

RCARO Director's Report Progress Report of RCARO 2012 Work Plan

The 34th NRM Decisions relevant to the RCARO 2012 Work Plan

The Meeting approved the recommendations of the SAC and requested RCARO to submit a detailed plan for the RCARO Strategic Workshop to the members of the SAC by 20 May 2012.

Regarding the draft RCA Success Stories prepared by the RCARO, the Meeting requested the National Representatives to provide their feedback by 31 May 2012.

The Meeting agreed that the RCARO and CPR would be in charge of organizing the materials for the exhibition.

1. Increasing the awareness of RCA

1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness

1.1.1 Publication of 5th round of RCA Success Stories

Pursuant to the decision of the 34th NRM, RCARO had received comments on the draft of the following RCA Success Stories from the Member States by 31 May 2012:

2 leaflets for

- Novel Applications of Food Irradiation Technology for Improving Socio-economic Development (RAS/5/046)
- Sustainability of Regional Radiation Protection Infrastructures (RAS/9/042)

1 booklet for

- Establishing a Benchmark for Assessing the Radiological Impact of Nuclear Power Activities on the Marine Environment in the Asia Pacific Region (RAS/7/016)

Reflecting the comments received from the Member States including AUL and INS by 31 May 2012, the three Success Stories have been refined and published and also uploaded on the RCA website.

The final version of Success Stories will be distributed at the GCM, regional/international meetings, other international organizations and the Member States. Copies will be also handed out at the exhibition during the 56th IAEA GC.

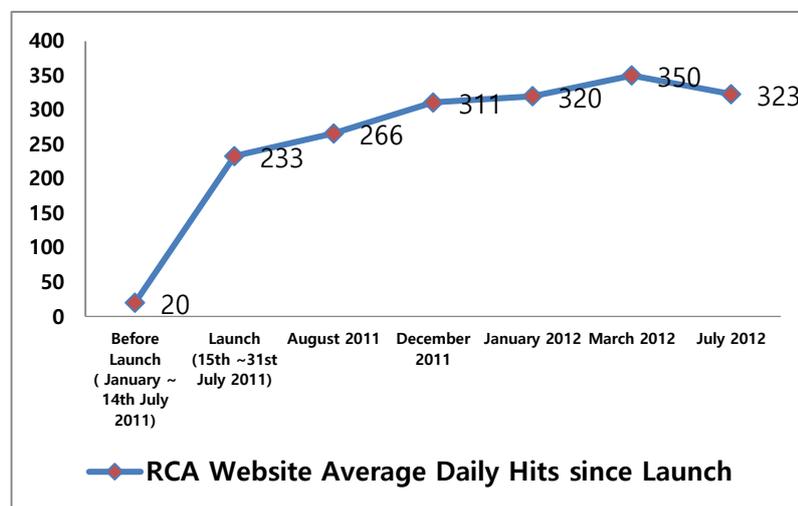
1.1.2 Updating promotional video on RCA activities

RCA promotional video was updated to reflect the replacement of NRs of AUL, SIN and PAK and to include Nepal which newly joined RCA. It will be further updated and uploaded on the RCA website to promote RCA and its activities, if necessary.

1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website

1.2.1 Updating data on RCA and RCA projects

Recognizing the notable increase of daily hits of the RCA website, RCARO continued maintaining and updating the RCA website with information on RCA and its activities; policy meetings (NRM, GCM), projects and news for Member States. As suggested by AUL, RCARO also uploaded the panel materials of the 40th Anniversary of RCA exhibition at the 34th NRM on the RCA website for public access (<http://www.rcaro.org/thematic>).



As shown in the graph above, there were around 300 visitors per day since its launch.

RCARO will continue to update information and RCA data on the RCA website reflecting inputs from RCA Member States and stakeholders. In accordance with the RCARO's efforts to

update the RCA website, Member States' active participation is required in the provision of relevant data and information.

1.2.2 Updating data on RCA stakeholders and end-users by the Member States

With the assistance of temporary staff, RCARO updated the data of the Member States including AUL, MYA, SIN, PAK, THA and other stakeholders on the RCA website.

1.3 Participation in regional/international events and support for the promotion of RCA activities

RCARO has made its efforts to present on RCA and its activities to target audiences in order to enhance awareness of RCA in the beneficial application of nuclear science and technology and to build partnership with regional and international organizations.

1.3.1. Presentation and exhibition on RCA/RCARO activities to target audiences

RCARO participated in the following regional and international conferences:

- Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, 18-23 March 2012, Busan, Korea
- The 13th Annual Australasian Tissue and Biotherapeutics Forum (ATBF), 14th International Asia Pacific Association of Surgical Tissue Bankging (APASTB) & International Society of Cellurar Therapy (ISCT), Australian Regional Combined Scientific Meeting, 28 May - 1 June 2012, Sydney, Australia

Summaries of the above-mentioned conferences are given in Annexes 1 and 2.

RCARO was not able to participate in the American Society of Nuclear Medicine Annual Meeting (9-13 June, Miami, USA) and East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress (9-13 July, Chang Won, Korea) due to lack of booth space and duplicated schedule with the RCARO workshop and this was duly reported to the SAC Members.

RCARO is planning to participate in the UNDP Global South-South Expo to be held on 19-23 November 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

RCARO is in on-going search for events to participate and promote RCA. RCARO will participate in any other appropriate international/regional conferences if necessary.

1.3.2. Support to RCA experts for increasing the awareness and promotion of RCA

RCARO supported a RCA expert in the publication of 5th batch of RCA Success Stories.

1.3.3. Preparation and participation in the exhibition of the 40th Anniversary of RCA

RCARO took part in the exhibition of the 40th RCA anniversary during the 34th NRM by preparing and providing panels on Overall RCA.

2. Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology

RCARO is carrying out the RCA/UNDP partnership project entitled as “Accelerating Nuclear SPECT/PET Imaging Technologies in the Region” since December 2010.

2.1 Reporting to the 34th NRM

RCARO reported on the project in terms of the scope, implementation in 2011 and project result analysis during the 34th NRM.

2.2 Conducting the basic training on SPECT/PET and on-site regional training course

According to the work plan, RCARO held the basic training course on SPECT/PET (train-the-trainers) for one week and on-site training course for two weeks consecutively from 26 June to 6 July 2012 in Seoul, Korea in cooperation with LCC. 19 participants from 10 participating Member States were trained with more advanced topics on Nuclear Imaging Technologies and

received extended practical training course, reflecting comments from participants of 2011 training courses.

RCARO conducted satisfaction survey on the training courses and it showed that the participants were very satisfied with the training courses in terms of information sharing, quality and content of lectures, and especially with the on-site training course which provided participants with the opportunity to apply the gained knowledge and technologies on site. The lecture materials are uploaded on the RCA homepage (<http://www.rcaro.org/undp2010>) for Member States.

2.3 Monitoring and submission of the progress report

The project interim progress report and financial report were submitted to the UNDP and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) respectively in early July 2012.

2.4 Annual review meeting and evaluating of the project

RCARO is planning to hold an annual review meeting in the fourth quarter in which the progress in 2012 and the 2013 work plan will be reviewed and discussed. The annual report and financial report will be also submitted to the UNDP and UNOPS by the end of December.

3. Promoting partnerships for RCA

3.1 Application of RCA/UNDP partnership project on “Electron Beam Applications”

RCARO has continued to develop a project in partnership with UNDP as a major activity of its mandate.

Upon the call for proposals by UNDP in May, RCARO has prepared a revised and supplemented draft proposal, including electron beam application on food irradiation which is one of the priority areas for the developing countries, in consultation with the RCA experts.

Reflecting the opinions of the RCARO SAC members and the Member States, the final proposal was submitted to UNDP on 20 June 2012.

16 Member States expressed their intention to participate in the concerned project: AUL, CPR, IND, INS, MAL, MON, MYA, NZE, PAK, PHI, SIN, SRL, THA, VIE including Nepal which newly joined RCA and Cambodia which is not RCA Member State yet but as the least developed country required by UNDP.

If selected, RCARO will make the necessary arrangements to proceed with the project implementation.

3.2 Exploring partnership development with regional/international organizations

RCARO will make efforts in exploring the partnership development with regional/international organizations.

4. Preservation of nuclear knowledge

4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course

Two students from the Member States are having the second year of the course and one from INS is selected for spring semester in 2012.

4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course

This programme has been held in association with scientific occasions to provide participants with the opportunity to experience more of the advanced nuclear medicine as well as training

programme held by ARCCNM. In 2012, it is to be held on 24-27 Oct. 2012 in association with the Korean Society of Nuclear Medicine.

4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

The workshop on radiation applications technology will be held from 8 to 19 October 2012 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. RCARO requested NRs of 12 Member States to nominate participants for the workshop. It will be carried out in cooperation with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI).

5. Increased interaction between Member States and RCARO

5.1 Increased participation of Member States in RCARO activities

Recommended by the NRs for the RCARO Fellowship Programme, the following 3 persons from MYA, THA and VIE were selected in 2012. Staff from MYA and THA contributed to implementing the RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology and investigating possible regional/international events for promotional uses. The one from VIE will start working with RCARO from October.

5.2. Participation in RCA policy meetings

RCARO participated in the 34th NRM in Beijing, China in April 2012. RCARO provided assistance at the 14th RCARO SAC Meeting as secretariat.

5.3 Participation in the 13th FNCA Coordinators Meeting

On behalf of RCA, Dir-RCARO participated in the meeting on 7-9 March in Fukui, Japan and made a presentation on its result at the 34th NRM.

5.4 Holding of an expert workshop on enhancing strategic goals of RCARO

As recommended at the 34th NRM, RCARO had submitted a detailed plan for the RCARO Strategic Workshop to the members of the SAC on 16 May 2012.

With the positive responses from the SAC members, RCARO held a Workshop on “Enhancing Strategic Goals of RCARO” in Jeju, Republic of Korea on 10-12 July 2012. The total number of participants was twenty five including SAC members, NRs and RCA experts. The workshop was conducted in the following three sessions:

- Session 1: Review and Evaluation of RCARO Activities
- Session 2: Future Directions to contribute to the Sustainable Development of RCA
- Session 3: Discussion on Current Issues such as Coordination of the Thematic Areas for the RCA Projects and Preparation of the RCA 40th Anniversary Exhibition

The report of the Workshop is uploaded on the RCA website for the reference of the participants and the Member States and also attached in Annex 3.

5.5 Extra-budgetary contribution of RCARO to the IAEA

An EB contribution will be made in 2012, subject to the budget availability of RCARO.

Annex 1

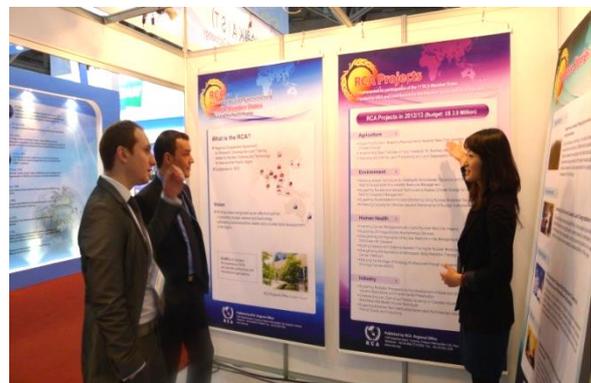
Participation in the Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference

Overview of the Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference

The Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference was held on 18-23 March 2012 at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center in Busan, Korea. It has been held biannually to promote peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology in the Asia-Pacific region since 1976. The meeting held exhibition in parallel with the scientific sessions. There were about 800 participants such as members of the international organizations, experts and policy makers in nuclear society from more than 20 countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Actions Taken by RCARO

RCARO set up 4 panels elaborating the RCA, RCA projects, RCA Success Stories and RCA Partnership Projects at the exhibition. Along with the distribution of the RCA brochure and Success Stories, RCARO demonstrated the RCA promotional video and it drew much attention of the participants. It was a good opportunity to increase the awareness of the RCA through publicising the RCA to and networking with the experts and related institutions from not only from RCA region but also from Europe and South and North America.



(RCARO's exhibition at the PBNC)

Annex 2

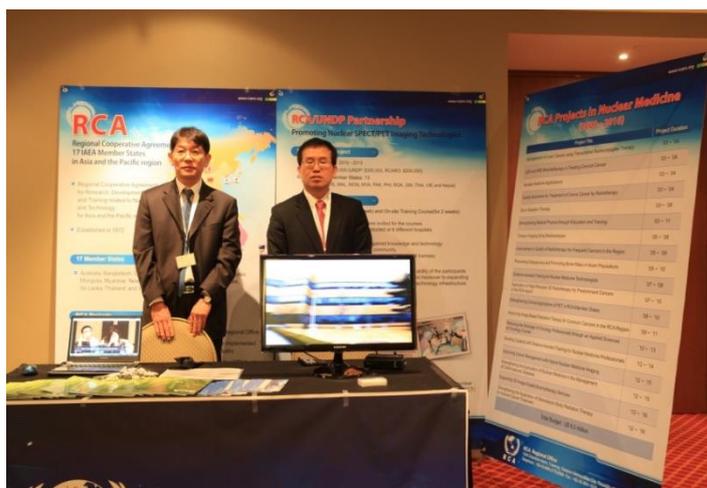
Participation in the 13th Annual ATBF, 14th International APASTB & ISCT Australasian Regional Combined Scientific Meeting

Overview of the 13th Annual ATBF, 14th International APASTB & ISCT Australasian Regional Combined Scientific Meeting

The 13th Annual ATBF, 14th International APASTB & ISCT Australasian Regional Combined Scientific Meeting was held on 28 May - 1 June 2012 in Sydney, Australia. The ATBF meeting is an annual event and was held in collaboration with APASTB and ISCT scientific meeting to share knowledge and promote developments in tissue and cell banking industry in the Australasian region. There were about 100 participants from Australia, America, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and so on.

Actions Taken by RCARO

In response to the advice of an RCA expert, RCARO participated in the meeting and displayed 3 panels on the RCA, RCA Projects and Partnership Projects at the exhibition. RCARO played the RCA promotional video and distributed the RCA brochure and Success Stories to the participants. RCARO also delivered a presentation of an edited RCA promotional video during the plenary session and it was recognised as an effective method in publicizing the RCA through the informative and understandable context.



(RCARO's exhibition at the meeting)

Annex 3



REPORT

RCARO Workshop on
Enhancing Strategic Goals of RCARO

10-12 July 2012

Jeju, Korea

RCA Regional Office

1. Introduction

As agreed at the 34th National RCA Representatives Meeting (NRM) held on 17-20 April 2012 in Beijing, China, the RCARO Workshop on “Enhancing Strategic Goals of RCARO” was held on 10-12 July 2012 at the Ramada Hotel, Jeju, Republic of Korea. Participants included: the SAC members from CPR, INS and ROK; NRs of Bangladesh, Mongolia; four (4) experts from RCA Member States (MSs); and 10 representatives from ROK, including representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), the Korean Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation (KNICOF) as well as a number of Korean Institutes and Organisations and RCARO. A list of the participants is given in Annex 1. (Note: all annexes referred to hereafter are posted on the RCA website www.rcaro.org).

This Workshop was the fifth of its kind organized by RCARO, since the first one in 2005.

2. Opening Session

2.1 Welcome Remarks by Dr. Mun-Ki Lee, Director, RCARO

Dr. Mun-Ki Lee, Dir-RCARO, warmly welcomed all the participants and thanked them for attending the Workshop in spite of their busy schedules. He emphasized that the purpose of the Workshop was to review and evaluate the strategic goals of the RCARO for its sustainable development in the medium and long term. He also noted that the conclusions and recommendations from this Workshop would assist in further strengthening the operations of the RCARO. The Opening Remarks by the Dir-RCARO are given as Annex 2.

2.2 Congratulatory Remarks by Mr. Kyung-Won Roh, Director General, MEST

On behalf of the Government of Republic of Korea, Mr. Kyung-Won ROH gave congratulatory remarks and welcomed the participants. (Annex 3)

He noted that the RCA was perceived as having the best practices as well as the international benchmark for regional cooperative agreements, among other regional agreements. This status had been achieved through valuable cooperation among MSs,

IAEA and RCARO. He commented that the successful operation performance of the RCARO together with the great demand from the MSs for measures to retain and use nuclear science and technology in the region, could enable the RCARO to take on more initiatives to assist the RCA, such as, project planning, project management and project evaluation. Further he noted that the Government of the Republic of Korea, as its host country, would consider financial support of this if needed. He thanked those who had been involved in the preparation of the Workshop and wished that the Workshop would be a great success.

2.3 Remarks by Dr. Dongxin Feng, RCA Chair

On behalf of the RCA MSs, Dr. Dongxin Feng, current RCA Chair, welcomed all the participants attending the Workshop.(Annex 4) Dr. Feng expressed her sincere congratulation at the opening of the workshop and extended her warm welcome to all the participants. She valued the activities that RCARO carried out in the past years and underlined the objectives of the workshop. She anticipated that the participants are at liberty to say what they like and hence to reach the goals of the workshop. She thanked the RCARO's efforts in organizing the meeting and wished the workshop a great success.

2.4 Introduction to the Workshop

Mr. In-Seok Oh, Head, Programme Division, RCARO, briefed the Workshop and reviewed the agenda items.

The Workshop was informed that Session Chairs would be:

- Session 1 - Mr. Anhar Riza Antariksawan
- Session 2 - Dr. Prinath Dias, and
- Session 3 - Dr. Dongxin Feng.

Ms. Hyunkyoungh Jeon and Ms. Soo Youn Hwang agreed to serve as rapporteurs.

The Workshop Prospectus and Programme are given in Annexes 5 and 6.

3. Session 1 – Review and Evaluation of RCARO Activities

Mr. Anhar Riza Antariksawan chaired this Session.

During the discussions there was a general appreciation of the successful implementation by the RCARO of the various areas under its mandate. In particular, these included promotional activities such as: publication of RCA Success Stories and RCA brochures; establishing the RCA database and website; producing the RCA Promotional Video; participating international events; promoting partnerships with other organisations; and, activities to support the preservation of nuclear knowledge.

The Workshop endorsed the approach used by the RCARO for its promotional activities, the promoting of partnerships with the RCA and Nuclear Knowledge Preservation activities.

3.1. Promotional Activities

Ms. Soo Youn Hwang, Project Officer, Programme Division, RCARO gave a presentation entitled “Promotional Activities of RCARO” (Annex 7). This covered the following topics:

- Background
- RCARO Promotional Activities
 - Publication of RCA Success Stories
 - Operation of RCA Website
 - Updating RCA Promotional Video
 - Participation in International Events

The Workshop noted difficulties being experienced by RCARO in particular communications with LCCs and NPCs and NRs for RCA Success Stories (SS). A solution to this problem could be the use of an expert who has demonstrated an ability to produce SSs that would be suitable for the target audience including the public. This would overcome problems in differences of writing ability and style that have been experienced with contributions from the LCCs and NPCs. In addition, it was suggested that there could

be benefit from this expert attending the final Project Review Meeting to ensure that all the latest information could be incorporated in the SS.

Concerning the selection of projects to be written up as SSs, it was agreed that the responsibilities for this lie with the NRs and they should suggest and agree these at an NRM. The NRs should provide some outline of the aspects that support the project being identified as a success.

There was discussion on other mechanisms to reach and inform particular end-user groups, for example, Dr. Machi encouraged the use of executive management seminars, which had been used successfully in previous RCA projects. Dr. Easey suggested that the use of the social media networks might enable access to a new range of potential end-users and interested parties.

It was seen to be important for the RCA website to be accessible in all the MSs. As a mechanism to assist in increasing the visibility of the RCA website, the meeting suggested that a request be made for RCA MSs to have their National websites for their nuclear institutions to include a link to RCA website. Dr. Anhar noted that the MSs have the responsibility for contents of the RCA website.

Dr. Dias mentioned that he would like to have each project with a separate page on the website, which would then facilitate MSs access to information. Dr. LEE advised that this had been achieved.

Dr. Easey suggested that the RCARO should try to learn more about the people and organisations accessing the RCA website. It was suggested that this could be achieved by collecting detailed statistical information about the users. With such information it would be possible to concentrate efforts on follow up with particular key users such as large users and small users. This analysis would enable the RCARO to gain better understanding of the reasons for high use and low use and apply this information to assist in upgrading the RCARO's impact and outreach.

Dr. Easey suggested that the RCARO consider the use of technical experts, where possible, as part of the RCARO promotional team when they attend International Conferences. Dr. LEE mentioned that the RCARO budget was quite limited and it might

not be possible to implement this suggestion for all visits. Dr. Easey suggested that MSs might be able to provide a suitable expert when the RCARO promotional team was attending an event in a MS.

3.2. Promoting Partnerships for RCA

Dr. In-Seok Oh, Head, Programme Division, RCARO, delivered a presentation entitled “Promoting Partnerships for RCA” (Annex 8) with a focus on:

- Background of the RCA Partnerships;
- Partnership Activities of the RCARO;
- Problems and Issues.

Following the general discussions, the Workshop noted the importance of building up and maintaining a database on donor organisations. This database would be potentially suitable for the support of actions to promote RCA projects and encourage additional extra budgetary contribution. Dr. Dias agreed that the RCARO should be involved with MSs when they are developing RCA projects designs which involve the potential collaboration with UN based organizations. This would facilitate on-going contact with these organisations and promote understanding of the central role of the RCARO in project partnerships. In addition, it would be beneficial to adopt a strategic approach by encouraging partnerships with other organisations through the promotion of the use of nuclear techniques that can help in the solution of problems rather than the promotion of the use of individual nuclear techniques. Dr. Dias advised the Workshop about his previous experience in looking at the possibilities of using RCA expertise as part of a large project being implemented in Sri Lanka. As result of this, he suggested that the RCARO should look into niche opportunities for the use of nuclear technologies that could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of a larger project.

Dr. Feng suggested that the RCA should assess whether there are additional potential donor organisations that might be potential partners. This group should be approached and additionally the RCARO should also include special organisations that are concerned with specific areas such as agriculture.

3.3 Preservation of Nuclear Knowledge

Ms. Hyunkyung Jeon, Deputy Head, Programme Division, RCARO, made a presentation entitled “Preservation of Nuclear Knowledge” (Annex 9) and provided detailed information on the following programmes:

- Temp Staff Fellowship Programme
- RCARO/KAIST Master’s Degree Course
- RCARO/KAERI Regional Training Workshop
- Joint Training Programme with ARCCNM

Dr. Dias suggested that the RCARO should continue to use the Fellowship Programme to help MSs to gain a working knowledge of the RCA. He emphasised that importance of including the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules and Midterm Strategy 2012-2017 as essential part of their learning experience. He went on to encourage the RCARO to give priority for fellowships to new MSs. The Workshop discussed the point raised in the presentation concerning the RCARO/KAIST Master’s Degree Course. As a number of participants mentioned, there appeared to be a number of options concerning the Master’s curriculum. However, it was not clear whether those undertaking courses under this RCARO programme were choosing options that were compatible with the RCA Medium Term Priorities. The RCARO was requested to examine the scope of the Master’s Degree Course to ensure that it was compatible with the RCA Medium Term Priorities.

Concerning the RCARO/KAERI regional training workshops, the Workshop encouraged the RCARO to ensure that the subjects of the training were compatible with the RCA Medium Term Priorities and if necessary undertake fine tuning of the curriculum to bring it into line with the priorities.

The Workshop assessed the ARCCNM joint training programmes as meeting the RCA Medium Term Priorities and encouraged the RCARO to continue with them as they were a very useful contribution to the RCA programme.

Dr. Dias proposed that the RCARO should be a repository for materials used in RCA training courses.

3.4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The following are the agreed conclusions and recommendations from this session:

Conclusions: The RCARO has successfully implemented its mandates over the last ten years through its various programs including promotional activities such as: publication of RCA Success Stories and RCA brochures; establishing the RCA database and website; producing the RCA Promotional Video; participating international events; promoting partnerships with other organisations; and, activities to support the preservation of nuclear knowledge.

The Workshop endorsed the approach used by the RCARO for its promotional activities, the promoting of partnerships with the RCA and Nuclear Knowledge Preservation activities.

Recommendations to the RCARO

Promotional Activities of RCARO

- To prepare the RCA Success Stories based on the subjects that are proposed by the RCA MSs at an NRM.
- To facilitate the preparation of RCA Success Stories, the RCARO could support the recruitment of an expert.
- To try to achieve higher impact and recognition of RCA Success Stories with potential end-users through the use of social media networks.
- To encourage, where possible, the use of Executive Management Seminars to promote the social economic impacts of the RCA projects to end-user groups.
- To request RCA MSs to have their National websites for their nuclear institutions include a link to RCA website.
- To collect more detailed statistical information about the users of the RCA website so that it might be possible to concentrate efforts on follow up with large users and small users to gain better understanding of the reasons for high use and low use and apply this information to assist in upgrading the RCARO's impact and outreach.
- To use technical experts, where possible, as part of the RCARO promotional team when

they attend International Conferences.

Promoting Partnerships for RCA

- To build up and maintain a database on donor organisations which are potentially suitable for support of RCA projects.
- To be involved in the development of RCA projects designs which involve the potential collaboration with UN based organizations. This would facilitate on-going contact with these organisations and promote understanding of the central role of the RCARO in project partnerships.
- To adopt a strategic approach by encouraging partnerships with other organisations through the promotion of the use of nuclear techniques to solve problems rather than the promotion of the use of individual nuclear techniques.
- To assess whether there is an additional range of potential donor organisations that should be approached. This group could include specialist organisations that are concerned with specific areas.
- To look into niche opportunities for the use of nuclear technologies that could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of a larger project.

Nuclear knowledge preservation

- To continue to use the Fellowship Programme to help MSs to gain a working knowledge of the RCA, including the RCA GOR and MTS, and give priority to new MSs.
- To examine the scope of the Master's Degree Course to ensure that it was compatible with the RCA Medium Term Priorities.
- To ensure that the topics covered in the RCARO/KAERI regional training workshops were fine-tuned and were compatible with the RCA Medium Term Priorities.
- To continue with the ARCCNM joint training programmes.
- To be a repository for materials used in RCA training courses.

4. Session 2 – Future Directions to contribute to the Sustainable Development of RCA

Dr. Prinath Dias chaired Session 2.

At the request of Dr. Dias, the recommendations from 2010 Workshop were reviewed to ascertain their status.

Each of the recommendations was reviewed by the Workshop and only one required on-going attention. This related to the suggestion that the RCARO should consider making extended use of experts from MSs to assist RCARO in its activities.

4.1. Future Directions of the RCARO

At the invitation of the Chair, Dr. In-Seok Oh gave a presentation entitled “Future Directions of the RCARO” (Annex 10), which dealt with:

- Introduction
- Strength
- Weakness
- Future Directions of RCARO

There was strong support from the Korean participants of the Workshop to the segment of Dr. OH’s presentation concerning the recognition of the legal status of the RCARO. Participants from Australia, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia all gave illustrations of difficulties that were being experienced in their countries concerning the progress of this topic.

Dr. Dias commented that the current RCA Agreement had a number of areas where revision of the articles could be made if there were sufficient interest by the RCA MSs. This could be a good opportunity to deal with this matter. He suggested that the RCARO SAC should initiate appropriate actions that might help provide the RCARO with the legal status it requires to carry out its mandate effectively.

Dr. Easey suggested that the RCARO could help in the problem of turnover of senior staff if they instituted a succession plan to help in ensuring a smooth transition of responsibilities.

4.2. Future Role of RCARO and Expanded Participation of RCA Experts in the RCA/RCARO Activities

Dr. John Easey, former RCA Coordinator, gave a presentation entitled “A Future Role of the RCARO?” (Annex 11). He reviewed a number of aspects of the tasks that the RCARO could take on in the future.

- IAEA’s Support and Roles for the RCA Programme
- Potential Weakness and Vulnerabilities for MSs in the RCA structure
- Analysis of the RCA FP Contribution
- Current Roles & Responsibilities of the RCARO
- Examples of activities that could be undertaken by the RCARO
- Upgrading of an RCARO Initiative by including the participation of one or more RCA Experts

There was a general discussion on the major points of the presentation. Dr. Easey emphasised that he had developed the themes in his presentation as a result of the changes which were currently occurring in the role of RCA Focal Person. The changes he was proposing were trying to preserve and in cases increase the level of administrative support to the MSs that had come previously from the RCA Coordinator / Focal Person.

Dr. Sueo Machi noted that the RCA had the strong linkages with the IAEA and that any changes in the relative roles and responsibilities needed to be handled carefully and there should be thorough discussions between the RCA and the IAEA to ensure that any changes would not cause any disruptions in relationship. He proposed that the RCARO SAC should initiate consultations with the IAEA. The main objective should be to reach an understanding with them about the IAEA and RCA FP’s roles and responsibilities with regards to the RCA programme. This should then be followed up by trying to identify where the RCARO might take on additional responsibilities regarding the management of the RCA programme.

Dr. Dias provided comments concerning the changing role of the RCA Coordinator / Focal Person during his period in the Technical Cooperation Department. He also detailed some of the actions he had undertaken as part of the efforts to enhance MSs role in accepting more responsibilities for the RCA programme and playing an increasingly active role in decision making and the development of policies. He also noted that there were still areas where the MSs could be more active and further efforts should be made to increase their level of contribution.

4.3. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Workshop made the following conclusions and recommendations concerning matters raised during this session:

Review of the Recommendations from the 2010 Workshop

- The RCARO should consider making extended use of experts from MSs to assist RCARO in its activities.

Recommendations to the RCARO

Future Directions of RCARO

- The MSs should consider incorporating a revision related to the RCARO when considering any other future revisions of the RCA agreement.
- The RCARO SAC should initiate appropriate actions to provide the RCARO with the legal status it requires to carry out its mandate effectively.
- RCARO should have a succession plan to ensure smooth transfer of responsibilities of senior personnel.

Future Role of the RCARO

- The RCARO SAC should initiate consultations with the IAEA with the objective of reaching an understanding on the IAEA and RCA FP's roles and responsibilities to the

RCA programme with the objective of identifying further responsibilities that the RCARO might undertake regarding managing the RCA programme.

5. Session 3 – Current Issues

Dr. Dongxin Feng chaired Session 3.

This Session was concerned with the coordination of the thematic areas for the RCA projects and preparation of the RCA 40th anniversary exhibition. There was extensive general discussion on various points.

5.1. Coordination of the Thematic Areas for the RCA Projects

Dr. John Easey, former RCA Coordinator, delivered a presentation entitled “Future Plans for Coordinating the RCA Projects by Thematic Areas” (Annex 12).

- Thematic Programme Approach previously used by the RCA
- The current factors that are influencing a return to a Thematic Programme Approach
- Advantages, Disadvantages and Expected Effectiveness of Thematic Programme Approach

There were a number of questions concerning the presentation. Because of some confusion regarding the Thematic Programme Approach and the role that the RCARO could undertake, Dr. Easey provided a detailed explanation of the background. He said that the motivation for his presentation was caused by the changes to the nature of the TC programme in 2014/2015 that was being proposed by the IAEA in early 2012. Of particular concern had been the statement in the Guidelines issued by the IAEA that each regional programme was going to be limited to only 10 to 15 projects as part of a move to increase the impact of TC projects.

He reminded the Workshop that the TC Asia Pacific Division had three types of regional projects; those supporting the RCA programme, those supporting the ARASIA programme

and the non-Agreement projects. He had concluded that it was unlikely that the RCA would have more than five projects and so he set about devising a strategy that would enable the RCA to preserve the 12 projects that would be continuing from the 2012/2013 programme in to 2014 and the 5 that would go into 2015. In addition he also wanted this strategy to be able to introduce some additional projects being proposed for 2014/2015 by the MSs. His solution had been to consolidate all the projects into the four thematic areas which would then be compatible with the IAEA Guideline requirements on project numbers.

This proposal had been considered by the RCA NRM in Beijing and there was support from a number of delegations. However there was not a consensus to support this move for the 2014/2015 programme. Nevertheless there was strong support from the NRM for the move to thematic programming and in particular whether the RCARO could play a part in Thematic Sector coordination and management.

Dr. Machi noted that the IAEA Scientific Fora looked at things from a thematic perspective and that the RCA should look at this approach as a template for any moves to adopt a thematic programme approach.

Dr Mun-Ki Lee agreed with the basic concept of undertaking the thematic sector coordination but would need to examine the exact nature of the role that the RCARO would be asked to perform. He noted that the RCARO had very limited capacity to have any involvement in any technical matters related to the project. Dr Easey identified a number of very important areas where the RCARO could provide management and coordination support for a thematic project and also noted that involvement in the technical aspect would not be a requirement.

5.2. Preparation of the RCA 40th Anniversary Exhibition

Ms. Hyunkyong Jeon, Deputy Head, Programme Division, RCARO, made a presentation entitled “Exhibition of the 40th Anniversary of RCA” (Annex 13), which dealt with:

- Outline of the Exhibition
- Design Sketch of the Exhibition space

- Suggestions of options for the exhibition posters

The Workshop was briefed on the actions undertaken by the RCARO and the RCA Chair. They all have had difficulties in getting responses from the LCCs and NRs. The Workshop suggested that the RCARO should contact the related MSs stakeholders again and request that they provide information on sample products that they can make available as well as some input on the contents to be displayed on the panels.

5.3. Conclusions and Recommendations

The following conclusions and recommendations were agreed by the Workshop:

Conclusions:

The Workshop recognised with appreciation the progress made by RCARO in the preparation of the 40th Anniversary of RCA exhibition and noted that there had been a lack of response from those contacted in the MSs concerning the preparation of the exhibition.

Recommendations to the RCARO

- To consider providing project management support for the RCA programme if the thematic approach is adopted in the future.
- To contact the related MSs stakeholders again and request that they provide information on sample products that they can make available as well as some input on the contents materials to be displayed on the panels.

In addition to the conclusions and recommendations detailed above, the Workshop recommended that the RCARO report on the status of the implementation of the recommendations made at this Workshop so that these can be reviewed at future Workshop.

6. Closing

The Dir-RCARO thanked the participating SAC members, experts, and his staff for their efforts in achieving a very successful outcome from this Workshop, and he wished everyone a safe homeward journey and looked forward to continuing contact and cooperation.