

Report of the Director of the RCARO

Background

The procedure for evaluation of the performance of DIR-RCARO and an annual work plan stipulated in RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR) annex 5 is as follows:

- (a) The DIR-RCARO should prepare a draft annual work plan based on the RCA GOR, addressing all aspects of his/her roles and responsibilities with targets, milestones and measurable performance indicators (PIs) for each aspect of activities, and submit it to the RCARO SAC by 1 January each year.
- (b) The draft work plan should be negotiated and agreed between the members of SAC and the DIR-RCARO.
- (c) An annual work plan should be agreed upon by 1 February with finalized PIs and targets/milestones for each aspect of activities therein.
- (d) The annual work plan is subject to a mid-term review by the SAC. The DIR-RCARO should inform the SAC if there are major items with the potential to affect the implementation of the agreed annual work plan. The SAC should provide its reviews and agree on any adjustment to the annual work plan. The mid-term review may be done in the month of July or otherwise scheduled between the DIR-RCARO and SAC.
- (e) The DIR-RCARO should prepare the report on his/her performance in fulfilling the agreed work plan, and submit it to the SAC by 1 January of the following year for evaluation.
- (f) The SAC will assess the annual report through electronic interactions with the DIR-RCARO, and submit its report to the Regional NRM for consideration.

Actions taken

In accordance with the Annex 5 of the GOR, the DIR-RCARO prepared the report on his performance and submitted it to the SAC in January 2015 for its evaluation.(attached herewith as RCARO 2014 Work Performance) The SAC accessed the report through electronic interactions and complimented RCARO on its performance in 2014. The SAC's evaluation will be reported to the NRM for consideration.

Under the same guideline the DIR-RCARO prepared a draft annual work plan for the year 2015 and submitted it to the SAC in January 2015.(attached herewith as RCARO 2015 Work Plan) The draft work plan was discussed among the SAC members through electronic interactions and they agreed with the plan.

Proposed Action

The Meeting may take note of the report containing RCARO's work performance in 2014 and work plan for 2015.

RCARO 2014 Work Performance

	Target	Activities	Milestone				Performance Indicators	Status
			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>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</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>Done</p> <p>-Distributed to the relevant stakeholders and general public</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>-A draft will be presented to the 37th NRM</p> <p>Done</p> <p>-Updated data on RCA meetings and projects</p> <p>Done</p> <p>-Updated the information on new NRs and other stakeholders</p>

		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 conferences and provided materials to support the promotional activity of AUL
					1.3.2 Support the RCA experts for increasing awareness and promotion of RCA	Ongoing -Supported 4 experts for their RCA promotional activities -2 experts will be supported in early 2015.
2	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology	2.1 Publication of final report			2.1.1 Publication and distribution of the final report of the project	Done -Distributed to the relevant stakeholders
		2.2 Monitoring and submission of progress reports			2.2.1 Preparation and submission of the progress reports to the Member States and the UNDP	Done -Submitted the reports to the UNDP and UNOPS
3	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership	3.1 Conducting Regional Training Courses			3.1.1 Conducting Regional Training Courses of electron beam applications in industry and food	Done -Two RTCs were conducted: one on advanced material and the

	project on electron beam applications	3.2 Monitoring and submission of progress/annual and financial reports				products	other on food
		3.3 Annual review meeting and evaluation of the project				3.2.1 Preparation and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports to the UNDP and UNOPS	Done -Submitted the reports to the UNDP and UNOPS
						3.3.1 Hosting an annual review meeting to review and evaluate the performance of the project	Done -Held on 19-20 Nov. in Yangon, Myanmar, inviting 17 participants
4	Assisting the Government Parties in addressing regional and national needs	4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course				4.1.1 Supporting the RCARO/KAIST Master's Degree Course	Done -Supported 3 students from INS, BGD and MYA
		4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course				4.2.1 Holding of the RCARO/ARCCNM training course	Done -Supported 33 trainees for the course held on 4-8 Nov. in Japan
		4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop				4.3.1 Holding of the RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop	Done -Supported 14 participants for the workshop held on 13-24 Oct. in Korea

5	Increased interaction between the Government Parties and the RCARO	5.1 RCARO Fellowship Programme		5.1.1 Inviting 3 temporary staff from the Government Parties to the RCARO	Done -3 staff were invited from MAL, BGD and THA.
		5.2 Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with the Government Parties		5.2.1 Holding a workshop to enhance the RCARO interactions with the Government Parties	Done -Replaced by the Working Group Meeting on the RCARO's future role on 10-12 June
6	Other activities	6.1 Submission of a strategic paper on potential increasing role of the RCARO		6.1.1 Submission of a paper to the 36 th NRM	Done -Submitted to the 36 th NRM
		6.2 Participation in the RCA policy related meetings		6.2.1 Participation in the 36 th NRM and 43 rd GCM	Done -Participated in the 36 th NRM and the 43 rd GCM
		6.3 Participation in the RCA Working Groups(WGs) meeting		6.3.1 Participation in the RCA WGs meeting as a member of WG for revision of the GOR	Done -Participated in the meeting on 19-21 Feb. in Vienna, Austria

	6.4 Participation in the 15 th FNCA Coordinators Meeting				6.4.1 Participation in the 15 th FNCA Coordinators Meeting	Done -Participated in the meeting on 11-12 March in Tokyo, Japan
	6.5 Extra-Budgetary(EB) contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA				6.5.1 EB contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA	Done -Contributed USD60,000 for implementation of the RCARO pilot project

RCARO 2014 Work Performance

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

Following the brochure in booklet for decision makers in 2013, a leaflet brochure for general public was drafted by RCARO and presented to the 36th NRM. As recommended by the NRM, comments were received from NZE, PHI and Dr. John Easey on the draft. Reflecting those comments, RCARO finalized and published the RCA brochure. Copies were distributed to the GPs and other relevant stakeholders and handed out for promotional uses on appropriate occasions to general public.

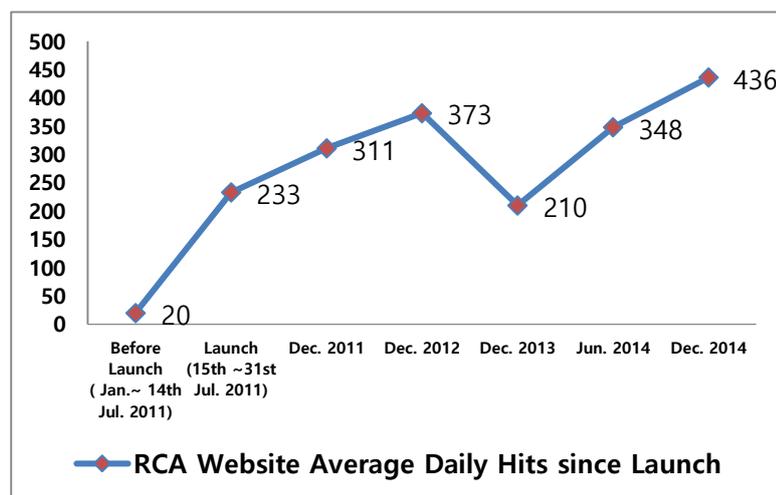
1.1.2 Updating RCA promotional video

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 Government Parties for their promotional uses at national level.

RCARO has updated the video, reflecting introduction of new Government Parties, new National RCA Representatives and current RCA projects. With the need of having a short version of the video, RCARO is also preparing its short version containing core information on the RCA. A draft will be presented to the 37th NRM for their review.

1.2 Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA Website

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



RCARO is in the process of preparing a working paper on review of the RCA web service and recommendations for improved access system. The paper will be submitted to the 37th NRM in 2015 for NR's consideration.

1.2.1 Updating data on RCA and RCA projects

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

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

Upon approval of the 36th NRM, RCARO has participated in the following conferences. The RCA brochure, Success Stories and promotional video were used for promotional purposes in those events.

- 2nd International Conference on Radiation and Dosimetry in Various Fields of Research, 27-30 May 2014 in Nis, Serbia
- 8th International Conference on Isotopes (ICI), 24-28 August, Chicago, USA

As of the participation to the South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Conference held on 1-4 September in Darwin, Australia, RCARO supported AUL's participation to the conference by providing RCA promotional materials such as RCA brochures, Success Stories and banners.

With regard to future participation to the international/regional conferences, the 18th SAC recommended RCARO to conduct a survey and present its results on possible conferences at the SAC before the GCM in the year before the conferences will be held. As a follow up, RCARO conducted a survey of NRs and IAEA and collected received information on 13 conferences from CPR and NZE as below;

- International conference on Medical Physics, radiation Protection and radiobiology, 20-22 February 2015, Jaipur, India
- 10th International Conference of Methods and applications of Radioanalytical Chemistry, April 12 -17 2015, Honolulu, USA
- ASME Boiler & Pressure Vessel Code Week, Apr. 16-May 1, 2015, Colorado, USA
- International Symposium on Isotope Hydrology: Revisiting Foundations and Exploring Frontiers, 11 – 15 May 2015, Vienna, Austria
- ICNMB 2015: International Conference on Nuclear Medicine and Biology, May 14 – 15 2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 15th International Congress of Radiation Research, 25-29 May 2015, Kyoto, Japan
- Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging 2015 Annual Meeting, June 6-10 2015, Baltimore, USA
- 20th International Conference on Radionuclide Metrology and its Applications, June 8-11 2015 Vienna, Austria
- Isotopes 2015, June 21-26 2015, Jerusalem, Israel
- Applied Isotope Geochemistry Conference, 21- 25 September 2015, Orléans, France
- 2015 IEEE Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference, 30 October – 8 November 2015, San Diego, USA
- 28th Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, 10 - 14October 2015, Hamburg, Germany
- International NDT Conference and Exhibition, 23-25 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Amongst above events, the 43rd GCM approved RCARO's participation to the below conferences in 2015:

- 15th International Congress of Radiation Research, 25-29 May 2015, Kyoto, Japan
- Applied Isotope Geochemistry Conference, 21- 25 September 2015, Orléans, France
- International NDT Conference and Exhibition, 23-25 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1.3.2. Support 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.

For the programme cycle until the end of August 2014, RCARO successfully supported the two selectees from AUL and PHI for their participation and RCA promotional activities at the international conferences held in May and June 2014 respectively.

In consultation with SAC, RCARO established and finalized comprehensive guidelines for future programmes including timetable, a projected number of experts to be supported, budget, decision process.

With regards to the next cycle from September 2014 to August 2015, RCARO invited the RCA Government Parties for nominations of appropriate RCA experts and received a total of 13 nominations from 6 Government Parties (CPR, BGD, INS, MON, PAK and PHI). According to the established guidelines of the programme and budget availability of RCARO, RCARO selected a total of 4 selectees from CPR, BGD, INS, and PHI. RCARO successfully supported selectees from PHI and BGD for their RCA promotional activities at the participating conferences held in October and December 2014 respectively.

The other two selectees from CPR and INS will be supported in the first half of 2015 accordingly.

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

2.1 Publication of the final report

Upon completion of the project, RCARO published a final report on the activities, outcomes and achievements of the project in cooperation with LCC and NPCs of participating Government Parties. The report was distributed to the related stakeholders including the RCA Government Parties, UNDP, IAEA, etc.

2.2 Monitoring and submission of progress reports

As recommended by the 17th SAC to monitor the impact and sustainability after its completion, RCARO received progress reports from the NPCs and submitted the summary to the 43rd GCM.

According to the received progress reports, 10 participating Government Parties conducted 45 national activities such as national training courses, meetings with total of 6,375 local participants (female-3,508, male-2,442, not specified-425) and more than 92,836 patients (male-57,302, female- 25,536, children- 2887, not specified-7,111) were diagnosed or treated by applying the knowledge and skills gained from the project. There were also some success stories on exact diagnosis of a 65 year old patient and treatment of a haemophilic patient in Bangladesh and the Philippines respectively.

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

Since November 2012, RCARO is carrying out the RCA/UNDP project on electron beam applications for value addition to food and industrial products and degradation of environmental pollutants in the Asia Pacific region.

3.1 Conducting Regional Training Courses (RTCs)

According to the decision at the 2013 annual review meeting, two separate RTCs for the field of advanced material were combined to one RTC consisting of two weeks and two persons from each participating country. It was to train a person with basic to advanced knowledge in EB technology.

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

- RTC on basic and advanced knowledge and hands-on experiment on EB application for advanced material for two weeks on 14-25 April 2014
- RTC on basic and advanced knowledge and hands-on experiment on EB application for food products for one week on 16-20 June 2014

33 participants from 11 countries attended the RTCs and were trained with information on basic and advanced knowledge on EB irradiation and its applications by conducting experiments at the radiation facilities in ARTI.

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

Satisfaction survey on the RTCs was conducted after the completion of the courses and it showed that the courses reached their goals in terms of training programme, information sharing, training material and quality and content of lectures. Around 80% of participants were satisfied with the courses.

Out of 16 participating countries, 14 national progress reports were received from the NPCs of

the project. Involving around 1,937 participants, the participating countries conducted national activities such as R&D activities, training courses, workshops, seminars, exhibition, and meetings to disseminate the gained knowledge and skills to their local institutions and industries.

Conforming to the UNDP programming manual, progress and financial reports of the project were submitted to the UNDP and UNOPS accordingly in early July and December.

3.3 Annual review meeting and evaluation of the project

The annual review meeting was held on 19-20 November in Yangon, Myanmar, with total of 17 participants including LCC, NPCs and nominated experts from 12 participating countries, RCARO and observers from the Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar.

The meeting reviewed the achievements/outcomes of the project in 2014 and set up a detailed work plan for 2015 and concluded as follows:

- As decided in the 2013 annual review meeting, two RTCs of one week each are to be combined to one RTC program consisting of two weeks and two persons from each participating country.
- RTC on environmental remediation will be held on 11-22 May 2015 in ARTI, Korea
- Content of the training material will include basic to advanced technology and experimental work and also include overall of the project and basic concepts and its application for policy making bodies/end users/private sector
- Qualification of the participants of the training course will be same as in 2014 and the course will be open to the policy making bodies/end users/private sector
- A final review meeting was proposed to be held on 28-29 Oct. 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, or alternatively in China subject to Government approval.

The meeting also recommended the followings:

- All participating countries are requested to implement all aspects of respective work plans and timely submit precise progress reports to the RCARO.
- It is requested that the UNDP and the RCARO consider extending the project in view of the increasing demand for distribution and sharing of EB technology from the Government Parties such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka considering increased establishment of EB facility in a few years.

4. Assisting the Government Parties in addressing regional and national needs

4.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course

RCARO supported 3 students in 2014: Two students from INS and BGD are having the second year of the course and one from MYA was newly selected for the course in 2014.

4.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course

It was held on 4-8 November in Osaka, Japan, in conjunction with the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine and 33 trainees were supported by the programme.

4.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

With the support of the NRs of 12 Government Parties for nominating participants of the workshop, RCARO hosted a regional training workshop for 14 participants from 11 Government Parties on radiation application technology on 13-24 October in Daejeon, Korea in cooperation with the KAERI.

5. Increased interaction between the Government Parties and the RCARO

5.1 RCARO Fellowship Programme

Recommended by the NRs for the RCARO Fellowship Programme, three persons from MAL, BGD and THA were selected in 2014. They contributed to implementing the RCA/UNDP partnership project on Electron Beam applications; collecting data on RCA projects; collecting information on regional and international events; and updating stakeholder/end-user database on the RCA website.

5.2 Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with the Government Parties

As decided by the 36th NRM, a WG was formed to consider the future role of the RCARO, including the issues raised in the Strategic Paper reported by the Director RCARO.

The eight WG members are Dr. John Easey (Chair), Dir-RCARO and appointees from CPR, JPN, NZE, PAK, PHI and ROK.

Recommended by the 18th SAC, RCARO's annual workshop was replaced by a WG meeting to facilitate the WG's review of the issues raised in the Strategic Paper by the Dir-RCARO.

The WG meeting on “the RCARO’s Future Role” was held on 10-12 June 2014 in Jeju, Korea. The meeting was attended by 22 participants including eight WG members and relevant stakeholders from ROK, host country of the RCARO. It consisted of the following three sessions:

Session I: Perspective of the Government Parties on the RCARO

Session II: The RCARO’s Future Role based on the Strategic Paper by the RCARO

Session III: Tasks and Challenges for Implementation of Plans for the RCARO’s Future Role

Below is the summary of each session and conclusions and recommendations.

During the session I, the NRs of PHI and PAK gave short presentations on their perspectives on the RCARO. It was concluded that:

- The meeting noted the successful operations and achievements of the RCARO over the past years which had been undertaken with limited resources.
- The contributions of all the GPs to the RCA programme, including the contribution of ROK to the RCARO, need to have greater emphasis and should be fully documented in all relevant RCA documentation, especially that submitted to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Department.
- The regional nature of the RCARO and its operations should be emphasized.
- The future roles and functions of the RCARO should be fully reflected in its mandate, with due regard to the resources that could be made available.

During the session II, Dir-RCARO and Dr. Easey provided presentations on five discussion points based on the issues in the Strategic Paper and the importance of taking a needs-based approach to the issues was emphasized, making use of problem/objective trees of relevant discussion point. The discussion points were:

1. Implementation of Supplementary Projects
2. Support of the Research Projects
3. Supporting Training/Education Programmes
4. Coordination of the RCA Working Groups and ad hoc Committees
5. Proposal of Pilot Projects and Recruitment of a Senior Staff Member

The meeting concluded that the above-mentioned initiatives would be beneficial to the overall RCA programme and that the RCARO could support and implement the initiatives if approved by the GPs and adequate funds provided.

It was recommended that the GPs and the IAEA seek ways and consider committing resources

to support those activities.

It was also recommended that the mandate of the RCARO be adjusted appropriately to be consistent with the increased roles and functions and the WG develop relevant guidelines, procedures and criteria for undertaking those activities.

For discussion point V on recruitment of a senior staff member, the meeting took note of the importance of adequate staffing levels and competencies for the RCARO to be able to implement the projected increased future roles, as well as maintaining its existing functions.

In line with the recommendations of the session II, the session III set up an action plan with timeline and future activities of the WG to further develop the initiatives.

The report is uploaded on the RCA website and also reported to the 43rd GCM for NR's consideration and discussion.

The meeting endorsed continuation of the Working Group and gave approval to the WG to schedule a second meeting to progress the activities outlined in the report. The meeting also requested the WG to deliver a report on its progress at the 37th NRM.

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 Government Parties (GPs) at the end of 2013 as the groundwork for the paper.

Reflecting views and suggestions from the GPs, RCARO drafted a Strategic Paper and submitted it to the 18th SAC and the 36th NRM for discussion.

With respect to the Strategic Paper of the DIR RCARO, the 36th NRM noted the proposal for a pilot project to be fully funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from ROK and in which the RCARO would take the role of LCC and the meeting also agreed that two project concepts for this project would be further developed and forwarded to the RCA Chair. The two project concepts submitted are: one in medical sector using nuclear imaging technology and the other in radiation processing for removing drug toxicity.

In this regard, RCARO prepared two project concepts for a pilot project and submitted to the RCA Chair through the NR of ROK.

Upon positive feedback by the IAEA and approval by the 43rd GCM, the concept proposal on nuclear imaging technology was forwarded to a design stage and will be further developed according to the given project cycle.

6.2 Participation in the RCA policy related meetings

RCARO participated in the RCA policy related meetings: the 36th NRM in New Zealand and the 43rd GCM in Vienna, Austria. The director of RCARO made presentation on its activities. In addition, RCARO served as a secretariat for the SAC meetings prior to the meetings above.

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 (WGs), including: 1) WG-1 Meeting on evaluating new project concepts for 2016-2017; 2) WG-2 Meeting on updating the RCA GOR; and 3) WG-3 Meeting on developing Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Strategic Priorities (SP), a meeting for the above-mentioned WGs was held on 17-21 February in Vienna, Austria. Director RCARO participated in this meeting on 19-21 February as a member of WG-2.

6.4 Participation in the 15th FNCA Coordinators Meeting

On behalf of the RCA, RCARO participated in the FNCA meeting on 11-12 March in Tokyo, Japan and presented current cooperation activities with the FNCA and possible projects for future collaboration.

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

RCARO made an extra-budgetary contribution of US\$60,000 to support the pilot project in which the RCARO will take the role of LCC.

RCARO 2015 Work Plan

	Target	Activities	Milestone				Performance Indicators
			QT 1	QT 2	QT 3	QT 4	
1	Increasing the awareness of the RCA	1.1. Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	1.1.1. Publication of the 6 th batch of RCA success stories
			██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	1.1.2. Updating RCA promotional video
		1.2. Enhanced RCA information service through the RCA website	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	1.2.1. Enhanced web service with improved access system
			██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	1.2.2. Updating data on RCA and RCA projects
			██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	1.2.3. Updating data on RCA stakeholders/end-users by the Government Parties (GPs)
		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
			██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	1.3.2. Support RCA experts for increasing awareness and promotion of RCA

2	Implementation of Pilot Project	2.1. Finalizing of project documents for the RCA Programme Cycle 2016-2017	█	█	█	█	2.1.1. Finalized project documents (Project title: Improved patient care and enhanced member state capacity in nuclear medicine programs through expert networking in RCA region)
3	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology	3.1. Monitoring and submission of progress report	█	█	█	█	3.1.1. Preparation and submission of progress report to the GPs and the UNDP
4	Implementation of RCA/UNDP partnership projects on electron beam (EB) applications	4.1. Conducting a Regional Training Course (RTC) on environmental remediation	█	█	█	█	4.1.1. Conducting a RTC of electron beam applications on environmental remediation
		4.2. Holding a final review meeting	█	█	█	█	4.2.1. Holding a final review meeting
		4.3. Monitoring and submission of progress report	█	█	█	█	4.3.1. Preparation and submission of the progress/annual and financial reports to the UNDP and UNOPS

		4.4. Publication of a final report				4.4.1. Publication and distribution of a final report of the project
5	Enhancing and exploring partnerships with regional/international organizations	5.1. Participation in the PEMSEA meeting 5.2. Participation in the 16 th FNCA Coordinators meeting				5.1.1. Participation in the PEMSEA/ EAS Congress meeting 5.2.1. Participation in the 16 th FNCA Coordinators meeting
6	Assisting the GPs in addressing regional and national needs	6.1. RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course 6.2. RCARO/ARCCNM training course 6.3. RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop				6.1.1. Supporting the RCARO/KAIST Master's Degree Course 6.2.1. Holding the RCARO/ARCCNM training course 6.3.1. Holding the RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop
7	Increased interaction between the GPs and the RCARO	7.1. RCARO Fellowship Programme 7.2. Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with GPs				7.1.1. Inviting temporary staff from the GPs to the RCARO 7.2.1. Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with GPs

8	RCARO's future role	8.1. Holding working group meeting(s) on RCARO's future role	—————				8.1.1. Holding WG meeting(s) to discuss further in line with outcomes of the 1 st WG meeting
9	Other activities	9.1. Participation in the RCA policy related meetings	—		—	9.1.1. Participation in the 37 th NRM and 44 th GCM	
		9.2. Participation in an expert meeting on RCA	—			9.2.1. Participation in the meeting on RCA MTS 2018-2023	
		9.3. Extra-Budgetary(EB) contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA			—	9.3.1. EB contribution of the RCARO to the IAEA	

RCARO 2015 Work Plan

1. Increasing the awareness of RCA

1.1. Publicity activities for increasing RCA's awareness

1.1.1. Publication of the 6th batch of RCA success stories

Since 2007, RCARO has published 5 batches of RCA Success Stories with the aim of increasing the visibility of RCA under its mandate: a total of 19 including 3 leaflets for agriculture, 5 leaflets and 2 booklets for environment, 2 leaflets and 1 booklet for health, 3 leaflets for industry, 2 leaflets for energy and 1 leaflet for radiation protection.

According to the mechanism and procedure approved by the 40th GCM in 2011, RCARO is going to publish the 6th batch of RCA Success Stories and the projects will be selected among RCA projects which had been successfully completed between 2013 and 2014 and are expected to make large spill-over effect in promoting benefits and advantages of nuclear science and technology.

1.1.2 Updating RCA promotional video

Since its production in 2011, the RCA promotional video has been used effectively at the regional/international events to promote the RCA and its activities and also in the Government Parties (GPs) for their promotional uses at national level.

It will be updated and modified to accommodate changes on the RCA such as replacement of the National Representatives (NRs), new GPs and RCA projects. With the need of having a short version of the video, RCARO is preparing its short version containing core information on the RCA. Drafts will be presented to the 37th NRM for consideration of the NRs.

Reflecting comments and views of the NRs, the drafts will be finalized and 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 2015, with a view to making it a hub for an information flow within the RCA community.

1.2.1 Enhanced web service with improved access system

Since its renewal in July 2011, RCARO has been maintaining and updating the RCA website to provide up-to-date information on RCA and also a platform for communication and information sharing among users.

Currently, the website provides RCA related data to members and non-members with different accessibility. Hence, general public as well as some stakeholders of RCA without membership have limited access to the RCA data and information. IDs and PWs are provided only to the NRs for their access to the website and they're encouraged to share them with relevant RCA experts and stakeholders in their respective countries when necessary. But it's noted that sharing of IDs and PWs has not been always convenient, and the RCA stakeholders such as LCCs and NPCs used to have very limited access to RCA information regardless of their relevance to the RCA.

After more than 3 years of operation by RCARO, it would be timely to review and identify measures to improve the current RCA information service by maximizing its utilization and benefit for users including the RCA GPs, IAEA and related stakeholders.

A working paper will be prepared to review the current operation of the website, in particular, its access system and suggest an improved system for consideration of the NRs at the 37th NRM.

1.2.2 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 GPs through the website, in particular, on matters regarding the information exchange and utilization.

1.2.3 Updating data on RCA stakeholders and end-users by the Government Parties

RCARO will continue its efforts to update the database on the RCA stakeholders and end-users whenever the GPs provide information on related data, activities and changes in their respective countries.

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.

For smooth process of future RCARO's participation in international/regional conferences, the 18th SAC recommended RCARO to conduct a survey on possible conferences and present its results at the SAC before the GCM in the year before the conferences will be held.

In 2014, RCARO conducted a survey of NRs and IAEA and received information on 13 conferences to be held in 2015. Amongst those 13 conferences, the 43rd GCM approved the three conferences below for RCARO's participation in 2015:

- 15th International Congress of Radiation Research, 25-29 May 2015, Kyoto, Japan
- Applied Isotope Geochemistry Conference, 21- 25 September 2015, Orléans, France
- International NDT Conference and Exhibition, 23-25 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

RCARO will participate in the conferences listed above and also conduct new survey in preparation of possible conferences for 2016.

1.3.2. Support RCA experts for increasing 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 RCA.

For the cycle from September 2014 to August 2015, RCARO selected a total of 4 selectees from CPR, BGD, INS and PHI. Two selectees from PHI and BGD were supported in the second half of 2014 and the other two from CPR and INS will be supported in the first half of 2015 for their promotional activities.

With regard to the next cycle from September 2015 to August 2016, RCARO will invite the GPs for nominations of appropriate RCA experts and carry out the programme according to the guideline approved in 2013.

2. Implementation of Pilot Project

2.1 Finalizing of project documents for the RCA Programme Cycle 2016-2017

As decided at the 43rd GCM on developing a pilot project entitled “Improved patient care and enhanced member state capacity in nuclear medicine programs through expert networking in RCA region”, RCARO has been developing and refining the project documents in continued consultation with relevant stakeholders, relevant experts and the Agency (TO, PMO).

Reflecting views and comments by the PAC, TO and PMO during the Project Design Meeting, project documents have been refined and submitted to the RCA Chair through the NR of ROK for uploading onto the PCMF in December 2014. According to the given timeline, RCARO will further carry out relevant activities for finalization of the pilot project documents in 2015.

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

3.1 Monitoring and submission of progress report

The RCA/UNDP partnership project on nuclear imaging technology had been implemented successfully for three years 2011~2013. As recommended by the 17th SAC, RCARO will continue to monitor the impact and sustainability of the project in 2015 and the progress will be reported to the GPs.

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

4.1 Conducting a Regional Training Course (RTC) on environmental remediation

As decided at the annual review meeting in 2014, one RTC will be held for two weeks on 11-22 May in Advanced Radiation Technology Institute (ARTI), Korea, inviting two persons from each participating country to enhance the level of technology/knowledge and capability of human resources in the application of EB in the field of environmental remediation.

Qualification of the participants of the RTC will be same as in 2014 and the course will be open to policy making bodies/end users/private sector for further national outreach activities in the related area.

4.2 Holding a Final Review Meeting

As decided at the annual review meeting in 2014, the meeting will be held on 28-29 October in Siem Reap, Cambodia, or alternatively in China subject to Government approval, inviting representatives of the participating GPs and related stakeholders to review and evaluate the project implementation for three years 2013-2015.

4.3 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.

4.4 Publication of a 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 GPs, UNDP, IAEA, etc.

5. Enhancing and exploring partnerships with regional/international organizations

5.1 Participation in the PEMSEA meeting

With the mandate given, RCARO has been making efforts to explore partnerships with regional/international organizations.

As part of its effort to explore partnerships, RCARO will participate in the PEMSEA East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress to be held in Danang, Vietnam in November 2015 to seek possibility to build a partnership with the PEMSEA through project development and/or information sharing on relevant issues for feasible partnerships.

The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is an international organization involving various stakeholders of the Seas of East Asia and one of big international events organized by the PEMSEA is the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress which is a triennial event.

5.2 Participation in the 16th FNCA Coordinators meeting

On behalf of RCA, RCARO will participate in the 16th FNCA Coordinators Meeting to be held on 4-5 March in Tokyo, Japan to discuss cooperative matters between the RCA and FNCA.

Representing the RCA, Director of RCARO will present the achievements of RCA and cooperative activities with the FNCA in 2014.

6. Assisting the Government Parties in addressing regional and national needs

6.1 RCARO/KAIST Nuclear Engineering Master's Degree Course

With the aim of assisting the GPs 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 GPs for 2015 spring and fall semesters.

6.2 RCARO/ARCCNM training course

Since 2008, RCARO has been supporting the RCARO/ARCCNM training course to educate nuclear medicine physicians and scientists in developing and less developed Asian countries and further to foster regional cooperation to promote nuclear medicine in those countries.

RCARO will continue its support for the concerned training course in 2015.

6.3 RCARO/KAERI regional training workshop

RCARO will host a regional training workshop on radiation applications technology in October or November 2015 in cooperation with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI). The GPs are requested to recommend appropriate candidates for the workshop.

7. Increased Interaction between the Government Parties and the RCARO

7.1 RCARO Fellowship Programme

RCARO will select 3 temporary staff from the GPs to work in RCARO in 2015. Their duties will include assisting in updating stakeholder/end-user database; collecting information on regional and international events; and implementing RCA/UNDP partnership project.

7.2 Holding a workshop on enhancing RCARO interactions with the Government Parties

With a view to increasing interaction with the GPs, RCARO used to host a workshop to discuss ways to increase interaction with the GPs and accommodate the needs of the GPs and the RCARO, inviting relevant stakeholders. This year, the workshop could be replaced by a meeting of the Working Group for the RCARO's future role, when needed.

8. RCARO's Future Role

8.1 Holding working group meeting(s) on RCARO's future role

The Working Group (WG) for the RCARO's future role was formed to consider the future role of the RCARO, including the issues raised in the Strategic Paper reported by the Director of the RCARO at the 36th NRM.

In this connection, the 18th SAC recommended RCARO to host a Working Group Meeting to facilitate the WG's review on the issues raised in the Director's report, replacing the RCARO's annual workshop. The 1st WGM was held in June 2014, Korea, inviting WG members and relevant stakeholders and the progress report with recommendations of the WG was presented to the 43rd GCM for consideration of the NRs.

The 43rd GCM endorsed continuation of the WG and approved to have the 2nd WGM to progress the activities outlined in the report. Followed by the 1st WGM, the 2nd WGM will be held by the RCARO on 20-22 January 2015 in Jeju, Korea to discuss and identify specific criteria and mechanism for implementation of possible future roles of the RCARO and the progress will be submitted to the 37th NRM.

9. Other activities

9.1 Participation in the RCA policy related meetings

RCARO will participate in the RCA policy meetings including the 37th NRM in March and the 44th GCM in September and make presentations on the RCARO activities. RCARO will also provide assistance to the operation of the RCARO SAC meetings as a secretariat.

9.2 Participation in an expert meeting on the RCA

The 36th NRM approved the concept paper on the RCA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and Strategic Priorities for 2018-2023 which was submitted by the WG for developing the RCA MTS and Strategic Priorities for 2018-2023. As a 2nd phase, an expert meeting is organized on 16-20 February 2015 to render expert assistance to the RCA in formulating priorities of the RCA for 2018-2023 which could address regional concerns and needs. Requested by the Chair

of the WG, Director of RCARO will participate in the meeting and share views on the issues to be discussed.

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

An EB contribution by the RCARO will continue in 2015 to support the RCA projects in need of financial support and is subject to the budget availability of the RCARO.