



REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



REPORT OF
RCA MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING
In Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA

**Room CR4,
IAEA Headquarters Vienna,
Austria**

26 September 2022

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Introduction

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA, RCA Ministerial Level Meeting was held at the IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria, on 26 September 2022.

The Meeting was attended by representatives from 21 RCA Government Parties: Australia (AUL), Bangladesh (BGD), China (CPR), Cambodia (KAM), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Korea (ROK), Laos (LAO), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), Nepal (NEP), New Zealand (NZE), Palau (PLW), Pakistan (PAK), Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA) and Vietnam (VIE). Representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the RCA Regional Office (RCARO), RCA Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), WG on the RCA 2018-2023 MTS Coordination (WG MTSC), and WG on drafting RCA 2024-2029 MTS (WG MTSD) also joined the Meeting.

The list of participants is given in **Annex 1**.

The meeting agenda is given in **Annex 2**.

Opening of the RCA Exhibition

The opening ceremony of the RCA Exhibition, a special booth set up for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RCA, was held in the hallway of A building. Organized by the RCA Regional Office (RCARO), the ceremony was attended by a big audience, including the Ministers and representatives of the RCA Government Parties (GPs), Director General, Deputy Director Generals and delegates from the IAEA.

During the event, H.E. Dr. Huynh Thanh Dat, Minister of Science and Technology of VIE, and H.E. Dr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, delivered the welcome and opening remarks respectively (**Annex 3** and **Annex 4**). Following were the remarks and introduction of the Exhibition by Mr Pill Hwan Park, Director, and Ms Hyun Kyoung Jeon, Head of the Programme Division of the RCARO.

With a short clip of celebratory messages by the RCA family members, the opening ceremony ended and announced the official start of the celebration of the RCA 50th Anniversary.

Opening of the 50th RCA Anniversary Ceremony and RCA Ministerial Level Meeting

H.E. Dr. Huynh Thanh Dat, Minister of Science and Technology of VIE, delivered his welcoming remarks (**Annex 5**). He highlighted the key achievements of the RCA and the significant contributions made by the RCA to the region in the last 50 years. He wished

long lasting cooperation relationship between the RCA GPs and continued success of the RCA.

H.E. Dr. Raphael Mariano Grossi, the Director General of the IAEA delivered his statement. He congratulated the RCA for its 50th Anniversary. He looked forward to the synergies to be made by the IAEA and the RCA, and also showed his strong expectation towards the contribution of the RCA to addressing various global issues and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (**Annex 6**).

Overview of the RCA

Ms. Jane Gerardo-Abaya, Director for Division for Asia and the Pacific, Department of Technical Cooperation, and Mr. Sinh Van Hoang, RCA Focal Person, delivered a presentation on the successful delivery of the RCA Programme over the last 50 years (**Annex 7**). The presentation highlighted in detail the socio-economic impact of the RCA in the region with specific records of achievements.

Country Keynote Speech

Representatives of the RCA GPs delivered their country keynote speeches. They appreciated the RCA for its leading role in the regional cooperation in the field of nuclear science and technology and its endeavours in addressing regional needs and identifying solutions to commonly shared issues in the past fifty years. While recognizing the dedications and commitments by the various RCA stakeholders in this journey, they reaffirmed their continued support to the RCA in its fifty years ahead. Their speeches are given from **Annex 8** to **Annex 28**.

RCA Awards Ceremony

Ms Suchin Udomsomporn, Chair of the RCA Awards Committee and NR of **THA**, and Ms Hyun Kyoung Jeon, member of the RCA Awards Committee and Head of the Programme Division of the RCARO, took a role of the MCs for the session.

According to the set criteria for five different categories – namely RCA HRD Awards, RCA Regional Cooperation Awards, RCA Project Awards, RCA Governance Awards and RCA Special Awards – the RCA has undertaken a thorough review process with the support of the RCA Awards Committee. A total of twenty-eight (28) awardees were selected for the awards.

The MCs stated a brief introduction of the given category and called the awardees to come up to the stage for the awards. Ms. Jane Gerardo-Abaya, DIR-TCAP, and H.E. Dr. Huynh Thanh Dat, Minister of Science and Technology of **VIE** were invited to be the Guests of Honour for the ceremony.

- 1) **RCA HRD Awards** were awarded to those institutes who have contributed to the development of human resources through supporting various capacity building activities. The list of awardees is;

Country	Awardee
China	The Coordination Office of Nuclear Agricultural Science for IAEA/RCA in China
Korea	Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute
Singapore	Singapore General Hospital (SGH)
Thailand	Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University
Vietnam	Dalat Nuclear Research Institute (DNRI)

- 2) **RCA Regional Cooperation Awards** were presented to the institutions that have contributed to vitalizing and strengthening regional cooperation by utilizing the resources voluntarily. The list of awardees is;

Country	Awardee
Malaysia	Malaysian Nuclear Agency (Nuklear Malaysia)
Pakistan	Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (PINSTECH)
Korea	Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation (KONICOF)
Thailand	Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (TINT)
Viet Nam	Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute (VINATOM)

- 3) **RCA Project Awards** were given to those awardees who have shown a great contribution to the enhanced socio-economic wellbeing of the region through active participation in the RCA projects. The list of awardees is;

Thematic Sector	Country	Awardee
Agriculture	China	Luxiang Liu
Energy Planning	Korea	Manki Lee
Environment	Australia	Ronald Szymczak
	Pakistan	Muhammad Azam Tasneem
Human Health	Japan	Takashi Nakano
	Korea	Wonil Jang
	Pakistan	Irfan Ullah Khan
Industry	Malaysia	Ilham Mukriz Zainal Abidin

- 4) **RCA Governance Awards** were awarded to those who have provided strong support to the RCA NRs in the policy matters, strengthening the ownership and governance of the RCA. For this awards, five awardees were given the awards as below;

Awardee
John F Easey (Former Chair RCA Programme Advisory Committee)

Mahendra Prinath Dias (Current Chair, RCA RCA Programme Advisory Committee)
Alumanda Dela Rosa (Chair of RCA Working Group on MTS Coordination)
Sinh Van Hoang (RCA Focal Person)
RCA Chair (on behalf of the twenty-two (22) RCA Government Parties)

- 5) **RCA Special Awards** were to recognize and highly appreciate long-term and special service and commitment to the RCA. The awards were given to;

Awardee
Government of Republic of Korea
RCA Regional Office (RCARO)
IAEA Technical Cooperation, Asia and Pacific (TCAP)
WG on MTS Coordination (WG MTSC)
RCA Programme Advisory Committee (RCA PAC)

RCA Ministerial Joint Declaration

Looking back at the last fifty years and looking ahead to the next fifty years and beyond, the RCA GPs adopted by acclamation the RCA Ministerial Joint Declaration that recognizes the significant role of the RCA in achieving socio-economic development of the region and provides a roadmap to the successful future of the RCA (**Annex 29**).

Closing

The Chair reconfirmed and highly appreciated the strong support and commitment by the RCA GPs, the IAEA and other stakeholders in preparations for the commemorative event of the RCA.