



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

---



**REPORT OF**

**THE 39<sup>th</sup> RCARO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

12 September 2024

## **Introduction**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCA Regional Office Standing Advisory Committee (RCARO SAC) was held on 12 September 2024, in Vienna, Austria. The Meeting was attended by Ms Lili Xiao (Representative of CAEA) on behalf of Mr Huang Ping (RCA Chair, NR of CPR), Ms Natascha Spark (Immediate Past RCA Chair, NR of AUL), Mr Honghwa Jeong (Representative of Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation) on behalf of Ms Shin Eunkyong (NR of ROK), and representatives from the IAEA, Mr Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde (SH-TCAP1) and Ms Khemphone Phaokhamkeo (RCA FP). Mr Sunil Ganju (NR of IND) joined the Meeting as an observer.

### **1. Opening**

Ms Lili Xiao, the representative of CAEA, CPR, officially opened the Meeting.

Mr Dae Ki Kim, the Director of RCARO, welcomed the participants.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur**

**The SAC adopted the draft agenda. RCARO was appointed as rapporteur.**

### **3. Discussion on Major Issues on the RCARO Activities**

#### **3.1. Implementation of outreach activities to increase awareness of the RCA – RCARO/SAC (39)/3.1**

RCARO reported on its efforts on outreach activities to increase the awareness of the RCA. RCARO implemented various promotional activities including publishing newsletters, preparing for the RCA side-event and exhibition, and implementing expert support programme.

RCARO highlighted the progress made for the RCA side-event during the 68<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference Meeting in September 2024 and a special exhibition on the RCA during the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme scheduled on 26-28 November 2024.

In regards to the expert support programme which aims to financially support the experts to promote the RCA in regional/international events, the RCARO presented a short list of 3 candidates listed out of a total of 14 applications from 7 GPs that had been received.

RCARO also reported its new initiative to invite the RCA NRs to outreach activities such as roundtable discussions and international events.

**The SAC expressed its appreciation to the RCARO for its commitment to the RCA and also the Government of Korea for its strong support to the RCARO's activities.**

**The SAC took note of the outreach activities carried out by the RCARO including publishing the 8<sup>th</sup> RCA Newsletter (Annex 1) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Issue Brief (Annex 2), preparing for the RCA side-event and exhibition, and implementing Expert Support Programme.**

**The SAC noted the list of three experts to be financially supported under Expert Support Programme and recommended the 53<sup>rd</sup> GCM endorse the list for further process.**

**The SAC encouraged the RCA NRs and the Secretariat to provide success stories of the RCA to the RCARO to be used as resource materials for RCA Newsletters and Issue Briefs as well as the RCA Exhibition. The SAC also noted that information on the results of the completed activities and information on the upcoming activities of the RCA projects be provided on the RCA Newsletters for the reference of the RCA stakeholders.**

**The SAC also recommended the RCARO consider operating social media accounts to reach out to more RCA stakeholders and provide on-time information.**

**The SAC noted the value to have more RCA NRs engaged in outreach activities and welcomed the initiative to invite the RCA NRs to the roundtable discussions with potential partners. The SAC requested the RCARO provide a concept note on outreach and future partnership activities for further discussions.**

**The SAC requested the RCARO to provide the report on the RCARO's international engagements, as an attachment to the RCARO SAC background papers.**

**The SAC also recommended the RCARO consider hosting a regional event or issuing a special issue brief that invites women in nuclear in the RCA region to share their success stories.**

### **3.2. Addressing the needs of the Government Parties for development of the RCA - RCARO/SAC (39)/3.2**

RCARO reported on the results of the New RCA NR Workshop held on 22-25 July 2024, in Seoul, Korea. Inviting a total of 14 RCA NRs, RCA FP and RCA PAC, the event was successful in providing information on the overall IAEA, RCA frameworks and policy, RCARO activities, as well as a forum to discuss and share ideas on the future development of the RCA.

RCARO also reported on the progress made for RCA Research Projects and an EB-funded

project, RAS9092. With completion of the Research Projects (RP02 and 03), RCARO called for proposals for new projects to be collected until the end of this year. Once the collection is completed the selection will be conducted according to the procedures in the RCA GOR.

**The SAC took note of the progress made for the RCA Research Projects (RP02 and RP03) and the RCA project (RAS9092). The SAC appreciated RCARO for hosting the New NR Workshop and noted that it provided a successful forum for in-depth discussions on the RCA.**

**The SAC requested the RCARO seek to align its managed projects with RCA/IAEA TC projects to ensure complementarity and synergies, and avoid duplications.**

### **3.3. Expanding the capacity building activities for sustainable development of the Government Parties - RCARO/SAC (39)/3.3**

RCARO briefed on the progress and plan for capacity building activities. RCARO reported that a total of five fellows will be invited this year for RCARO Fellowship Programme (FIJ, IND, INS, PHI, and THA (three women and two men). 9 students have been granted with scholarship this year (KAIST (3), KINGS (3), and UST (3)). In order to expand the beneficiaries of the activities, RCARO will keep promoting the RCARO Scholarship Programme.

**The SAC took note of the progress made under the capacity building programme. The SAC emphasized the value of the capacity building activities considering the continued needs of the RCA GPs on HRD.**

**The SAC suggested the RCARO consider the gender parity issue during the selection process of such activities in line with the IAEA's efforts on gender balance.**

### **3.4. Enlarging the horizon of the RCA Programme through establishing partnerships - RCARO/SAC (39)/3.4**

RCARO briefed with progress and plan for the partnership projects with the US DOE and ASEANTOM.

RCARO will continue to make efforts to seek opportunities for new partnerships. The RCARO SAC will be invited to review the new concepts and participate in the roundtable discussions with potential donors.

**The SAC noted the importance of mobilizing resources and expanding the partnerships for the RCA and the need to identify possible partners including private sectors. The IAEA offered assistance in this process with its experience in partnering with outside donors.**

**The SAC highlighted that resource mobilization and expanding partnerships should be based on collective efforts and confirmed its strong support. The SAC highly encouraged the RCANRs to join the RCARO in discussions with, and conduct outreach with potential donor partners.**

**As per the agenda item #3.1, the SAC requested the RCARO provide a concept note on outreach and future partnership activities for further discussions.**

#### **4. Arrangement for the 40<sup>th</sup> SAC Meeting**

The Meeting was informed that the 40<sup>th</sup> RCARO SAC Meeting would be held on the day prior to the 47<sup>th</sup> RCA NRM.

#### **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.