



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**



MEETING REPORT OF
THE 18TH RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Angus Room, the Vodafone Centre,
Museum of New Zealand
Wellington, New Zealand

31 March 2014
15:00-17:00h

Introduction

The 18th RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Vodafone Centre, Museum of New Zealand in New Zealand on 31 March 2014, prior to the 36th RCA NRM. The participants were Mr. Khin Maung Latt (Current RCA Chair), Mr. Chris Daughney (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of NZE) and Mr. Dae Ki Kim (NR of ROK). Mr. Waqar Ahmad (Next RCA Chair, NR of PAK) participated in the meeting electronically due to administrative difficulties in travelling to New Zealand. Representatives of the IAEA, Mr. Ali Boussaha (Director of the Division for Asia and the Pacific, IAEA) and Mr. Sinh Van Hoang (RCA Focal Person, IAEA) attended as observers.

The RCARO, represented by Director Mr. Kun-mo Choi, Mr. Jin-kyu Lim, Mr. In-seok Oh, Ms. Hyun-kyoung Jeon, Ms. Soo-youn Hwang, served as the secretariat of the SAC Meeting.

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Khin Maung Latt opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

1.1 Remarks of the Outgoing Chair, MYA

Mr. Khin Maung Latt valued the work successfully done by RCARO and wished best for a successful meeting. He invited Mr. Chris Daughney to deliver the opening remarks as the Incoming Chair.

1.2 Remarks of the Incoming Chair, NZE

Mr. Chris Daughney expressed his appreciation to the RCARO for its contribution to the RCA.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The provisional Agenda was adopted with no amendment and Ms. Soo-youn Hwang from RCARO was appointed as rapporteur.

The SAC agreed to adopt the draft agenda with no amendment.

3. RCARO 2013 Work Performance

The SAC noted the 2013 Work Performance circulated before the Meeting and complimented its successful achievements. The RCARO briefed on the publication of the RCA brochure for decision makers and public, participation to the International Conference on the Sources, Effects and Risks of Ionizing Radiation (10-11 Oct. 2-13, Bali, Indonesia) and 2013 IEEE Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference (27 Oct. – 2 Nov. 2013, Seoul, Korea), RCA expert support programme, holding a strategic workshop and the progress of RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technologies and on electron beam applications.

The SAC took note of the 2013 Work Performance and complimented RCARO on its high level of completion and comprehensive and detailed work programme for the year.

4. RCARO 2014 Work Plan

The 2014 Work Plan of the RCARO has already been endorsed by the SAC. The SAC agreed to focus on the major issues of the 2014 Work Plan of RCARO as the Plan had been circulated to all members of SAC in advance.

The SAC reconfirmed the 2014 Work Plan of the RCARO which had already been endorsed electronically in January, subject to discussion on new initiatives and related details under Agenda 5.

5. Discussions on the Major Issues from the 2014 Work Plan

The SAC decided to review the 2014 Work Plan focusing on the main issues.

5.1. Participation in regional and international conferences and exhibitions to increase the RCA awareness and partnership

The RCARO reported to the SAC on the survey result of NRs on possible events to participate in 2014. Five international/regional events were recommended by the NR of NZE; 2nd International Conference on Radiation and Dosimetry in Various Fields of Research, 27-30 May, Nis, Serbia, Advances in Radioactive Isotope Science, 1-6 June, Tokyo, Japan, 8th International Conference on Isotopes (ICI), 24-28 August, Chicago, USA, South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Conference, 1-4 September, Darwin, Australia, 9th International Symposium on the Natural Radiation Environment, 23-26 September, Hiroshima, Japan.

Amongst above events, RCARO plans to participate in three events which could be appropriate for promotion of the RCA in consultation with the SAC. To make the best use of the promotional activities, RCARO will engage RCA experts including the LCCs and NPCs of relevant thematic areas for their technical contribution.

The SAC recommended that the surveys of NRs continue to be undertaken to identify possible conferences at which RCA could be promoted. For the future programmes, the timing of the survey should allow results to be presented at the SAC meeting before the GCM in the year before the conferences are going to take place. The survey should provide a shortlist of possible conferences identified by the RCARO possibly with the assistance of the Agency and the survey should allow the NRs to propose conference other than those listed by the RCARO.

The SAC endorsed possible attendance at the three following conferences subject to budgetary constraints and schedule of the RCARO; the 2nd International Conference on Radiation and Dosimetry in Various Fields of Research (27-30 May, Nis, Serbia), 8th International Conference on Isotopes (24-28 August, Chicago, USA) and South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Conference (1-4 September, Darwin, Australia). The SAC encouraged RCARO to consider engaging local experts together with the RCARO to promote the RCA at these conferences.

5.2. Support of the RCA experts for increasing the awareness and promotion of the RCA

The SAC was briefed on the status of the on-going RCA expert support programme of the two selected experts from the AUL and PHI, according to the established selection criteria and process for the first half of 2014.

As requested by the SAC, RCARO established a more comprehensive guideline including timetable, a projected number of experts to be supported, budget, decision process for the programme starting from the second half of 2014.

The SAC complimented the revised guidelines on its comprehensiveness and detail and advised RCARO to apply them for future Programmes.

The SAC noted the special importance of the Programme and requested the RCARO to consider expansion of the Programme for the future in response to the demand of the government parties. The SAC recommended that NRs may interact with RCARO for possible follow-up actions in order to define the needs to be addressed through this Programme.

5.3. Holding a RCARO annual workshop to meet the needs of the Member States and the RCARO

The SAC was briefed on the RCARO's proposal to utilise the workshop for follow-up actions of the RCARO's strategic paper on its potential increasing role, which was submitted to the 36th NRM. The workshop could assist further development of the strategic paper in line with the decision of the NRM such as establishment of a working group or holding a meeting.

In addition, RCARO also suggested holding of a Workshop for the SAC members to facilitate more in-depth understanding and review of the RCARO's Work Plan without time constraint at the regular SAC meetings.

The SAC agreed with the RCARO's proposal on the workshop subject to the NRM's agreement that a working group should be formed to discuss future roles of RCARO. If the working group is not formed by the NRM, the June workshop could be utilised for an introductory workshop for new NRs.

The SAC noted the time constraint of the SAC meeting and recommend the RCA Chair to discuss with the Director of the RCARO the options to improve the current mechanism of the SAC meetings.

5.4. Submission of a strategic paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO

As requested by the 42nd GCM, RCARO conducted a survey of Member States to identify its possible future role. After reflecting the survey results and consultation with RCA experts, RCARO prepared a strategic paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO and submitted it to the 18th SAC and 36th NRM.

The paper includes a list of possible roles of RCARO such as supporting supplementary projects, developing nuclear technology related educational programmes, supporting RCA ad hoc programmes and committees. It also proposes action plans to establish a working group, initiate a pilot project and to consider recruitment of a senior staff from Member States.

The SAC took note of the RCARO's strategic paper and recommended RCARO to present it to the NRM for clear understanding and consideration of NRs. The SAC recommended that the RCARO prepare a half page paper on the pilot projects for discussion and decision of the NRs at the 36th NRM. The SAC decided that the recruitment of a senior level staff is a matter should be considered after the decision by the NRM as to whether the working group to consider the RCARO's role should be established.

5.5. Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website

RCARO reported its plan to review the current RCA information service through the RCA website on the access system for members and public. For effective information sharing and promotion of the related nuclear science and technology amongst the end-users, RCARO plans to draft a working paper on review and measures to improve the RCA information service through the RCA website.

The SAC took note of the initiative to review and improve its RCA information service through the RCA website and agreed with the suggested work plan on the RCA website.

5.6. Implementation of RCA/UNDP Partnership Project on Nuclear Imaging Technology

The SAC was briefed on the progress made in the RCA/UNDP partnership project on promoting and accelerating nuclear SPECT/PET imaging technologies in the region; regional training courses held in June and July, final progress review meeting held in November, and establishment of an expert network corner.

In consultation with the LCC and participating Member States, RCARO will publish the final report of the project and distribute it to the stakeholders such as the Member States, IAEA, and UNDP. RCARO will also add a Social Network Service on the established expert network corner to facilitate information sharing amongst stakeholders. According to the recommendation of the 17th SAC, RCARO will continue report the impact of the project up to 2 years after its completion in cooperation with participating Member States.

The SAC took note of the progress of the RCA/UNDP project which was successfully implemented in 2013. The SAC agreed with RCARO's plan to facilitate communication and information exchange amongst stakeholders following the project's completion.

5.7. Implementation of RCA/UNDP Partnership Project on Electron Beam Applications

The SAC was informed of the progress made in RCA/UNDP project on electron beam applications in the fields of food, industry and environment; kick-off meeting held in May,

Thailand, two regional training courses held on industrial and environmental EB applications held in August and October respectively in Korea and annual review meeting held in the Philippines in November.

RCARO will hold two regional training courses on EB applications for advanced material and value addition to food products in April and June respectively in Korea. Annual review meeting will be held on 19-20 November in Yangon, Myanmar.

The SAC took note of the successful implementation in 2013 and the work plan for the coming year.

5.8. Other Matters

The meeting was informed of RCARO's other activities on publication of the RCA brochure, updating RCA promotional video, fellowship programme, nuclear knowledge preservation and participation in the RCA policy meetings, RCA working group meeting and the 15th FNCA coordinators meeting.

The SAC took note of the RCARO's other activities regarding the RCA brochure, RCA promotional video, fellowship programme, nuclear knowledge preservation and participation in the RCA policy meetings, RCA working group meeting and the 15th FNCA coordinators meeting and encouraged RCARO to continue its endeavour in such activities.

6. Arrangement for the next 19th SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 19th RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 43rd RCA GCM which is planned to be held in September 2014.

7. Closing

The Chair of the Meeting thanked all the SAC members for their contribution to the advice and recommendations given to the RCARO.