



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY**



REPORT OF
THE 35th RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

Meeting Room VI, CO7
IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

15 September 2006
09:00-13:00h

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ACRONYMS

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARASIA	Co-operative Agreement for Arab States for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Regional Co-operative Agreement for the Advancement of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
DDG-TC	Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation
DDG-NA	Deputy Director General, Nuclear Applications and Research
DIR-TCAP	Director for the Asia and the Pacific Region
ENO	Electronic Networking and Outreach
GCM	RCA General Conference Meeting
GOR	RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
MS(s)	RCA Member State(s)
MTS	RCA Medium Term Strategy
NR(s)	National RCA Representative(s)
NRM	Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
PLCC	Project Lead Country Coordinator
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RFP	RCA Focal Person
RRU	Regional Resource Unit
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Assistance and Cooperation
SH-TCAP-1	Head of Section 1 of the Asia and the Pacific Region
SH-TCAP-2	Head of Section 2 of the Asia and the Pacific Region
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Development Countries
TSLCC	Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinator
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

INTRODUCTION

The 35th RCA General Conference Meeting was held on 15th September 2006 at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Twenty nine participants from the 17 RCA Member States; Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and the representatives of RCA Regional Office (RCARO) attended the Meeting.

Ms. Ana María Cetto (DDG-TC), Mr. Werner Burkart (DDG-NA), Mr. Manase Peter Salema (DIR-TCAP), Mr. Zhang Jing (Section Head, TCAP-1), Mr. A. Shamsi (Section Head TCAP-2) and Mr. Prinath Dias (RCA Focal Person) represented the IAEA. Agency's Technical Officers, Project / Country Officers and support staff also attended.

The list of the participants is given in Annex I.

I. Opening

I.1 Remarks by the RCA Chair

The RCA Chair, the National RCA Representative of Thailand, Mr. Manoon Aramrattana, in his opening remarks stated that he was honoured to Chair the 35th RCA General Conference Meeting. He remarked on the achievements of the RCA since its establishment, such as successful capacity building in human health area, in food safety area, in industrial development area, and in maintaining human resource development of the RCA region. He expressed his appreciation of the hard work of the Agency's staff, which has contributed to success of the RCA programme. He also thanked the management of the Departments of Technical Cooperation and the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications. He said that the RCA values its partnership with the IAEA and looks forward to even stronger partnership in the future.

The opening remarks of the Chair are given in Annex II.

The Chair informed the Meeting of the demise of National RCA Representative of Mongolia Mr. J. Ganzhorig in March 2006, and said that the Republic of Korea has proposed the condolences and best wishes of this Meeting be conveyed to the members of his family, although many National RCA Representatives have already expressed their condolences individually. This proposal was accepted by the Meeting. .

I.2 Messages from the IAEA

The Chair invited Ms Ana Maria Cetto (DDG-TC) to deliver her message.

The DDG-TC thanked the RCA Member States for inviting her to attend this meeting and welcomed all the participants to Vienna. She said that although she could not attend the Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives this year, she had been closely following the developments in the RCA. She said that she was pleased to note the very

active involvement of the RCA Member States in developing the Programme for 2007/2008 which demonstrated ownership. She noted the success RCA has achieved in the past year in the areas of water resources development, combating air-pollution, sustainable energy development, improving livestock production, use of radiation technology for developing advanced materials, and use of radioisotope technology for exploration of natural resources and congratulated the RCA Member States on the success achieved. She wished the RCA success in its efforts in establishing partnerships and stated that establishment of partnerships is one of the goals of the TC Strategy. She said that SAGTAC was considering introducing Regional Programme Frameworks similar to the Country Programme Frameworks (CPF) and suggested that the RCA Member States make efforts to identify the regional priorities for the next five to six years. She wished the delegates a successful Meeting and said that she trusted the decisions taken at the Meeting will further strengthen the TC programme.

The Message of DDG TC is given in Annex III.

The Chair invited Mr. Werner Burkart (DDG-NA) to deliver his message.

The DDG-NA thanked the RCA Member States for the invitation extended to him to address the RCA GC Meeting. He congratulated the MSs on the progress made and positive achievements during the past year in the various fields of nuclear sciences and applications. He stated that it was clear that the region has made human health a priority area and mentioned the Distance Assisted Training Programme for Nuclear Medicine Technologists which have been tested with 300 technologists in nine Member States and QUATRO Missions to seven member States as significant activities in this sector. He also outlined the activities undertaken under the PACT Programme. Referring to the progress in the Agricultural Sector he mentioned actions taken to address problems of drought, salinity and stress tolerance to improve the nutrition provided to plants and progress made in plant breeding. He mentioned the adoption of eight new high quality rice mutant varieties by farmers in Vietnam in 2005, as an example the progress made.

The Message of DDG-NA is given in Annex IV

I.3 Adoption of Agenda – RCANRM(35)/1

The Chair informed that the Agenda previously circulated has been amended by the Chairs Meeting to include a one-hour break for prayers and for lunch. The revised Agenda, which was circulated to the participants, was adopted. The adopted Agenda is given in Annex V.

The Meeting agreed to adopt the Agenda with the above-mentioned changes.

I.4 Appointment of rapporteurs

Mr. Prinath Dias the RCA Focal Person (RFP) informed the Meeting that Mr. M.R. Kim of the RCA Office would be the Meeting rapporteur.

II. 28th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives – Bangkok, Thailand 27-30 March 2006

Matters arising from the Report – RCAGCM(35)/2

At the invitation of Chair, the RFP presented the Background Paper RCAGCM(34)/2 summarizing the status of implementation of the decisions taken at the 28th NRM. (Annex VI) He also referred to Background Paper RCAGCM(35)/2.1 containing statistics on RCA Programme Delivery during the Past 10 Years. The Chair requested views from the National RCA Representatives on these two documents.

NR-Australia stated that it would not be possible to develop the Programme for 2009/2010 according to the time frame given in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules (GOR). The RFP stated that the procedure for development of RCA Projects was linked to the Agency procedure and since the Agency procedure was revised following adoption of the PCMF, the RCA Procedures would also have to be revised. He said that a revised procedure would be incorporated into the RCA GOR along with the other revisions that had to be made following the adoption of the Implementation Plan of the Medium Term Strategy (MTS).

NR-Australia referring to Background Document RCAGCM(35)/2.1 stated that the statistics provided indicate a decline in all indicators over the past few years although the downward trend seem to have been arrested during the past two years. He specifically commented on the Implementation Rate and on the utilization of Extra-Budgetary funds and stated that they have to be improved.

NR-Philippines expressed similar views with regard to the Implementation Rate and stated that the statistics provided do not indicate the utilization of regional experts.

Ms. Ana Maria Cetto, DDG-TC commenting on the Implementation Rate stated that it is normally low in Asia and the Pacific Region. She said that the Implementation Rates in 2003 and 2004 have been low due to reasons beyond the control of the Agency and said that the carry over funds from these two years had affected the Implementation Rates in the subsequent years. She also stated that the Implementation Rate alone did not provide a sufficient overview of a programme and said that the TC Department was in the process of developing other indicators. She said that the inability of the Member States to absorb the assistance provided was also a reason for low implementation and the TC Department was analyzing the reasons for low Implementation Rate. She further stated that action was being taken to improve the Implementation Rate of the TC Programme.

NR-Australia thanked DDG-TC for her comments and said that the ratio of the activities implemented to activities planned could be an effective indicator. Australia also stated that it had been explained previously that the implementation rate could be lower if donors placed restrictions on the utilization of the Extra-Budgetary funds they provide.

Mr. M.P. Salema, DIR-TCAP commenting on the RCA programme delivery in 2005, stated that the Implementation Rate for the RCA Programme in 2006 was 66.6% compared with 54.8% for the Asia and Pacific Region, and that the RCA programme

delivery for 2006 was on target. He further stated that the Implementation Rate, which was based on the adjusted budget, did not give a complete overview of programme delivery because of the carryover from the previous years.

III. RCA Medium Term Strategy – Report of the Working Group on the Implementation Plan of the RCA Medium Term Strategy.-RCAGCM(35)/3

The Chair stated that the RCA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) was adopted at the 28th Regional Meeting held in Thailand in March 2006, and that the issue under consideration was the plan for implementation of the adopted MTS, given in the Background Document RCAGCM(35)/3 (Annex VII). He also stated that the RCA Secretariat had commented on the report of the Working Group and these comments had been circulated to the National RCA Representatives as Background Document RCAGCM(35)/4 along with the recommendations of the Meeting of the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators (TSLCCs) given in RCAGCM(35)/4.1. The Chair invited NR-Australia, the Chair of the Working Group, to introduce this Agenda Item.

NR-Australia stated that the Report of the Working Group comprised seven recommendations and a plan of implementation. He further stated that the recommendations fell into three categories, namely RCA governance, project implementation, and project selection and prioritization and summarized each of the seven recommendations.

At the invitation of the Chair, the RFP commented on the Background Paper RCAGCM(35)/4 and stated that the role of the Secretariat was to implement the decisions made by the NRs and he had highlighted some issues related to the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group. He further said that the adoption of the recommendations would result in extensive revision of the RCA GOR and he would consult the NRs to adopt the recommendations and to agree on subsequent revision of the GOR.

NR-Pakistan commenting on the Recommendation 1, stated that it could result in the three Chairs making decisions without a consensus.

NR-Philippines supported the views expressed by NR-Pakistan regarding Recommendation 1. She also indicated that she was not in favour of terminating the function of the TSLCCs as recommended in Recommendation 3.

NR-Japan supported the views expressed by NR-Pakistan and NR-Philippines with regard to the Recommendation 1. He expressed the view that the Chair should have the authority to make decisions in between the Regional Meeting and the General Conference. However, in order to eliminate concerns that decisions might be made without a consensus among the National Representatives, the Chair should assume the responsibility of consulting with the NRs by setting a reasonable time limit. He also pointed out that there might be a divergence in views among the NRs as to what the policy issues are and the Chair should seek confirmation from the NRs on all the issues, with the exception of procedural matters.

He also expressed his disagreement to the recommendation on terminating the function of the TSLCCs and mentioned that their contribution would be necessary in identifying the regional priorities in order to develop the Regional Programming Framework mentioned by DDG-TC in her remarks to the Meeting. He stated that, on the one hand, the RCA priorities should be somewhat in line with the IAEA priorities, since 80% of the RCA programmes are funded by the Technical Cooperation Fund. On the other hand, if the recipient Members would accept the reduction of the number of RCA projects to ten (10), it would be reasonable to consider the priority among all the proposed projects regardless of the thematic areas. He further stated that an abrupt change in the project management framework at this moment would cause unnecessary confusion among all the participating Members, since the number of projects had not yet been reduced and the TSLCCs were making every effort to coordinate the projects to be implemented under each thematic area. He echoed the view of the Chair's proposal, communicated by e-mail communication to all NRs prior to this meeting, which the TSLCCs should continue to function until the end of 2008 when the reduction of the number of the projects will actually begin.

NR-Bangladesh also agreed with the views expressed regarding the recommendation on TSLCCs and inquired of the basis for deciding to reduce the number of projects to 15 in 2009. He also commented on the recommendation that projects that only provide direct benefits to commercial organisations should not be supported (Recommendation 8) and stated that some Member States would have to collaborate with commercial organizations in order to ensure financial sustainability.

NR-China thanked DDG-TC and DDG-NA for their participation at the Meeting and for their messages and noted that TSLCCs have played an important role in the RCA Programme and have made a good contribution. He was of the view this should be given due consideration before deciding to terminate the function of the TSLCCs. China commenting on Recommendation 2 stated that the NRs should be more involved in the technical aspects of the programme.

The RFP, seeking a clarification on Recommendation 1, inquired whether it would be applied only to the decisions to be made by the NRs in between Regional Meetings and the General Conference Meetings, on urgent issues.

NR-Australia confirmed that Recommendation 1 refers to the decisions to be made in between Meetings and stated that no decisions would be made without consulting the NRs

The Chair summarized that, except for Recommendations 1 and 3, the other recommendations appeared to be acceptable by the meeting. He then requested further views on Recommendations 1 and 3 from the NRs for possible consensus on the recommendations.

NR-India thanked the DDG-TC and DDG-NA for their statements and proposed deletion of the second paragraph of Recommendation 1.

NR-Australia proposed revision of second paragraph to make consultations with the NRs on policy matters mandatory.

The Meeting adopted Recommendation 1 with the amendments indicated.

It is recommended that the past Chair and the future Chair of the RCA should be available to the present Chair with the provision of advice and assistance on matters relating to the day-to-day administration of the RCA programme on behalf of the National RCA Representatives (NRs) as well as additional tasks as they arise such as mediation and facilitating actions and meeting deadlines.

They ~~would also be able~~ *should* seek guidance from the NRs on policy matters and undertake designated duties representing the Member States.

It is further recommended that where a decision is required in a timely manner, the Chair should respond on behalf of the NRs, after consultation. ~~wherever possible~~. It is also proposed that for issues where consensus is not clear or responses are not complete, the Chair should consult with the past and future Chairs to facilitate a decision.

Then, the Chair, commenting on Recommendation 3, stated that he proposed, through e-mail communication to all NRs prior to this meeting, a compromise that the TSLCCs should continue to function until the end of 2008 to avoid any abrupt changes.

NR-Pakistan, re-iterating its views on Recommendation 3, stated that the role of the TSLCCs would be important even after the number of projects was reduced, that the existing procedure for appointment of TSLCCs should be continued and that the TSLCCs should be appointed at the current Meeting.

NR-Australia stated that the NRs would decide the balance between different Thematic Sectors and it would be possible that there may not be projects in some Thematic Sectors. He also stated that the current responsibilities of the TSLCCs could be divided between the NRs and the Project Lead Country Coordinators (PLCCs).

NR-Philippines commented that distribution of funds to be allocated for each Thematic Sector was decided at the 23rd Regional Meeting of the NRs held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2001.

NR-Malaysia expressed the view that allocation of funds should be based on projects and not on Thematic Sectors.

The Chair stated that it appeared that all NRs except one were in agreement with the proposed revised text of the Recommendation 3, and proposed the adoption of the Recommendation with due recognition of reservation of the NR-Pakistan, and the reservations would be duly recorded in the Meeting Report.

NR-Pakistan stated that the issue of appointing TSLCCs had been pending for the last two years and new TSLCCs should be appointed at least until 2008.

NR-Australia pointed out the difficulties in re-appointing TSLCCs and referred to the long discussions on this issue at the 28th NRM without a resolution. He proposed that the same TSLCCs should continue till 2008 without appointing new ones.

NR-Pakistan stated that although he had reservations on this issue he would agree with the proposal of NR-Australia for the sake of consensus. The Chair thanked NR-Pakistan for the views expressed and stated that they would be duly recorded in the Meeting Report.

NR-Philippines stated that she did not deliberately respond to the circular letter of RCA Chair on this issue since she wished to discuss it at this Meeting. She also stated that she would be in agreement with the proposal to terminate TSLCCs after 2008, but there was no mention of re-appointments in the letter circulated by the RCA Chair. She further stated that although she had reservations on the proposal for the same TSLCCs to continue until 2008, she would agree with the proposal in order to reach a consensus. The Chair thanked NR-Philippines for the views expressed and stated that they would be duly recorded in the Meeting Report.

NR-Bangladesh proposed the deletion of the first sentence of Recommendation 3. The meeting agreed.

The Meeting adopted Recommendation 3 with the amendments indicated.

~~**It is concluded that the function of Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinator is no longer viable in the context of the smaller number of projects in RCA.**~~
The functions previously undertaken by the TSLCCs can be absorbed into the new tasks proposed for the PLCCs and the NRs in line with Recommendation 2 and it is therefore recommended the TSLCC position ceases ~~forthwith~~ *at the end of 2008*.

However the Working Group also concludes that thematic oversight at the national level provides value and therefore recommends the introduction of the position of National Thematic Sector Coordinator (NTSC), who will provide advice and support to the NR on national participation, priorities and sustainability. The precise arrangements for establishing and conducting the work of NTSC would be determined at a national level to suit the specific circumstances of individual MSs and would therefore not be defined in the GOR.

The Meeting adopted the Report of the Working Group on the Implementation Plan of the RCA Medium Term Strategy subject to the above revisions of Recommendations 1 and 3, and requested the RCA Secretariat to revise the RCA

Guidelines and Operating Rules, incorporating the recommendations of the Report and the Work Plan for implementation.

The Meeting also decided that the present Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators should continue until the end of 2008.

IV. Appointment of Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators

The Chair stated that in view of the decision taken under Agenda Item III, it would not be necessary to consider this Agenda Item.

V. Implementation of the RCA Programme of 2005/2006 and the RCA Programme of 2007/2008.

The RFP gave a presentation on the 2005/2006 and 2007/2008 RCA Programmes. He provided statistics on the 2005/2006 programme and brought several matters for the for the consideration of the Meeting, namely,

- the importance of nominating only personnel directly involved in project activities for regional events and providing sufficient information in the nomination applications to ascertain the involvement of nominees in the project activities
- submission of six-monthly progress reports
- the necessity of informing the Agency of the agreement to extend the RCA Agreement under the signature of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
- acceptance of the Mutual Recognition of NDT Certification Schemes
- participation in the Distance Assisted Training Programme for Nuclear Medicine Technologists and
- updating the information in the RRU data-base.

He said that the documents related to the last three issues had been distributed to the Meeting participants and a report on Progress Monitoring (RCAGCM(35)/5) had been submitted for the consideration of the Meeting .

He also outlined the action taken so far for the development of the RCA Programme for 2007/2008 and said that participation of the National RCA Representatives in this process was much more than their involvement in developing the programme for 2005/2006. He also said that the projects designs for 2007/2008 Programme would be much more comprehensive than the previous cycle. He said that all the information related to the 2007/2008 Programme would be provided to the NRs shortly and requested their assistance for,

- appointment of National Project Coordinators and National Project Teams
- adoption of National Work Plans
- allocation of national resources for project implementation
- hosting of regional events and
- provision of extra-budgetary funding

NR-Australia suggested that the requests made by RCA Focal from the National Representatives in his presentation should be also conveyed to them in writing.

VI. Proposal of Establishment of an Intranet for the RCA – RCAGCM(35)/6

The RFP introduced this Agenda Item at the invitation of the Chair and said that as decided at the 28th NRM, the RCA Secretariat in consultation with RCARO carried out a survey to identify the information and communication needs of the RCA stakeholders. He said the outcome of the survey was contained in the Background Paper RCAGCM(35)/6, which also contained options for further actions.

The Chair invited views of the RCARO in this regard.

Mr. K-M. Choi, Director RCARO, stated that the RCARO was hosting the RCA Public Home page and it has added a password-protected site to this Homepage for the UNDP supported Tsunami Project. He said if necessary it could be extended to the other RCA Projects. .

NR-Bangladesh inquired of the time needed to implement the proposal of the RCARO.

NR-Philippines stated that Philippines had proposed the Intranet to be hosted by the RCARO as it would be the easiest option to implement.

NR-Malaysia stated that Malaysia had been hosting the RCA Members Only Homepage since its inception but would be willing to accept the decision of the RCA Member States.

NR-Australia stated that the results of the Survey carried out did not indicate a need for an intra-net, but it indicated a need to improve the information posted on the RCA Members Only Home Page.

The RFP inquired of the possibility of incorporating separate sites for each of the RCA Projects in the RCA Members Only Home Page hosted by Malaysia.

NR-Malaysia agreed to carry this out before the end of the year.

The Meeting decided that the RCA Members Only Homepage hosted by Malaysia should be modified to include separate sites for each of the RCA Projects, along with the other necessary changes, before the end of 2006.

VII. RCA Regional Office

VII.1 Report of the Director RCARO

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. K-M. Choi the Director of the RCARO gave a presentation on RCARO activities. He informed of the progress made in implementing the decisions of the 28th NRM on revision of the RCARO Work Plan for 2006,

collaboration with FNCA, publication of RCA Success Stories, RCA-UNDP Project on Post-Tsunami Assessment, and participation in the PEMSEA Conference. Mr. Choi's presentation is given in Annex VIII.

VII.2 Report of the Chair of the RCARO SAC

The RCA Chair, who also functioned as the Chair of the RCARO SAC, stated that the Minutes of the Meeting of the RCARO SAC held on the 14th had been circulated.

The RFP stated that the circulated Minutes could be considered as draft Minutes of the Meeting since the Members of the RCARO SAC had not had an opportunity to review the Minutes.

Director RCARO commenting on the recommendation of the RCARO SAC on evaluating the performance of the Director RCARO stated that in his opinion this recommendation would be contradictory to the RCA GOR. He stated that the Work plan of the RCARO should be approved at an NRM and not by the RCARO SAC since the role of the RCARO SAC is to advise the RCARO.

The Chair explaining the views of the RCARO SAC on this issue stated that since the Work Plan of the RCARO is based on the RCA Work Plan approved by an NRM it would not be necessary for an NRM to re-approve the RCARO Work Plan. He stated that the RCA GOR would have to be revised based on the decisions taken at the Meetings of the NRs.

NR-Australia outlined the difficulty of waiting for the approval of the Work Plan at the Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives since it would be held in March or April each year, and explained the need for having an approved Work Plan at the beginning of the year.

NR-India thanked the RCARO for the excellent work carried out in 2005, and for the presentation of the Director RCARO. He also expressed appreciation of the invitation for non-FNCA Member States to attend the FNCA Meeting.

NR-Philippines stated that there was a conflict of interest in the RCARO SAC evaluating the performance of the Director of the RCARO since the Director would be appointed by the RCARO SAC.

NR-Australia stated that the Director RCARO SAC would be appointed by an NRM on the recommendation of the RCARO SAC and the evaluation of the performance of the Director had been already approved as one of the functions of the RCARO SAC and incorporated into the RCA GOR.

The Chair stated that the RCA GOR would be revised to incorporate the new procedure and the reservations of the Director RCARO would be recorded in the Meeting Report. ¶

The Minutes of the RCARO SAC Meeting are given in Annex IX.

The Meeting approved the procedure for evaluation of the performance of the Director RCARO recommended by the RCARO SAC and decided that the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules should be accordingly revised.

VIII. 29th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives, Australia 2007

At the invitation of the Chair Australia stated that the 29th Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives would be hosted by Australia and was planned to be held in Sydney from Tuesday the 20th of March to Friday the 23rd of March. He said that the Chairs Meeting and the Meeting of the RCARO SAC could be held on the Monday the 19th of March and there would not be a Scientific Forum during the Meeting. He further said that a technical visit would be arranged for the participants on Thursday the 22nd of March.

NR-Bangladesh requested NR-Australia to facilitate the issue of Visas for the participants.

IX. Any other business

Under Any Other Business the RFP presented additional statistics on the implementation of the RCA Programme and stated that although the RCA Implementation Rate based on Adjusted Budget appears to be low, the Implementation Rate based on the Approved Budget was very close to 100%.

NR-Australia thanked Dr. Manoon Aramrattana for this excellent contribution to the RCA Programme as the RCA Chair during the past year and during his very long association with RCA. Australia also thanked Mr. John Chung of the RCARO for his significant contribution to the RCA and conveyed his best wishes to them in their retirement.

The sentiments expressed by NR-Australia were unanimously endorsed by the Meeting.

X. Closing

Mr. M.P. Salema, Director, TCAP in his closing remarks stated that he was impressed by the pace at which RCA had progressed. He mentioned adoption of the Implementation Plan of the RCA Medium Term Strategy within a few months after the adoption of the MTS as an example. He informed the Meeting that Mr. Zhang Jing who was the National RCA Representative for China had been appointed as the Section Head of TCAP –1, and stated that his appointment would further strengthen the RCA- IAEA Partnership. He said that the TC Programme for 2007/2008 had been prepared and would be finalized following consultations with the NLOs during the General Conference.

Mr. Prinath Dias, the RFP, thanked the RCA Chair and the National RCA Representatives for their excellent cooperation during the past year. He also thanked Mr. Salema for his advice and guidance on RCA matters and the staff of the RCA Office, Mr. M-R Kim, Mr. H. Rikihisa and Ms. C. Segura for their cooperation.

Mr. Manoon Arammrattana, RCA Chair, in his closing remarks thanked all the National RCA Representatives, and the RCA Secretariat for the cooperation he received. He wished all the participants a safe journey back to their home countries and declared the Meeting closed.