this regard, the SAC also recommended that the RCA GPs have proactive roles to attract high-level participants to the Conference, as well as to the special exhibition.

4. Arrangement for the 39th SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 38th RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 53rd RCA GCM.

5. Closing

The Chair of the Meeting thanked the SAC members for their advice and recommendations. The Chair also thanked the RCARO for the excellent work and encouraged the RCARO to continue supporting the RCA.