



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF
THE 36th RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Rydges World Square, Sydney Australia

8 May 2023

Introduction

The 36th Meeting of the RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee (RCARO SAC) was held on 8 May 2023, in Rydges World Square, in Sydney, Australia. The Meeting was attended by Ms Natascha Spark (the incoming RCA Chair, NR of AUL), Mr Tran Chi Thanh (Immediate past RCA Chair, NR of VIE), Mr. Maoxiong Long (China Nuclear Energy Association) on behalf of Mr Huang Ping (Immediate next RCA Chair, NR of CPR), Cheonkyeong Park (Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation) on behalf of Ms Si Jeong Park (NR of ROK), and representatives from the IAEA, Mr Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde (SH-TCAP1) and Mr Sinh Hoang (RCA FP).

1. Opening

Mr Tran Chi Thanh, the immediate past RCA Chair, NR of VIE, officially opened the meeting. He thanked the RCARO in assisting the RCA Chairmanship last year in organizing several important events, including the 50th Anniversary of RCA. He wished for a successful and fruitful meeting.

Ms Natascha Spark, the incoming RCA Chair, NR of AUL, thanked the RCARO for its contributions to the RCA. She also acknowledged and appreciated the support by the Korean Government to the RCARO in the last 20 years.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The agenda was reviewed and adopted with no amendment. RCARO was appointed as rapporteur.

The SAC adopted the draft agenda with no amendment and appointed the RCARO as rapporteur.

3. Discussion on Major Issues on the RCARO Activities

3.1. Symposium for celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the RCA Regional Office

The RCARO presented on the results of holding the symposium for celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the RCARO. Under the theme, “Cooperative Leadership in Nuclear Science & Technology and Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region: Future Vision of the RCARO,” the symposium was successful in bringing together diverse RCA stakeholders to share their valuable experience and insights on the regional cooperation with the RCA and RCARO and exploring further collaborative opportunities for the benefits of the RCA GPs.

The SAC congratulated the successful host of the international symposium celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the RCARO. The SAC noted that RCARO's new initiatives as a follow-up of the symposium are well in line with the RCA Declaration 2022 and supported them as the new drivers of the RCA's future to further enhance the RCA Programme.

3.2. Enlarging the horizon of RCA stakeholders through partnerships

The RCARO briefed on its previous partnership activities and projects, including the implementation of “RCA/UNOSSC Project on Electron Beam Applications for Value Addition to Food and Industrial Products and Degradation of Environmental Pollutants in the Asia-Pacific region (Phase 1&2)” and hosting the “Workshop on Accelerating the Adoption of eBeam/X-ray technologies in Asia and the Pacific”. The workshop, held last November, was co-organized with the Office of Radiological Security (ORS), National Nuclear Security Administration of the US Department of Energy. Based on the success of the previous activities/projects as well as the recommendations from the 32nd, 33rd and 35th RCARO SAC Meetings, RCARO reported on its plan to develop a new project on eBeam technology and its applications in partnership with the ORS. A concept paper has been prepared to submit to the SAC for review and approval for using the fast-track mechanism according to the Annex 3 of the RCA GOR.

The SAC congratulated the RCARO for the successful organization of the “Workshop on Accelerating the Adoption of EBeam/X-ray technologies in Asia and the Pacific” co-organized with the Office of Radiological Security (ORS) of the US Department of Energy (DOE).

The SAC, noting the continued needs of the region in the field of EBeam technology applications and the value of further fostering technology transfer, supported the concept of the new partnership project with the DOE and approved the fast-tracking for the project development in line with the Annex 3 of the RCA GOR.

The SAC recommended the RCARO consider linking the IAEA's flagship initiatives with future partnership projects.

3.3. Diversifying cooperative activities to meet the needs of the RCA

The RCARO presented on its activities undertaken under the framework of the RCARO Managed Projects, RP02 and 03, and its initiative to start the new R&D programme. Through implementation of RCA Research Projects, RCARO has found a strong demand of the region

in the field of collaborative R&D and thus, submitted a proposal to the Government of Korea to seek possibility of additional funding. The new R&D programme was approved to accommodate two research projects for two years as an initial stage. Korean institutes were invited to submit research proposals according to the specified theme and scope of the programme. Completing the selection process in May, R&D projects will be implemented by the selected Korean institutes in collaboration with the RCA GPs.

The SAC took note of the progress and plans for the RCA RP02 and RP03 implemented under the framework of the RCARO Managed Project. The SAC noted that RP02 is to be completed this year and recommended the RCARO consider publishing the achievement report to visualize and publicize the substantive results of the project. The SAC also recommended the RCARO proceed with the survey on new themes for the new Research Project under the RCARO Managed Project.

The SAC noted the progress and plans for the new R&D programme funded by the Korean Government to be implemented in line with the relevant law, rules, regulations and procedures of the Korean Government on the National R&D Programme.

3.4. Increasing the RCA Visibility

The RCARO presented on its achievements in implementing diverse promotional activities: participation in regional/international conferences; holding RCA exhibitions at special occasions; implementing RCA expert supporting programme; operation of the RCA website; publication of promotional materials (RCA brochure, success stories and newsletters); and production of RCA promotional videos.

In order to implement the promotional activities in a more systematic manner and find ways to improve the effectiveness of these activities, RCARO plans to hold a strategic workshop this year inviting relevant experts, to set a strategy/direction and formulate an appropriate mechanism for effective promotion of the RCA. To this end, RCARO will conduct interviews and surveys targeting the RCA NRs, IAEA, and other relevant stakeholders in Q2 this year, to identify views/needs/issues related to the RCA promotional activities.

The SAC, noting the importance of enhancing the RCA visibility within and outside the RCA to draw more attention and interests from various stakeholders, welcomed the RCARO's plan to host a strategic workshop to identify strategic directions in implementing RCA promotional activities. The SAC encouraged the RCARO, through the workshop and surveys, hear and accommodate different ideas and opinions of various communications professionals from the RCA GPs as well as the IAEA.

3.5. Other Projects and Activities

The RCARO reported on its achievements and plans for the other projects and activities:

- Supporting the IAEA and RCA Chair in RCA administrative matters and coordination of activities;
- Publication of RCA Newsletters;
- Organization of Workshop on Enhancing Capability for Developing, Using and Maintaining Radiation Equipment;
- Capacity building on radiation application technologies; and
- RCARO Fellowship Programme.

Some of the issues discussed included the role of the Regional Office as the Think-tank supporting the activities of Committees and WGs in developing/identifying strategies and directions for the RCA; RCARO's achievements in publishing RCA newsletters last year; and RCARO's new initiative to implement a new degree course in cooperation with the University of Science and Technology (UST) of Korea for granting the master's and doctoral degrees to the RCA students.

The SAC expressed appreciation to the RCARO for its contribution to various activities to support the RCA policy matters that include assisting the IAEA and the RCA Chair. The SAC also welcomed RCARO's new initiative to act as the Think-tank to support the improvement of the RCA Programme.

The SAC took note of the RCARO's plan to expand its current capacity building programme in nurturing young professionals in the field of nuclear science and technology in cooperation with the University of Science and Technology (UST).

4. Arrangement for the 37th SAC Meeting

The Meeting was informed that the 37th RCARO SAC Meeting will be held on the day prior to the 52nd RCA GCM.

5. Closing

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