

Meeting Report of The 7th RCARO Advisory Committee Meeting

1. The 7th RCARO Advisory Committee (AC) meeting was held on 3 April 2005 at Park Royal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, prior to the 27th Meeting of National RCA Representatives (NRM). The quorum was constituted with all AC members being in attendance. Members attended were Dr John Easey (AUL on behalf of Dr Ron Cameron), Mr Zhang Jing (CPR), Mr K Raghuraman (IND), Dr Alumanda Dela Rosa (PHI), Mr Jong-Bae Choi (ROK) and Dr M Prinath Dias (IAEA/RCA Coordinator). Dr John Easey, on behalf AUL, chaired the meeting. Observers to the meeting were: Dr Nahrul Khair Aland Md Rahid (the in-coming RCA Chair); and, Mr M. R. Kim, cost-free expert assigned to the IAEA RCA Office. From RCARO, Mr Kun-Mo Choi, (interim Director), Mr John K Chung (Programme Officer) and Ms Min-Jeong Lee (Assistant Programme Officer) participated. Other supporting staff for the AC members also attended.
2. The Chair welcomed the AC members and the observers to the Meeting. In opening the Meeting he expressed appreciation to the RCARO for the significant activities it had undertaken during the past year for the benefit of the RCA Member States. The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda with the addition of an item under Other Matters to discuss the RCARO's interactions with International Organisations and whether their time frames for the preparation of project proposal would conflict with current RCA procedures. The Agenda is attached as Annex 1.
3. The Chair invited the RCARO to make a presentation on the status of issues arising from the previous AC meeting that required action. The RCARO explained that five items had been recommended for further action and reported that most of them had already been implemented after that AC meeting. As to the recommendations from the Workshop for National RCA Supporting Staff that was held in June 2004 in Korea, however, some issues such as holding RCA Ministerial-level Meeting was not taken into account by the Member States. It was noted that the 33rd RCA GCM in Vienna in September 2004 had determined that any workshop recommendations requiring further action should be formally proposed by a Member States for consideration by an NRM. The Meeting noted that no such proposal had been made yet by any Member State. **With reference to the Workshop**

recommendation to have an RCA Ministerial-level Meeting every 5 years, the Meeting supported this recommendation and considered that it could greatly enhance awareness of the RCA.

The Meeting suggested that AUL could consider the possibility of holding an RCA Ministerial Meeting in 2007 in their country in conjunction with the planned hosting of the 29th NRM. This should also coincide with the finishing of the hot commissioning and entering into full operation of the OPAL research reactor. Dr Easey responded that ideally there should be a recommendation of support from the NRM to give weight to this proposal and this would assist in convincing the Government of the merit of the proposal. The meeting noted that eight success stories had been submitted to the 27th NRM and agreed that priority should be given to the importance of well written success stories as examples of the achievements of the RCA programme.

4. Mr John K Chung (Programme Officer) RCARO reported that he had attended the RCA Chairs Meeting held earlier in the day and they had suggested that the RCARO should explore potential areas for further examples of success stories as well as approaching the relevant Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators or Project Lead Country Coordinators for stories. **The Meeting supported these views of the RCA Chairs Meeting**
5. Regarding the selection of a Director, RCARO, the Meeting expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the Selection Committee in this task. The Meeting endorsed the written recommendation by the Chair of the Selection Committee (Dr Anil K Anand of India), based on the unanimous views of the committee, that Mr Kun-Mo Choi, Korea, had met all Essential and the Desirable Qualifications set out in the Vacancy Notice and recommended that a proposal should be made to the 27th National RCA Representatives Meeting that Mr. Choi be appointed Director RCARO for a three-year term. The Meeting agreed that a written recommendation to the 27th NRM by the Chair of RCARO AC would be required. The papers are attached as Annex II. **The Meeting agreed to convey to the 27th NRM their endorsement of the Selection Committee's recommendation of Mr Kun-Mo Choi for appointment as the new Director of RCARO.**
6. With the imminent appointment of the Director, RCARO and the change in status for the RCARO from interim to full operation the meeting noted that the interim Advisory Committee would need to be replaced by a Standing Advisory Committee.

The Meeting considered that there was a need to have ‘Guidelines on the Operation of RCARO Standing Advisory Committee’. Proposed draft Guidelines are attached as Annex III. **The Meeting reviewed and agreed these draft Guidelines and recommend them to the 27th NRM for adoption.** The Meeting also agreed that a draft should be prepared to define the conditions governing Member States’ membership of the Standing Advisory Committee based on Member States comments, if the initial draft is approved.

7. Concerning the composition of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), the Meeting considered that an approach was required that would allow the provision of continuous and consistent advice to the NRM on RCARO operation and management, particularly in the transition period of the office from interim operation to full operation with the appointment of a new Director. **The Meeting therefore recommends to the 27th NRM that the present (interim) Advisory Committee members, namely National RCA Representatives of AUL, CPR, IND, PHI, ROK and IAEA/RCA Coordinator, should function as the Standing Advisory Committee for a further term of not less than 1 and not more than 3 years depending on the views of the NRM.**
8. The Meeting also reviewed the RCARO 2005 Work Plan that is to be reported by the Director, RCARO, to the 27th NRM. The Meeting recognized the significant achievements of the RCARO during the part year and supported the 2005 work plan. The Meeting encouraged the RCARO to further enhance the assignments given by the Member States, in particular the use of RCA success stories for promoting RCA partnerships. The Meeting emphasized that the promotion of a better understanding of the RCA was a task that was directed not only to the general public but also to the policy makers of the Member States. The Meeting welcomed the RCARO’s plan to have a strategic workshop that would develop basic strategies for the RCARO, including strategies for creation of additional funds to fulfill its mandate more successfully and effectively, as it would enter into full operation with the designation of a new Director. The work plan report is attached as Annex IV. **The Meeting agreed to recommend that the 27th NRM endorse the RCARO 2005 Work Plan.**
9. Under the first item of Other Matters, the Meeting expressed appreciation to the RCA Secretariat for preparing the RCARO Performance Activity Report as

requested by the Member States at the 33rd GCM in Vienna in September 2004. The proposed revision of the functions of the Director, RCARO from RCARO “To promote the peaceful uses of appropriate nuclear technology to assist in addressing regional and national needs” should be amended to “Provide support to the RCA programme to promote the peaceful uses of appropriate nuclear technology to address regional and national needs” was supported by the Meeting. **The Meeting agreed to recommend to the 27th NRM that they adopt the Report and requested the RCARO to implement the recommendations made.**

10. Under the second matter in Other Matters, the RCARO reported that, in their discussions with developing agencies concerning their timeframes for project approval process, they had general approach that was not linked to a specific timeframe. They seemed to be flexible in their approach. It was noted that these Agencies preferred to be involved as part of a multinational and multilateral cooperation arrangement and that there needed to be active liaison with them in order to be incorporated into the planning at the early stages of the project concept phase.

Annex I

Agenda of the 7th RCARO Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 3 April 2005, Sunday, 14:00-

Venue: Grand Plaza Royalpark Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1. Opening
2. Matters arising from the 6th RCARO AC Meeting
3. Selection of the RCARO Director
4. Composition of the RCARO Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)
5. Review of the Guidelines on the Operation of the RCARO SAC
6. Review of the RCARO 2005 Work Plan
7. Other Business
 - RCARO Performance Report
 - Time Frame for Project Proposal
8. Closing

Annex II

Recommendation of the Selection Committee for the post of Director for the RCARO

1. As, all the members of the RCARO AC are aware that the applications for the post were invited, after the meeting held during the last General Conference of the IAEA.
2. The Guidelines, the Essential Qualifications and the Desirable Qualifications were widely circulated. In particular all the National RCA Representatives were kept fully informed of all the development on the subject.
3. The Selection Committee, through RCARO, received only one application, from the Republic of Korea, for the post. The applicant is Dr Kun-Mo CHOI.
4. The application form was electronically sent to all the members of the SC.
5. All the members of the SC endorsed the appointment of Dr Kun-Mo CHOI as the Director, as he meets all the Essential and Desirable Qualifications.
6. Dr CHOI is also the current interim Director of RCARO, designated by MOST, ROK in November 2004, after the earlier interim Director Dr KIM was posted at IAEA Vienna.
7. According to the Job Description and the Terms of Appointment, the period of appointment is for three years subject to the annual performance evaluation. The period may be extended with the approval of National RCA Representatives.
8. The condition that the nominating government should pay the salary, if the nominee is selected, may have prevented a number of potential candidates from applying. National RCA Representatives may try to find some other sources of funding.
9. It is recommended that Dr Kun-Mo CHOI be appointed as the Director RCARO.

A K Anand

(On behalf of the SC RCARO)

RECOMMENDATION TO THE 27th NATIONAL RCA REPRESENTATIVES
MEETING CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR RCA
REGIONAL OFFICE

The Chair of the Selection Committee, Dr Anil Anand, emailed the RCARO Advisory Committee concerning applications for the advertised post of Director, RCARO, which were invited, after the National RCA Representatives General Conference Meeting held in September 2004. He noted that the Guidelines, the Essential Qualifications and the Desirable Qualifications had been widely circulated and that, in particular, all the National RCA Representatives had been kept fully informed about all developments.

The Selection Committee (SC), through the RCARO, received only one application, for the post, the applicant being Dr. Choi Kun-Mo. Dr. Choi is the current interim Director, RCARO. He was designated for the position by the Korean Ministry of Science and Technology in November 2004, following the resignation of the earlier interim Director Dr. Kim who was posted to the IAEA Vienna.

All SC members were provided with an electronic copy of the application form. Subsequently each member of the SC contacted the Chair with their assessment of the application. They unanimously considered that Dr. Choi met all Essential and the Desirable Qualifications and supported recommending that a proposal should be made to the regional National RCA Representatives Meeting that Dr. Choi be appointed Director RCARO. They recommended that the appointment should be made in accordance with the circulated Job Description and Terms of Appointment, with the period of appointment for three years, subject to the annual performance evaluation. It was noted that this term may be extended with the approval of National RCA Representatives.

The Advisory Committee met on Sunday 3 April 2005 and after due consideration of the information in front of them, endorsed the recommendation of the Selection Committee to the 27th National RCA Representatives Meeting that Dr. Choi Kun-Mo be appointed as the Director RCARO.

They also noted Dr Anand's emailed comments that the condition that the nominating government should pay the Director RCARO's salary, if their nominee were selected, might have prevented a number of potential candidates from applying. National RCA Representatives might try to find some other sources of funding of this position.

Travel scheduling difficulties prevented Dr Anand being present for the Advisory

Committee Meeting. The Committee wished to register its appreciation of the efforts of the SC members and especially the hard work and dedication of the SC Chair, Dr Anand.

Dr John F Easey,
Acting Chair, Advisory Committee
3 April 2005