

Welcoming Remarks
- RCARO Strategic Workshop -

Dr. Yong-Hwan KIM, Director General
Atomic Energy Bureau
Ministry of Science & Technology

Good Morning, Dear Participants,

I am so pleased to be here with you from home and abroad for this workshop. On behalf of the Korean government, I would like to welcome each and every one of you to this workshop.

And it gives me further pleasure to address you at this workshop because I was deeply involved in the establishment of RCARO during my representative mission to Vienna.

I am so sure to believe that the invited participants from abroad in this RCARO Workshop have the extensive knowledge and experiences, along with a productive association with RCA business.

And this makes me firmly believe that the great capacity of the invited experts would serve as good guidance for the future RCARO operation.

After three years of interim operation, RCARO is now in full operation with the support from the RCA Member States and the Agency. Spurred by the Member States' decision on RCARO, RCARO can meet the challenge to undertake a more enhanced role for contributing to the Member States and to the region.

Recently, as you are aware, the environment surrounding the RCA is rapidly changing. The IAEA has been greatly emphasizing the increase of RCA ownership by the Member States and expecting more dynamic activities in the RCA that demonstrates the ownership.

RCA Member States are being forced to notice the rapidly changing socio-economic environment. We need to consider what will be the RCA's role and what will be the RCA's contribution in the region.

Mandate has been given to RCARO since the beginning stage. By increasing awareness of RCA, achievements and potential can be recognized by the national and regional development community. Another mission is to promote RCA partnership in addition to the RCA's traditional partner: the IAEA.

However, fulfilling the mandate is not an easy task, in particular, given fierce global competition. In order to fulfill the mandate, it is certain that the RCARO needs more elaborated disciplines and efforts based on ever-challenging spirit. Enhanced wisdom is thus required to guide the RCARO to a right direction.

I firmly believe that this Strategic Workshop on this beautiful island will equip the RCARO with a new engine as well as a new steering wheel to guide the RCARO to a right direction.

At this workshop, the past RCA strategy is to be reviewed at the same time the ambitious targets are to be set for the near future. I encourage all the participants to come up with how to fully capitalize the RCARO. RCARO alone cannot achieve those targets.

We must build on the growing consensus among the Member States. In order for RCARO to succeed, we need to bring about a truly international effort.

Lastly, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all participants in this workshop, and I wish for your enjoyable stay in Korea.

Thank you very much.