

Report of the Director of the RCARO

The report of the Director of the RCARO is herewith submitted to the NRM for consideration of the National RCA Representatives.

The Report contains information related to

1. RCARO Work Performance for 2013 in table
2. A description of the Progress made in 2013 under the topics of
 - Increasing the awareness of RCA
 - Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on Nuclear Imaging Technology
 - Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on Electron Beam Applications
 - Preservation of nuclear knowledge
 - Increased interaction between the Member States and the RCARO
3. RCARO Work Plan for 2014 in table
4. A description of the Work Plan of 2014 under the topics of
 - Increasing the awareness of RCA
 - Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on Nuclear Imaging Technology
 - Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on Electron Beam Applications
 - Assisting the Member States in addressing regional and national needs
 - Increased interaction between the Member States and the RCARO
 - Other Activities

As agreed in the 42nd RCA GCM, the Director of RCA RO has prepared a strategic paper on potential increasing role of the RCA Regional Office. The report may be found in Annex 2.

Proposed action:

1. The NRM may take note of the Report and approve the Work Plan for 2014 subject to any amendments.
2. The meeting may take note and further discuss the report.

RCARO 2013 Work Performance

	Target	Activities	Milestone				Performance Indicators	Status
			QT 1	QT2	QT3	QT4		
1	Increasing the awareness of RCA	1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness	-----				1.1.1 Publication of a revised RCA brochure for decision makers	Done -Distributed a brochure for decision makers and uploaded on the RCA website
			-----				1.1.2 Publication of a brochure for general public	Ongoing -Will be published in early 2014.
		1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA website	-----				1.2.1 Updating data on RCA and RCA projects	Done -Updated data on RCA meetings and projects
			-----				1.2.2 Updating data on RCA stakeholders/end-users by Member States	Done -Updated the information on new NRs and other stakeholders
		1.3 Participation in regional/international events and support for the promotion of RCA activities	-----				1.3.1 Presentation and exhibition on RCA/RCARO activities to target audiences	Done -Participated in the two regional/international events and provided exhibition materials to support promotional activity of the NR of NZE

						1.3.2 Support the RCA experts for increasing awareness and promotion of RCA	On going -Established a guideline to select RCA experts -Will proceed the selection on Jan. 2014
2	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology	2.1 Reporting at the 35 th NRM				2.1.1 Reporting of the achievements and outputs of the RCA/UNDP project	Done -Reported at the 35 th NRM
		2.2 Establishment of an expert network				2.2.1 Creating a new menu on the RCA website	Done -Established an expert networking on the RCA website
		2.3 Conducting the basic and on-site regional training course on SPECT/PET				2.3.1 Conducting regional training courses (RTCs) to enhance the level of knowledge on SPECT/PET imaging science and technology	Done -Two RTCs were held from 17 June to 5 July 2013 at various hospitals in ROK with 20 participants.
		2.4 Monitoring and submission of progress/annual and financial reports				2.4.1 Preparation and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports to UNDP and UNOPS.	Done -Duly submitted the progress and annual and financial reports to UNDP and UNOPS
		2.5 Final review meeting and evaluation of the project				2.5.1 Hosting a final review meeting to review and evaluate the performance of the project	Done -Held on 28-29 November 2013 in Nepal

3	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on Electron Beam applications	<p>3.1 Holding a kick-off meeting</p> <p>3.2 Conducting regional training courses</p> <p>3.3 Monitoring and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports</p> <p>3.4 Annual review meeting and evaluation of the project</p>					<p>3.1.1 Holding a kick-off meeting to identify the status and needs of participating countries, and to discuss and develop future work plan of the project</p> <p>3.2.1 Conducting regional training courses (RTCs) on EB applications to enhance the level of knowledge on EB applications</p> <p>3.3.1 Preparation and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports to UNDP and UNOPS.</p> <p>3.4.1 Hosting an annual review meeting to review and evaluate the performance of the project</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>-Held on 2-3 May in Thailand, inviting 23 participants</p> <p>Done</p> <p>-One RTC on 19-23 August for advanced material and the other on 7-11 October for environmental remediation were held for 19 trainees.</p> <p>Done</p> <p>-Duly submitted the progress and annual and financial reports to UNDP and UNOPS</p> <p>Done</p> <p>- Held on 21-22 November 2013 in the Philippines, inviting 21 participants</p>
4	Preservation of nuclear knowledge	<p>4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course</p> <p>4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training</p>					<p>4.1.1 Supporting the RCARO/KAIST Master's Degree Course</p> <p>4.2.1 Supporting the RCARO/ARCCNM</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>-Supported 3 students from INS and BGD for the course</p> <p>Done</p>

		course					training course	-Supported 25 trainees for the course held on 12-15 Dec. in India
		4.3 RCARO/KAERI Regional Training workshop					4.3.1 Supporting the RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop	Done -Supported 14 participants for the workshop held on 7-18 Oct. in Korea
		4.4 Supporting the establishment of educational/training infrastructure of Member States by providing ICT equipment					4.4.1 Supporting the establishment of educational/training infrastructure of Member States by providing ICT equipment	Postponed -The 42 nd GCM requested RCARO to explore other project proposals using ICT.
5	Increased interaction between the Member States and the RCARO	5.1 Increased participation of Member States in RCARO activities					5.1.1 Inviting 3-4 temporary staff from the Member States to RCARO	Done -3 temporary staff were invited from PAK, VIE and MYA.
		5.2 Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with Member States					5.2.1 Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with Member States	Done -Held on 7-9 August in Seoul, Korea with 25 participants including SAC members, NRs and RCA experts. -The result was reported to the 42 nd GCM.
		5.3 Participation in the RCA policy meetings					5.3.1 Participating in the 35 th NRM, 42 nd GCM and relevant meetings	Done -Attended 35 th NRM and 42 nd GCM
		5.4 Participation in the RCA					5.4.1 Participating in the RCA project	Done

		project design meeting				design meeting	-Participated in the meeting on 18-22 Feb. in Vienna, Austria as an observer
		5.5 Participation in the 14th FNCA Coordinators Meeting	■			5.5.1 Participating in the 14 th FNCA Coordinators Meeting	Done -Participated in the meeting on 11-12 March in Tokyo, Japan and the result was reported to the 35 th NRM
		5.6 Operation of the committee for the selection and appointment of the RCARO Director	■			5.6.1 Supporting the Selection Committee	Done -Supported the operation of the selection committee -Mr Kun-mo Choi was elected as a new Director of the RCARO.
		5.7 Extra-Budgetary(EB) contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA			■	5.7.1 EB contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA	Done -Contributed USD 50,000 for implementation of RCA projects

RCARO 2013 Work Performance

1. Increasing the awareness of RCA

1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness

1.1.1 Publication of a revised RCA brochure

Pursuant to the decision of the 35th NRM, RCARO proceeded to publish two different types of brochures in consultation with the Member States, RCA experts and IAEA: one for general public and the other for decision makers/end users.

RCARO prepared a draft for decision makers containing updated information on RCA projects, achievements and general information of the 2010 version.

A draft was circulated to the Member States for their comments and reflecting comments from AUL, NZE and the IAEA, it was modified and a draft printed version was distributed to the 42nd GCM for its approval for publication.

To reflect more comments from Member States, the 42nd GCM requested National Representatives (NRs) to give comments on the draft by the end of September 2013. Reflecting comments from AUL, CPR, MYA, PAK and Mr Easey, a RCA expert, a brochure for decision makers in booklet form was published and copies were distributed to the Member States for local distribution and handed out at national/regional events which RCARO attended.

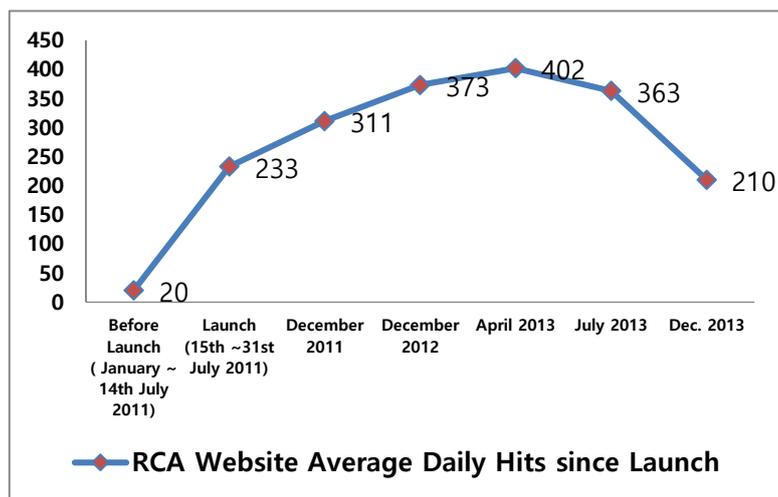
As for a brochure for general public, RCARO also prepared a draft containing the basic and principal information of the RCA. To make it easily readable for and accessible to general public on nuclear technology and its application, RCARO referred many other templates including the TC department in the IAEA website.

A draft for general public was circulated to the Member States for their comments. Reflecting comments from AUL, IAEA and Mr. Easey, a RCA expert, a modified draft was circulated to the Member States to finalize the draft.

A brochure for general public in leaflet form will be published in early 2014 and copies will be distributed to the Member States for local distribution and handed out for promotional uses on appropriate occasions.

1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website

Recognizing the notable increase of daily hits of the RCA website, RCARO continued maintaining and updating the RCA website with information on the RCA and its activities; policy meetings (NRM, GCM), projects and news for the Member States.



RCARO also upgraded the RCA website in a more user-friendly manner as below:

- Redesigned the main page including the world map and description of the RCA on the top and national flag of the Member States on the bottom;
- Inserted sub-menu below the main menu line;
- Added icons of Facebook and Twitter to put a link to social network services;
- Inserted a data uploading programme for posting big-sized files up to 2 gigabytes;
- Set a link between project meetings menu and schedule calendar to show schedules of RCA project meetings at the main page.

1.2.1 Updating data on RCA and RCA projects

With assistance of temporary staff, RCARO updated the data of the Member States 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 promote the RCA and its activities to target audiences in order to enhance awareness of the RCA in the beneficial application of nuclear science and technology and further build partnerships with regional and international organizations.

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

RCARO proposed the following events at the 16th RCARO SAC meeting for promotion of the RCA:

- The 7th International Symposium on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NormVII), April 22-26, Beijing, China
- International Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, May 29-31, Tokyo, Japan
- International Conference on the Sources, Effects and Risks of Ionizing Radiation, Oct.

10-11, Bali, Indonesia

The 16th RCARO SAC suggested surveying the Member States on the regional and international conferences with a modified survey template including justification for each event proposed. RCARO conducted a survey of NRs after the 35th NRM and proposed a modified plan as tabled below, reflecting survey results including comments from the NR of New Zealand (NZE).

Name of conference	Date and Venue	Participation from RCA	Remarks including justification
12th Australasian Environmental Isotope Conference	10- 12, July Perth Australia	NR of NZE (at his own cost)	- RCARO will provide promotional materials for exhibition. - Opportunity to promote the RCA to delegates mostly from AUL and NZE in the area of environmental isotopes cost- effectively
International Conference on the Sources, Effects and Risks of Ionizing Radiation	10-11 October Bali Indonesia	RCARO	- Recommended by the NR of Indonesia - The conference addresses issues and trends regarding sources, effects and risks of the ionizing radiation.
2013 IEEE Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference	27 October - 2 November Seoul Korea	RCARO	- Recommended by the NR of NZE - Covers nuclear medicine relevant to the RCA thematic sector, a large audience is expected in the conference.
26th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium 2013	18-21 November Rotorua New Zealand	NR of NZE (at his own cost)	- RCARO will provide promotional materials for exhibition. - Opportunity to promote the RCA to experts in the area of Environment and possible end-users cost-effectively

Upon approval by the SAC members, RCARO participated in the International Conference on the Sources, Effects and Risks of Ionizing Radiation on 10-11 Oct. 2013 in Bali, Indonesia and 2013 IEEE Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference on 27 Oct. – 2 Nov. 2013 in Seoul, Korea. The RCA Success Stories and promotional video were used for promotional purposes on those occasions.

By providing promotional materials such as RCA brochure and Success Stories, RCARO supported the NR of NZE for his promotional activities for the RCA at the following events: the 12th Australasian Environmental Isotope Conference on 10-12 July in Perth, Australia and the 26th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium on 18-21 Nov. in Rotorua, New Zealand.

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

RCARO has been providing support for RCA experts in their activities which could enhance awareness of the RCA and its activities.

According to the work plan, RCARO invited the Member States to nominate appropriate experts to support their promotional activities in terms of taking advantage of their attending of events. Four nominations were received from three Member States in July 2013. In this regard, the 17th SAC

recommended RCARO to establish a set of criteria to select appropriate/qualified experts to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme. RCARO drafted a “Guideline for Selection of Experts in the Member States Participating in the RCA Promotional Activities” and submitted to the SAC members for their comments.

Reflecting comments from the SAC members including CPR, NZE, ROK and IAEA FP, the guideline was revised and again invited comments of the SAC members.

In the meantime, two candidates from PHI and NZE were excluded from the process due to the deadline of the events.

The SAC members agreed with the revised guideline, but the selection process is still in the process of consultation with the SAC for its finalization and application for the events for the first half of 2014.

In consultation with the SAC, RCARO will establish 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.

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

2.1 Reporting at the 35th NRM

RCARO reported the progress of the project in 2013 on the achievements and activities undertaken at the 35th NRM.

2.2 Establishment of an expert network

According to the work plan, RCARO established an expert network corner on the RCA website for sharing information and discussion. Related experts such as NPCs and LCC were given IDs and PWs for access to the RCA website (<http://www.rcaro.org/undp2010>).

2.3 Conducting the practical training on SPECT/PET and on-site regional training course

As decided at the annual review meeting in 2012, RCARO held the practical training course on SPECT/PET (train-the-trainers) for one week and on-site training course for two weeks consecutively from 17 June to 5 July 2013 in Seoul, Korea in cooperation with LCC. 20 participants from 10 participating Member States were trained with more advanced and practical topics on Nuclear Imaging Technologies. Non-physicians (physicist, chemist, and technician) were also trained together with the physicians (medical doctors) and training programme was prepared based on the expertise of participants. Training materials were uploaded on the RCA website for the Member States.

2.4 Monitoring and submission of the progress/final and financial reports

Satisfactory survey on the Regional Training Courses was conducted by the RCARO after its completion and it showed that the participants were very satisfied with the Regional Training Courses in terms of information sharing, training materials, quality and content of lectures, and especially with the On-site Training course which allowed the participants to have a chance to apply the gained knowledge and technologies to the end-users.

RCARO submitted progress/annual and financial reports to the UNDP and UNOPS based on the National Reports received from NPCs.

2.5 Final review meeting and evaluation of the project

RCARO held final progress review meeting on 28-29 November 2013 in Kathmandu Nepal with total of 19 participants including LCC, representatives from participating Member States and ARCCNM, staff members of RCARO and local government officials. Representatives presented final report of their national activities and outcomes throughout the project duration.

The meeting reviewed the achievements and outcomes of the project and discussed follow up actions for its sustainability and reviewed the draft final report. The meeting evaluated the project to be successful for its contribution to enhanced health condition of the people in the region by promoting and facilitating the application of the SPECT/PET. And the meeting encouraged participants to utilize the expert network corner on the RCA website and recommended to submit progress reports every 6 months for further 2 years to monitor the project after its completion.

3. Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on electron beam applications

3.1 Holding a kick-off meeting

According to the work plan of the project, a kick-off meeting was held on 2-3 May in Phuket, Thailand, inviting National Project Coordinators (NPCs) and alternate NPCs who were nominated by the participating countries for project implementation. 23 participants attended the meeting, including 18 NPCs and alternate NPCs from 15 countries, Lead Country Coordinator (LCC), participants from office of atoms for peace of Thailand, UNDP and RCARO.

Country reports received by the NPCs were analyzed by the LCC and presented at the meeting for establishment of detailed work plan of the project. At his presentation, LCC indicated a wide technical gap existing among the participating countries and suggested organizing two workshops instead of having an annual review meeting in 2013 to narrow the gap among the countries with/without EB facilities. After discussions, it was concluded to have an annual review meeting as planned and made a recommendation that a workshop be considered for the policy making bodies from the countries with no EB facilities with enhanced budgetary allocation from RCARO/UNDP.

The meeting confirmed the work plan for 2013 and details of annual review meeting and training courses such as date, venue and qualification of the participants.

3.2 Conducting Regional Training Courses

In cooperation with the LCC, two regional training courses (RTC) were held in Advanced Radiation Technology Institute (ARTI), Korea as follows:

- 1) Electron beam application for value addition to industrial products for one week on 19-23 August 2013
- 2) Electron beam application for environmental remediation for one week on 7-11 October 2013

19 participants attended the RTCs and were trained with information on basic concepts and fundamental knowledge about EB irradiation and its applications by conducting experiments at the radiation facilities in ARTI.

It provided participants with the opportunity to interact with the scientists of ARTI and abroad and the participants expressed the view that the knowledge and experience gained through the RTCs will be definitely helpful for carrying out their national development programme in the related field.

3.3 Monitoring and submission of the progress/financial reports

The satisfaction survey on the RTCs was conducted and it showed that the participants were very satisfied with the RTCs in terms of information sharing, training materials, quality and content of lectures, and hands-on experiments which allowed the participants to have a chance to experiment various applications in the areas of industry and environment.

National progress reports were received from the NPCs. Based on their reports, progress/annual reports and financial reports were submitted to the UNDP and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) accordingly.

3.4 Annual review meeting and evaluation of the project

The annual review meeting was held on 21-22 Nov. in Cebu, Philippines, inviting 21 participants from 13 Member States and director of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute.

The meeting reviewed the outcomes of the project in 2013 and set up a detailed work plan for 2014 and concluded as follows:

- Instead of two separate training courses for the area of industry and environment respectively, the meeting adopted that there will be one training course of two weeks duration for two persons per each participating country; RTC for industry in 2014 and for environment in 2015. Basic intention is to train a person with basic to advanced knowledge in EB technology.
- Annual Review Meeting will be held in Yangon, Myanmar on 19-20 November 2014(2 days). Alternate venue will be Cambodia.
- Policy making meeting of about 2-3 days is suggested for countries with/without EB facility. A person who is in the position to decide funding for EB project could be invited for this meeting. In consultation with the LCC, RCARO will finalize the feasibility and scope of the meeting.

The meeting was evaluated by the participants as a good opportunity to review the project progress comprehensively and share the opinions and experiences. It also noted that the project has been successfully implemented according to the work plan.

4. Preservation of nuclear knowledge

4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course

RCARO supported 3 students in 2013: one student from INS is having the second year of the course and two from INS and BGD are attending the spring semester in this year.

4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course

It was held on 12-15 December in Mumbai, India in association with the Indian Society of Nuclear Medicine and RCARO supported 25 trainees for the training course.

4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

With the support of NRs of 12 Member States for nominating participants of the workshop, RCARO hosted a regional training workshop for 14 participants from 11 Member States on radiation application technology from 7 to 18 October in Daejeon, Korea in cooperation with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI).

4.4 Supporting the establishment of education/training infrastructure of the Member States by providing ICT equipment

As a pilot project for 2-3 years, RCARO initiated a project to provide PCs to the RCA Member States in an effort to increase RCA information flow activities and further support the establishment of ICT infrastructure of the Member States.

In this regard, the 16th SAC recommended that a Working Group (WG) be established to provide guidance to the RCARO on the scope and approach to be used in the project. RCARO took advantage of its 2013 workshop to discuss the matter and establish a WG to set up the details of the project.

The participants of the workshop had an extensive discussion on this issue in terms of providing ICT equipment or educational software related to RCA projects and video conferencing. There were various views and opinions from the participants and most of the participants commented that providing ICT equipment was not a vital problem in the Member States. In this context, the workshop deferred discussion to possible future occasions, thus no WG was established at the workshop.

However, it was agreed that there might be a future need for development of a programme which would contribute to improving information exchange and communication using ICT and noted that the RCARO and /or Member States would be welcomed to develop proposals for such programmes in the future, if specific needs were identified.

The result of the discussion was reported to the 17th SAC and the SAC recommended RCARO to continue to explore the possibility of developing an ICT related project for possible consideration under the IAEA TC programme.

5. Increased interaction between the Member States and the RCARO

5.1 Increased participation of the Member States in the RCARO activities

Recommended by the NRs for the RCARO Fellowship Programme, three persons from PAK, VIE and MYA were selected in 2013. They contributed to implementing the RCA/UNDP partnership projects and investigating possible regional/international events for promotional uses.

5.2 Holding a workshop on strengthening the RCA/RCARO activities and its efficiency

With a view to strengthening the RCA/RCARO activities and its efficiency, RCARO organized a workshop inviting SAC members, NRs and RCA experts.

As recommended by the 35th NRM, RCARO received suggestions for the themes from the Member States which meet the needs of RCARO and RCA Member States, avoiding areas similar to the one from last year.

Suggestions were received from Mr. Waqar Ahmad, NR of Pakistan and Mr. John Easey, RCA expert. Mr. Ahmad proposed to hold an induction workshop for new NRs and Mr. Easey's was to hold a workshop to discuss better communication and information exchange among people in the RCA. Reflecting opinions and comments from the Member States and the above suggestions, RCARO decided the themes and programme of the workshop in consultation with the SAC members.

A Workshop on "strengthening the RCA/RCARO Activities and its Efficiency" was held on 7-9 August 2013 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The total number of participants was 25 including SAC members, NRs and RCA experts. The workshop consisted of the following four sessions:

Session I: Improvement of information exchange and communication in RCA

Session II: Enhancement of RCA networking among the Member States

Session III: Review of the RCA Agreement

Session IV: The Past, Present and Future of RCARO

The report of the workshop is uploaded on the RCA website for reference of the participants and Member States and also attached in Annex 1.

The result of the workshop was also reported to the 17th SAC and 42nd GCM.

5.3 Participation in the RCA policy meetings

RCARO participated in the RCA policy meetings, i.e. the 35thNRM in Myanmar and the 42nd GCM in Vienna. The director and acting director of RCARO made presentations on its activities. In addition, RCARO served as a secretariat for the SAC meetings.

5.4 Participation in the RCA project design meeting

Having been recommended by the 39th GCM in 2010 to develop capabilities in project design and management, RCARO participated in the regional meeting on project design of RCA proposed concepts for TCP 2014/15 on 18-22 February in Vienna as an observer.

5.5 Participation in the 14th FNCA Coordinators Meeting

On behalf of RCA, Dir-RCARO participated in the meeting on 11-12 March in Tokyo, Japan and submitted a report on its result to the RCA FP.

5.6 Operation of the committee for the selection and appointment of the RCARO Director

In accordance with the timeline for the selection and appointment of a new Director of the RCARO which was approved at the 41st GCM in 2012, the vacancy notice was advertised through the RCA website and other related channels and one application from the Korean Government was received within the deadline.

The selection committee (SC) was constituted at the end of November 2012 consisting of 4 members from China, Myanmar, Korea and Indonesia as a Chair person, with the exception of the IAEA.

According to the guidelines, the first SC meeting shall be convened by the RCARO and RCARO suggested that the meeting be managed by means of using on-line correspondences instead of conducting physical meetings.

RCARO conveyed all the relevant information, including the application form, guideline, timeline, assessment, to the chair person and other SC members for their review.

Summarizing the correspondences among the SC members, the chair finalized the assessment of an applicant for the position of the director of the RCARO.

The assessment was submitted to the SAC and the 35th NRM for its approval. The 35th NRM approved the appointment of Mr. Kun-mo Choi as the new director of the RCARO by acclamation.

5.7 Extra-budgetary contribution of RCARO to the IAEA

RCARO made an extra-budgetary contribution of US\$50,000 for implementation of RCA projects.

Annex 1



REPORT

RCARO Workshop on
Strengthening the RCA/RCARO Activities and its Efficiency

7-9 August 2013
Grand Hilton Hotel, Seoul, Korea

RCA Regional Office

1. Introduction

As recommended at the 35th National RCA Representatives Meeting (NRM) held on 19-22 March 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the RCARO Workshop on “Strengthening the RCA/RCARO Activities and its Efficiency” was held on 7-9 August 2013 at Grand Hilton Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea. Participants included: the SAC members from CPR, MYA and ROK; NRs of Pakistan and Philippines; two (2) experts from RCA Member States (MSs); and 11 representatives from ROK, including representatives from the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP), Korean Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation (KONICOF), Korea Institute of Radiological & Medical Sciences (KIRAMS), Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) and the 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).

2. Opening Session

2.1. Welcome Remarks by Mr. Kun-mo Choi, Director, RCARO

Mr. Kun-mo Choi, Dir-RCARO, warmly welcomed all the participants and thanked them for attending the Workshop. He noted that over the past 10 years, RCARO had achieved a lot of progress in enhancing the visibility and viability of the RCA. As one of its mandated activities is to strengthen RCA/RCARO activities, the RCARO organized this Workshop to discuss some current issues in this area.

He said that the conclusions and recommendations from this Workshop would assist in further strengthening the operations of the RCA/RCARO and requested the participants to actively participate in the Workshop.

2.2. Congratulatory Remarks by Dr. Khin Maung Latt, RCA Chair

On behalf of the RCA MSs, Dr. Khin Maung Latt, current RCA Chair, welcomed all the participants attending the Workshop. Dr. Latt expressed his sincere congratulations at the opening of the Workshop and extended a warm welcome to all the participants. He also congratulated Mr. Choi on his appointment as a new Director, RCARO.

2.3. Congratulatory Remarks by Mr. Hai-joo Moon, Director General, Space & Nuclear Policy Bureau, MSIP of the Republic of Korea

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Hai-joo Moon, Director General of Space & Nuclear Policy Bureau, MSIP, gave congratulatory remarks and welcomed the participants. He noted that the RCA had greatly contributed to its Member States in many areas by successfully implementing projects that transferred nuclear science and technology in a wide range of beneficial applications and this had also played a pivotal role in enhancing nuclear technology cooperation in Asia-Pacific region.

He stressed that in 2012, the RCA had been awarded Certificates of Excellence in three areas as

part of the Best Practices Initiative being implemented by the Agency. These were in the following areas:

- Building the future on strong foundations: evidence-based regional priorities for the RCA;
- Building the future on effective and sustainable technology transfer: an active and monitored TCDC and partnership programme for the RCA; and
- Enhanced prosperity of RCA: RCA promotional and information programme engaging a wide range of stakeholders.

He also commented that there was a great demand from the MSs for assistance with measures to retain and use nuclear science and technology in the region and the successful history of operation of the RCARO had demonstrated that it had the ability to take on more initiatives in the future to assist the RCA programme.

In conclusion, he thanked those who had been involved in the preparation of the Workshop and wished the Workshop great success.

2.4. Introduction to the Workshop

Mr. Kun-mo Choi, Dir-RCARO, briefed the Workshop Program and reviewed the agenda items.

The Workshop was informed that Session Chairs would be:

- Session 1 - Dr. Khin Maung Latt
- Session 2 - Dr. Waqar Ahmad
- Session 3 - Dr. Alumanda Dela Rosa
- Session 4 - Dr. Dongxin Feng

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

The Workshop Prospectus and Programme are given in Annexes 2 and 3.

At the commencement of the Workshop, Ms. Hyunkyung Jeon, Deputy Head, Programme Division, RCARO, reviewed the recommendations from 2012 RCARO Workshop to clarify their current status.

After Ms. Jeon's presentation, there was some discussion on the recommendation related to RCARO's involvement in the thematic approach for future RCA programme but as it was related to the RCARO's future activities, the Workshop deferred detailed discussion to Session IV.

3. Session I – Improvement of information exchange and communication in RCA

Dr. Khin Maung Latt chaired this Session.

3.1. Current issues/problems on information exchange and communication in RCA

Dr. John Easey, former RCA Coordinator and ANSTO Honorary Fellow, gave a presentation entitled “Communications and Information Exchange” (Annex 4). This covered the following topics:

- Motivations for change
- Comments on communications
- Comments on RCA documents
- Case studies on identification of potential areas for improvements in communications and information exchange

The Workshop thanked him for his comprehensive presentation on the issue of communications and information exchange in the RCA.

Dr. Easey noted the importance of the communications and information exchange and emphasised necessity of improving and enlarging the level of information exchange in the RCA. He suggested establishing a centralised database, which could be accessible for all RCA stakeholders, and would contribute to improved decision making and programme performance in a variety of areas. He also pointed out some practical issues to be considered for more efficient presentation of future RCA documents and meeting reports.

The participants supported Dr. Easey’s suggestions. However, they noted that since many of his recommendations and suggestions required approval from the NRs in order to be implemented, it was agreed to make recommendations that these be the subject for discussion at an RCA policy level meeting.

3.2. Conclusions and Recommendations

The followings are the conclusions and recommendations of the Session I:

Conclusions:

- The Workshop concluded that the RCA needed to adopt modern communications and information exchange practices to strengthen RCA activities.
- An information database containing RCA financial and implementation performance indicators should be accessible for all Member States.
- The RCARO needs to expand their RCA document archives coverage of RCA reports and technical information with the assistance of the IAEA and Member States.

Recommendations to the NRs

- Potential problems resulting from the lack of continuity of Member States' participation in the NRM and GCM should be reported to the 42nd GCM.
- A centralized database containing, initially, RCA financial and implementation performance indicators over the past 10-15 years should be established using the RCA website as a platform.
- In this connection, it is recommended the next NRM to have an agenda item on information exchange and communication in the RCA

4. Session II – Enhancement of RCA networking among the Member States

Dr. Waqar Ahmad, NR of Pakistan, chaired Session II.

4.1. Establishment of ICT infrastructure of Member States by providing ICT equipment

At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Soo Youn Hwang, Project Officer, RCARO, gave a presentation entitled “Establishment of ICT infrastructure of Member States by providing ICT equipment” (Annex 5), which dealt with:

- Background
- Status of Member States
- Objectives and Process
- Discussion

The participants had an extensive discussion on the issue in terms of providing ICT equipment or educational software related to RCA projects and video conferencing. There were various views and opinions from the participants and most of the participants commented that providing ICT equipment was not a vital problem in Member States now and that making good use of their existing ICT infrastructure was more essential consideration. In this context, the Workshop deferred discussion to possible future occasions.

4.2. Conclusion

The Workshop made the following conclusion for this session:

Conclusions:

The Workshop valued the RCARO's initiation of the project on the ICT infrastructure support. The Workshop took note that there was no evidence of strong demand from the Member States for assistance with ICT equipment. However, it was agreed that there might be a future need for development of a programme which would contribute to improving information exchange and communication using ICT or to expanding the RCARO repository of archived materials to include, training materials, software and technical documents developed through RCA projects.

It was noted that the RCARO and/or Member States would be welcomed to develop proposals for such programmes in the future, if specific needs were identified.

5. Session III – Review of the RCA Agreement

Dr. Alumanda Dela Rosa, NR of Philippines, chaired Session III.

There was extensive discussion on the need for revision of the 1987 Agreement to make it more applicable and suitable for present and future needs.

5.1. Review of the RCA Agreement

Dr. Alumanda Dela Rosa delivered a presentation entitled “Review of the RCA Agreement” (Annex 6).

The Participants valued the presentation delivered by Dr. Dela Rosa and it covered the history of the RCA, history of the RCA Agreement from the initial 1972 Agreement to its amendment in 1987 and outlined current issues that could be of interest and a motivation for amending the 1987 RCA Agreement.

5.2. Review of the RCA Agreement

Mr. Dae-ki Kim, NR ROK, made a presentation entitled “Review of the RCA Agreement” (Annex 7), which dealt with:

- Background
- Rationale for Agreement Revision
- Article to be revised
- Draft Amendment

He explained the background and rationale of ROK’s proposal and presented a draft amendment of the Agreement. The participants agreed on the valuable contribution made by Mr. Kim in his presentation and shared the view that his comprehensive analysis provided a reasoned argument about the necessity and importance for a revision of the 1987 Agreement. For further evaluation and the preparation of a comprehensive approach to this issue, it was suggested that the next stage should be the formation of a Working Group from Member States to review the proposals from Member States and to assess the options for its comprehensive revision.

5.3. Conclusion and Recommendations

The following conclusion and recommendations were agreed by the Workshop:

Conclusion:

The Workshop noted the proposed draft revision of the present Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) and saw that it contained many beneficial revisions. This draft was seen to

be a very helpful input to stimulate wider discussions by the NRs. It was suggested that it would be desirable to achieve the revision of the 1987 Agreement before the 5th extension of the Agreement expires in 2017.

Recommendations to the NRs

- To recommend discussion of a revision of the 1987 Agreement as a separate agenda item at the coming 42nd GCM and recommended that the RCA Chair make the necessary arrangements.
- It was recommended that the RCA Chair request the Secretariat to include any proposals on revision of the 1987 Agreement from the Member States in the background papers of the 42nd GCM.
- To recommend the 42nd GCM to constitute a Working Group to review potential revision of the 1987 Agreement.

6. Session IV – The Past, Present and Future of RCARO

Dr. Dongxin Feng, former RCA Chair, chaired Session IV.

In her opening remarks, the Chair said that she valued the efforts of the RCARO and complimented it on its successful performance.

6.1. In-house evaluation & thoughts on RCARO Activities

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Kun-mo Choi, Dir-RCARO, gave a presentation on “In-house evaluation & thoughts on RCARO activities”, which covered 10 years of RCARO on various aspects: changes in the past 10 years, major achievements, evaluation, issues and challenges ahead and future thoughts. (Annex 8)

The participants commented favourably on various aspects of the past and current RCARO’s role and activities. They also made suggestions on additional areas for the RCARO involvement, such as assisting in the design of RCA projects, and using their fellowship programme to create and prepare a RCA database on financial and implementation aspects. There were also comments on how the RCARO’s activities were limited because of the limited mandate given by the Member States. It was also noted that the host Government was facing a number of challenges and problems related to the conflicting pressures of limited funding and increasing expectations from Member States for RCARO support. It was suggested a high level decision makers meeting could be used to get top-down input to help in the solution of these problems.

6.2. Conclusion

The following conclusion was made during the session:

Conclusion :

The Workshop registered its appreciation of the work of the RCARO and the strong value it

placed on the activities it had undertaken over the past 10 years. The RCARO was encouraged to take on more initiatives for the benefit of Member States.

The Dir-RCARO thanked the participants for the compliments on the work and achievements of the RCARO and stated that the comments and opinions from the Member States would be reflected in the future RCARO activities to the best possible extent.

7. Closing

The Dir-RCARO thanked the participants for their contribution 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.

RCARO 2014 Work Plan

	Target	Activities	Milestone				Performance Indicators
			QT 1	QT 2	QT 3	QT 4	
1	Increasing the awareness of the RCA	<p>1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA’s awareness</p> <p>1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA website</p> <p>1.3 Participation in regional/international events and support for the promotion of RCA activities</p>					<p>1.1.1 Publication of a RCA brochure for general public</p> <p>1.1.2 Updating RCA promotional video</p> <p>1.2.1 Updating data on RCA and RCA projects</p> <p>1.2.2 Updating data on RCA stakeholders/end-users by the Member States</p> <p>1.3.1 Presentation and exhibition on RCA/RCARO activities to target audiences</p> <p>1.3.2 Support the RCA experts for increasing awareness and promotion of RCA</p>
2	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology	<p>2.1 Publication of final report</p> <p>2.2 Monitoring and submission of progress reports</p>					<p>2.1.1 Publication and distribution of the final report of the project</p> <p>2.2.1 Preparation and submission of the progress reports to the Member States and the UNDP</p>

3	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on electron beam applications	<p>3.1 Conducting Regional Training Courses</p> <p>3.2 Monitoring and submission of progress/annual and financial reports</p> <p>3.3 Annual review meeting and evaluation of the project</p>					<p>3.1.1 Conducting Regional Training Courses of electron beam applications in industry and food products</p> <p>3.2.1 Preparation and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports to the UNDP and UNOPS</p> <p>3.3.1 Hosting an annual review meeting to review and evaluate the performance of the project</p>
4	Assisting the Member States in addressing regional and national needs	<p>4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course</p> <p>4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course</p> <p>4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop</p>				<p>4.1.1 Supporting the RCARO/KAIST Master's Degree Course</p> <p>4.2.1 Holding of the RCARO/ARCCNM training course</p> <p>4.3.1 Holding of the RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop</p>	
5	Increased interaction between the Member States and the RCARO	<p>5.1 RCARO Fellowship Programme</p> <p>5.2 Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with the Member States</p>				<p>5.1.1 Inviting 3 temporary staff from the Member States to the RCARO</p> <p>5.2.1 Holding a workshop to enhance the RCARO interactions with the Member States</p>	

6	Other activities	<p>6.1 Submission of a strategic paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO</p> <p>6.2 Participation in the RCA policy related meetings</p> <p>6.3 Participation in the RCA Working Groups(WGs) meeting</p> <p>6.4 Participation in the 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting</p> <p>6.5 Extra-Budgetary(EB) contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA</p>				<p>6.1.1 Submission of a paper to the 36th NRM</p> <p>6.2.1 Participation in the 36th NRM and 43rd GCM</p> <p>6.3.1 Participation in the RCA WGs meeting as a member of WG for revision of the GOR</p> <p>6.4.1 Participation in the 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting</p> <p>6.5.1 EB contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA</p>
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RCARO 2014 Work Plan

1. Increasing the awareness of RCA

1.1 Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness

1.1.1 Publication of a RCA brochure for general public

Pursuant to the decision of the 35th NRM, RCARO proceeded to publish two different types of brochures in consultation with the Member States, RCA experts and IAEA: one for general public and the other for decision makers/end users.

A brochure for decision makers was published in 2013 as planned and one for general public is in the process of finalizing its draft. Reflecting comments from the Member States, RCA experts and IAEA, a final version will be prepared and submitted to the RCA chair for approval of its publication.

Upon the approval, a brochure for general public in leaflet form will be published and copies will be distributed to the Member States for local distribution and handed out for promotional uses on appropriate occasions.

1.1.2 Updating RCA promotional video

Since its production in 2011, the RCA promotional video was used effectively at the regional/international events to promote the RCA and its activities and also in the Member States for their promotional uses at national level.

It will be updated with changes related to the RCA including replacement of the National Representatives, new Member States and RCA projects. The updated version will be distributed to the Member States and also uploaded on the RCA website.

1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website

RCARO will continue its efforts to further enhance its website operation in 2014, with a view to making it a hub for an information flow within the RCA community.

1.2.1 Updating data on the RCA and RCA projects

RCARO will continue its efforts to further update the data on RCA and its activities: meetings, projects, and news.

RCARO will enhance, among others, its interactions among end-users and stakeholders of the RCA Member States through the website, in particular, on matters regarding the information exchange and utilization.

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

In accordance with the RCARO's efforts to update the database on the RCA stakeholders and end-users, the Member States are required to participate in the provision of data on relevant personnel in respective Member States. Member States' advices on effective use of the database are requested.

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

RCARO will make further efforts to fulfill its mandate by promoting RCA to target audiences at appropriate occasions through presentations and exhibitions as well as providing support to RCA experts participating in such promotional activities.

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

RCARO will continue to promote the RCA/RCARO activities to target audiences by means of making presentations and exhibitions at some relevant occasions and meetings including the RCA events in the region.

These are the events from the survey conducted by the RCARO and recommendation by the Member States which could be of interest to the RCA:

- 4th Asian and Oceanic Congress on Radiation Protection (AOCRP-4), 12-16 May, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 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, 24-28 August, Chicago, USA *
- 11th Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, 27-31 August, Cancun, Mexico
- South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Conference, 1-4 September, Darwin, Australia *
- 9th International Symposium on the Natural Radiation Environment, 23-26 September, Hirosaki, Japan *
- 15th Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology, 24-28 September, Kobe, Japan
- Ionizing Radiation and Polymers 2014, 5-9 October, Jeju, Korea

* Recommended by the NR of New Zealand

In consultation with the SAC Members, RCARO will finalize 3-4 events which could

be appropriate for promotion of RCA and its activities and attend the selected events accordingly.

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

RCARO will continue to provide its assistance to some selected RCA experts for participation in international meetings and promotional activities for the RCA.

According to the guideline prepared in 2013 and selection process to be decided in early 2014, RCARO will support RCA experts selected for the first half of 2014 for their promotional activities.

For the second half of 2014 and ahead, in consultation with the SAC members, RCARO will establish a more comprehensive programme with elaborated guideline, timetable, projected number of experts to be supported, budget, decision process to maximize the effectiveness of the programme.

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

2.1 Publication of the final report

Upon completion of the project, RCARO will prepare and publish a final report on the activities, outcomes and achievements of the project in cooperation with LCC and NPCs. The report will be distributed to the related stakeholders such as Member States, UNDP, IAEA, etc.

2.2 Monitoring and submission of progress reports

As recommended by the 17th SAC, RCARO will continue to monitor and report on the impact of the project for 2 years after its completion to the Member States and the UNDP.

3. Implementation of RCA/ UNDP partnership project on Electron Beam (EB) applications

3.1 Conducting Regional Training Courses (RTCs)

To enhance the level of technology/knowledge and capability of human resources in the application of EB in the field of industry and food products, RTCs will be held in Korea to provide the participants with the basic knowledge and technology by means of practical demonstration.

As decided at the annual review meeting in 2013, a RTC for advanced material will be

held for two weeks and two persons from each participating country and a RTC for food products will be held for one week and one person.

Specific dates and venue will be decided by the RCARO in consultation with the LCC and informed to the participating countries in due course.

3.2 Monitoring and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports

RCARO will continue to monitor the project for successful implementation. Conforming to the UNDP rules and regulations, progress/annual and financial reports of the project will be prepared and submitted to the UNDP and UNOPS every six months.

3.3 Annual review meeting and evaluation of the project

As decided at the annual review meeting in 2013, the meeting will be held in Yangon, Myanmar on 19-20 November 2014, inviting representatives of the participating Member States and related stakeholders to review and evaluate the project implementation in 2014 and discuss 2015 work plan.

4. Assisting the Member States in addressing regional and national needs

4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course

With the aim of assisting the Member States in capacity building related to nuclear science and technology, Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course was initiated by the RCARO in cooperation with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). As carried out in the past years, RCARO will continue to recruit students from the Member States for the 2014 spring and fall semesters.

4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course

RCARO will continue its support for the RCARO/ARCCNM training course in 2014.

4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

RCARO will host a regional training workshop on radiation applications technology in October or November 2014 in cooperation with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI). The Member States are requested to recommend appropriate candidates for the workshop.

5. Increased Interaction between the Member States and the RCARO

5.1 RCARO Fellowship Programme

RCARO will select 3 temporary staff from the Member States to work in RCARO in 2014. Their duties include assisting in updating stakeholder/end-user database;

collecting information on regional and international events; and implementing RCA/UNDP partnership project. RCARO considers extending the duty period of the temporary staff who successfully performed his/her duty in the RCARO.

5.2 Holding a workshop to meet the needs of the Member States and the RCARO

With a view to increasing interaction with the Member States, RCARO plans to host a workshop to discuss ways to increase interaction with the Member States and accommodate the needs of the Member States and the RCARO, inviting relevant stakeholders. Details of the workshop including date, venue and its theme will be submitted to and finalized in consultation with the SAC.

6. Other Activities

6.1 Submission of a strategic paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO

As decided at the 42nd GCM on preparing a strategic paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO for discussion at the next NRM, RCARO conducted a questionnaire survey to obtain views of the Member States at the end of 2013 as the groundwork for the paper.

Reflecting views and suggestions from the Member States, RCARO will prepare a strategic paper and submit to the 36th NRM for discussion.

6.2 Participation in the RCA policy related meetings

RCARO will participate in the RCA policy meetings, including the 36th NRM in Wellington, New Zealand on 1-4 April and the 43rd GCM in September, Vienna and make presentations on the RCARO activities. RCARO will also provide assistance to the operation of the RCARO SAC meetings as a secretariat.

6.3 Participation in the RCA Working Groups Meeting

As decided at the 42nd GCM in September 2013 on organizing a meeting of three Working Groups (WG), including: 1) WG-1 Meeting on Evaluating New Project Concepts for 2016-2017; 2) WG-2 Meeting on Updating the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR); and 3) WG-3 Meeting on Developing Medium Term Strategy (MTS) & Strategic Priorities (SP), a meeting for the above-mentioned Working Groups will be held on 17-21 February in Vienna, Austria. Director of RCARO will participate in the said meeting on 19-21 February as a member of WG-2.

6.4 Participation in the 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting

On behalf of RCA, RCARO will participate in the 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting to

be held in March 2014 in Japan to discuss cooperative matters between the RCA and FNCA.

6.5 Extra-Budgetary (EB) contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA

An EB contribution by the RCARO and the ROK Government will continue in 2014 to support the RCA projects in need of financial support and is subject to the budget availability of the RCARO.

Annex 2

Strategic Paper on the Potential for Increasing Role of the RCA Regional Office

1. Background

The need to establish an RCA Regional Office (RCARO) was strongly proposed by the RCA Member States (MSs) at the 19th RCA National Representatives Meeting (NRM) in March 1997 in Yangon, Myanmar. This was on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the RCA and was one of a number of decisions that were taken by the MSs to increase their ownership of the RCA.

At the 30th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) in September 2001 in Vienna, MSs agreed in principle to the establishment of the RCARO in Korea in early 2002 but this was to be as interim operation until necessary legal provisions for its operation could be prepared.

As agreed at the 23rd RCA NRM in Dhaka and at the 30th RCA GC, the role of the RCARO, through its Director, was to act on behalf of the MSs to increase awareness about the RCA with regional or international organisations and to seek additional partnerships among the regional and international nuclear communities.

The specific details of the mandate are as follows:

- (a) Pro-actively seek out opportunities for the RCA to participate in projects being funded by major regional and international donors, including international agencies;
- (b) Negotiate and secure funding for RCA projects;
- (c) Promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology to assist in addressing regional and national needs;
- (d) Provide enhanced visibility for the RCA at regional and national forums, and
- (e) Implement the directives of the RCA Member States as agreed upon at the Meetings of National RCA Representatives.

The current role of the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) has evolved progressively from this point over the past 12 years. In 2010 the following additional item was added to the mandate as set out on the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules:

- Provide Member States with reference to the RCA archived records on the projects, meeting proceedings, guidelines and procedures for undertaking the RCA activities as a repository of knowledge on the RCA programme.

The RCARO has been able to clearly demonstrate to the MSs that it has the skills and resources to fulfil this mandate and to deliver useful contributions to the RCA Programme. This was clearly demonstrated when the RCA was awarded three Best Practice Awards at the 2013 NRM, one of which was entitled “Enhanced prosperity of RCA: RCA promotional and information programme engaging a wide range of stakeholders”. It was prepared and submitted by the RCARO and was directly related to its work.

As a result of the significant contributions made by the RCARO to the effective progress of the RCA, MSs have been keen for the RCARO to undertake more duties and have progressively broadened and expanded the scope of the RCARO’s mandate. However this has been an incremental response to specific needs rather than a holistic approach.

It is therefore timely and beneficial to take a broader review of the RCARO, its function and its responsibilities and look at how well the current support addresses the overall RCA Programme requirements and whether there are presently gaps that could be appropriately supported by the RCARO with its present resources or with an expanded level of resources.

At the 42nd RCA GCM, which was held on 13th September 2013 in Vienna, the Director RCARO made a presentation highlighting the main outcomes of the RCARO’s work over the past year and future plans. In response the Meeting made the following request as set out in the Meeting Report:

The Meeting requested RCARO to prepare a strategic paper on potential increasing role of RCARO for discussions at the next NRM and to conduct a questionnaire survey to obtain the views of the RCA MSs.

2. Future Focus

a. Scoping Member States' Views

As an initial step to identifying and clarifying the possible future role of the RCARO, a questionnaire seeking MSs' input on a range of issues was prepared by the RCARO:

- Overall Performance of the RCARO;
- Evaluation of Past and Current the RCARO Activities;
- RCARO's Interactions with Member States; and
- RCARO's Possible Future Activities.

It was circulated by email to all RCA National Representatives (NRs) by the Director, RCARO on 6 December 2013 and at the time of this report eight (8) NRs¹ have completed and returned the questionnaires. The following observations can be drawn from their responses:

- 8 were satisfied with the overall performance of the RCARO;
- 8 rated the activities of the RCARO good or normal;
- 6 agreed on the RCARO's capability to undertake expanded roles and tasks for development of the RCA, while 2 were neutral and;
- 7 supported the suggestions made by the RCARO on possible future activities, in particular: supporting RCA ad hoc committees; management of new RCA projects funded from other funding resources (e.g. extra budgetary contributions from the host country of RCARO); and, developing the RCARO initiated programme.

b. Increasing the size and scope of the RCA Programme

The current size and scope of the RCA Programme is limited by the contribution that can be made from the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme and the extra budgetary contributions from either MSs or Regional/International Organisations.

The RCA Medium Term Strategy 2012/2017 had placed emphasis on the RCA Programme having a small number of projects with high impact in high priority

¹ AUL, IND, INS, MYA, NZE, PAK, PHI, SRL,

areas. It had also made provision for the inclusion of “supplementary projects”. This term covered a range of possibilities such as:

- support of projects that addressed specific needs of a smaller group of MSs;
- continuation of previous ongoing or completed projects that required further support to fully realise their full objectives and benefits; and,
- provision of opportunities to test future priorities through support of exploratory projects.

Unfortunately the introduction of “supplementary projects” as a significant feature of the RCA Programme could not be proceeded with, as the IAEA made changes to the criteria for regional TC projects seeking approval for the 2014/2015 TC Cycle and they established that it should be made up of a small number of large projects (class A) and only 1 small project (class B).

The RCARO may be well-placed to pick up this “supplementary projects” initiative and it may be more cost effective for the RCARO to take on such projects, since these could incur the Agency a significant administrative overhead compared to the standard projects, if they processed them using their standard screening and evaluation procedures. In addition the scope of the supplementary projects could be extended, so that they could be used to support projects that arise unexpectedly. Under suitable conditions it might also be possible to fast-track these small projects as well as being able to process them outside of the 2 year TC Cycle timing, which could assist in establishing a Programme that was more responsive to pressing needs and requirements of the MSs.

c. Reintroducing Research into the RCA Programme

Although the title RCA is short form for “Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific”, there has been no overt research component in the Programme since the late 1990s, prior to that the RCA had had a number of CRPs for the previous decade or more. The CRP programme is administered through the IAEA Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, while the training and development aspects are compatible with the programme administered through the Department of Technical Cooperation. Funding for projects administered by one Department cannot be used to support projects administered by the other Department.

Documentation shows that the RCA programme has been supporting technology transfer in the region since at least 1979. During this time there have been significant increases in knowledge skills and competency in nuclear science and technology across the majority of the RCA MSs and the levels of technology transfer now required to address the gaps between the donor and the recipient MSs are limited. A number of the project concepts being submitted by Member States for consideration as components of future RCA Programmes are substantially research proposals and contain little in the way of training or technology transfer. There are a range of indications that the region now requires inputs of new knowledge generated by regional research, in contrast to the transfer of existing “old” knowledge from donor countries.

The RCARO could be well-placed to administer and support a coordinated research initiative for the RCA. Such a regional cooperative venture operating outside of the IAEA CRP system would be able to be flexible, responsive and timely and focus solely on RCA MSs identified needs and priorities. In contrast the IAEA CRP system addresses the needs of all IAEA MSs. Its programme has a restricted number of CRPs and the approval process operates over a fixed time programming cycle.

d. Broadening Training into Education

While the RCA Programme of projects has carried out a wide range of training events in nuclear science and technology, there have only been a few examples where there has been an emphasis on incorporating such training as components of courses in universities or vocational training institutes or organisations. Long term sustainability of transferred technologies would be greatly aided if associated training were incorporated into broader educational programmes.

The RCARO could play a coordinating role in the development of regionally-based curricula covering nuclear science and technology-based subjects, identified as priorities by the MSs. Such a role would also provide additional opportunities for the promotion of nuclear science and technology generally as well as providing additional avenues for the distribution of RCA promotional materials, RCA success stories and general information on the RCA and its Programme.

e. Broadening Project Training to support Underlying Technology Knowledge

Currently MSs' requests for the recruitment of expert lecturers to conduct unforeseen local training events have to be in accord with the planned activities set out in the approved project design document and meet the specific aims and objectives foreseen for that particular project.

However, there can be often a wider need to have national training support in technologically related areas that do not accord with the specific design of any of the projects that are currently being implemented. Although it may not fit the approvals, such training might be able to have a significant impact on raising knowledge and appreciation of the associated broader nuclear technology at a national level and also assist in supporting the sustainability of more specialised training inputs being provided under the project.

The RCARO could assist in coordinating and supporting the participation of expert lecturers for such missions, as part of a more general technology support programme.

In the past the RCA Programme supported one-off regional training events or workshops on subjects that were not part of the Programme being implemented at that time. Reinstatement of such a programme could be beneficial to the overall RCA. These types of events could be used to inform MSs about potential candidate project areas for the future and act as a litmus test on their suitability.

The RCARO could assist in the coordination and support of such ad hoc training as an extension of its present work in this area under which it is supporting annually three training events: RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course; RCARO/ARCCNM² Training Course; and, RCARO/KAERI Regional Training Course.

f. Strengthening the RCA Working Groups and ad hoc Committees

As a result of the decisions from the annual NRMs and GCMs, working groups and ad hoc committees are established periodically to provide the NRs with considered views, conclusions and recommendations on a range of topics. Many of these issues are urgent and the working groups and committees are required to report to the following NRM or GCM. The nature of the tasks is such that, in addressing the

² ARCCNM – Asian Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine

need to achieve a consensus, they are best addressed through a physical meeting, which also involves them in the preparation of a group report.

The RCARO could assist in the coordination and support of such working groups and ad hoc committees.

The RCARO could also assist new NRs attending NRMs and GCMs for the first time. These new NRs may not be able to gain access at the local level to the complete range of background and supportive documentation that would enable them to be across all the issues on the agenda. The RCARO could assist them through the preparation and provision of information packages and other materials as required.

3. Consequences and Impact of Future Roles on the RCARO

a. Human Resource Infrastructure

The RCARO is staffed currently by six permanent personnel; the Director, Programme Division (3) and Administration Division (2). In addition there are 2 temporary staff, 1 MSs and 1 local staff. This is relatively small number of staff and raises questions on the sustainability of its high level activities, should there be the simultaneous loss of two or more staff members. At present there is no risk management strategy formulated to cope with such a situation.

Increasing the range of RCARO administrative duties and obligations would necessitate an increase in capacity and capability of the Office which would involve an increase in staff numbers as well as an increase in the budget to cover the additional staff costs as well as the support of the additional RCA Programme activities that would be undertaken.

The RCARO permanent staffs are all Korean nationals. The temporary staff from MSs who come to the RCARO under its RCARO Fellowship Programme are the only non-Koreans in the Office. The introduction of nationals from the other MSs as staff would provide a more “regional” face for the RCARO.

b. The Next Move

This report has been prepared as a step on the way to increase the operational efficiency of the RCA Programme and bring greater benefits to all MSs. It has also designed to increase MSs' ownership of the RCA Programme through increased participation in the design of the future scope and operation. There are a large number of suggestions in this report and many might benefit from further elaboration, as well as refinement.

It is proposed that the next move should be the formation of a Working Group to consider each of the suggestions proposed in this report. An action plan for this Working Group and an associated timetable for the completion of actions are attached for your consideration. It is intended that the Working Group will provide an interim report to the 2014 GCM. It is proposed that this Meeting provide the RCARO with nominations of candidates who have extensive knowledge and experience in RCA matters. Up to four suitably nominated people would be selected to be part of this Working Group which may be assisted by RCARO staff and experts. Operational aspects for the implementation of the Working Group would be supported, as required, by the RCARO.

Proposed Actions:

1. The Meeting may discuss the strategic paper prepared by the Director RCARO on potential increasing role of RCARO and decide on adopting actions, taking into account any changes that may be the outcome of their deliberations.
2. In particular it may decide on the proposal for the formation of a Working Group to consider in detail the suggestions set out in this strategic paper and supported by the associated action plan.
3. In addition it may make recommendations to the Director, RCARO, to investigate whether it would be possible for the RCARO to support the expansion of the staff through the recruitment of a senior staff member (equivalent to a UN P3-P4 Grade Officer) from one of the RCA Member States.

Action Plan

Action	Date	Responsibility
Strategic Paper on RCARO submitted to the 36 th NRM	1-4 April 2014	DIR RCARO
Establishment of WG at the 36 th NRM	1-4 April 2014	NRs
Securement of budget for P3-P4 level staff	May-July 2014	DIR RCARO
WG Meeting	June 2014	DIR RCARO
WG report to GCM	September 2014	WG Members
Follow up actions of the 43 rd GCM decisions	after the 43 rd GCM	DIR RCARO / WG
Recruitment process of the P3-P4 level staff	First half of 2015	DIR RCARO