



**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY**



REPORT OF
THE 34th RCA GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

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IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

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ACRONYMS

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
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-TCPA	Director, Technical Cooperation for Africa and Asia and the Pacific
SH-TCAPS	Section Head, Technical Cooperation for East Asia and the Pacific Section
NR	National RCA Representatives
NRM	Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives
GCM	RCA General Conference Meeting
MS(s)	RCA Member State(s)
TSLCC	Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinator
PLCC	Project Lead Country Coordinator
RCARO	RCA Regional Office
RCARO SAC	RCARO Standing Advisory Committee
RRU	Regional Resource Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Development Countries
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Assistance and Cooperation
ENO	Electronic Networking and Outreach

INTRODUCTION

The 34th RCA General Conference Meeting was held on 23rd September 2005 at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Thirty one participants from 16 of 17 RCA Member States; Australia (AUL), China (CPR), India (IND), Indonesia (INS), Japan (JPN), Republic of Korea (ROK), Malaysia (MAL), Mongolia (MON), Myanmar (MYA), New Zealand (NZL), Pakistan (PAK), the Philippines (PHI), Singapore (SIN), Sri Lanka (SRL), Thailand (THA), Vietnam (VIE), and representatives of RCA Regional Office (RCARO) attended the Meeting. Bangladesh (BGD) was unable to participate.

Ms. Ana María Cetto (DDG-TC), Mr. Werner Burkart (DDG-NA), Mr. Manase Peter Salema (DIR-TCPA), and Mr. Prinath Dias (Acting SH-TCAPS & RCA Coordinator) represented the IAEA. Agency's Technical Officers, Project / Country Officers and support staff also attended. The list of the participants is given in Annex 1.

I. Opening

I.1 Remarks by the RCA Chair

The RCA Chair Mr. Nahrul Rashid (MAL) welcomed Deputy Director General for Nuclear Sciences and Applications, Mr. Werner Burkart, Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Ms. Ana Maria Cetto, and Director TCPA, Mr. M.P. Salema and stated that the presence of such senior officials of the IAEA was an indication of the continued support of the IAEA to RCA. He said that RCA considered IAEA to be a partner in development. He thanked all the participants for their presence.

I.2 Messages from the IAEA

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

The DDG-NA thanked all the MSs 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 referred to the socio-economic benefits to the region through RCA and mentioned RCA Projects on Animal Production, Plant Breeding, Food Irradiation, and Distance Learning for Nuclear Medical Technologists as examples.

He recalled that the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) had received endorsement by the Board of Governors, and good progress had been made since then, in close support and cooperation with colleagues from the TC Department. He spoke that at diplomatic level, the 48th General Conference gave strong endorsement and encouragement to PACT, and this was followed in May 2005 by a World Health Assembly resolution urging exploration of joint programmes and cooperation between the WHO and the Agency.

He also informed the Meeting that the Agency had appointed a programme manager at Director level, and built up the PACT team substantially. He said that high priority had been given to raising awareness of PACT, and the Agency was entering a new phase of work on the ground with Member States, and as first step had created the concept of imPACT Missions. The Message of the DDG-NA is given in Annex II.

The Chair thanked the DDG-NA for his remarks, and invited Ms. Ana María Cetto (DDG-TC) to deliver her message on behalf of the Department of Technical Cooperation.

Ms. Cetto thanked the RCA Member States for inviting her to attend the Meeting and welcomed the participants to Vienna. She said that the focus of the Meeting should be on policy decisions that would lead to improving the RCA programme. She said that the National RCA Representatives had the responsibility of making sure the RCA Programme reflected the real needs of the Member States they represented.

Referring to the RCA Programme for 2007/2008, she said that the Agency had received the Project Concept Papers selected and prioritised at the 27th Meeting of National RCA Representatives, and that they would be appraised according to the criteria for TC projects. She said that it would be necessary for the Member States and RCA Secretariat to work together to ensure the projects selected for implementation would achieve their objectives and the expected outcomes. She noted that the RCA had adopted new procedures for project implementation and monitoring which had been incorporated into RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules.

Ms. Cetto congratulated the RCARO for entering into normal operation after three years of interim operation and on the appointment of a new Director. Ms. Cetto also stated that she strongly supported the action being taken by the RCARO to establish partnerships since it was a part of the TC Strategy.

Commenting on the action taken by RCA Member States to adopt a medium Term Strategy she hoped it would further improve the ability of RCA to meet the expectations of the Member States.

Ms. Cetto referring to the re-structuring programme of the TC Department said that the new structure would enable the TC Department to be in a better position to serve the Member States.

The Message of the DDG-TC is given in Annex III.

The Chair thanked the DDG-TC for her remarks and inquired whether she could elaborate more on the re-structuring of the TC Department and its impact on the RCA.

AUL expressed concern regarding the lack of consultations with MSs during the re-structuring process. AUL also expressed its concern regarding the distribution of the RCA Projects among Project Management Officers and stated it could lead to dilution of the impact of the RCA Programme and adversely affect its efficiency.

JPN stated that, while it understood that re-structuring was an internal matter for the IAEA, it requested the Secretariat to be in close consultations with the MSs during the implementation of the new structure.

MAL thanked the DDG-TC for the information provided and requested more details. MAL proposed a Meeting with the DDG-TC during the week of the General Conference for further consultations.

IND expressed its agreement with the comments made by AUL, JPN and MAL and expressed its desire to look further into the issues related to the re-structuring programme during the General Conference week.

The DDG-TC responding to the comments made by the MSs stated that the new structure was robust and flexible enough to meet all the needs of the MSs. She also said that it would enable the Agency to work more closely with the MSs. She said that she would look into the possibility of making a document with more details available to the MSs.

I.3 Adoption of Agenda – RCANRM(34)/1

MAL proposed to adjourn the meeting at 12.30 and to re-commence at 14.00 to allow the participants to attend to religious observances. INS seconded the proposal. The adopted Agenda is given in Annex IV.

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

I.4 Appointment of rapporteurs

The RCA Coordinator informed the Meeting that Mr. M.R. Kim of the RCA Office would be the Meeting rapporteur.

II. 27th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 4-8 April 2005

Matters arising from the Report – RCAGCM(34)/2

RCA Coordinator referred to the Background Paper RCAGCM(34)/2 summarizing the status of implementation of the decisions taken at the 27th NRM. He also referred to a document distributed to the participants containing statistics on the utilization of regional experts for RCA Projects and offered to make clarifications if required. (Annex V and Annex V (a))

Item No. 2 – RCA Annual Report for 2004

AUL pointed out that the comments given by the AUL at the 27th NRM had not been reflected in the RCA Annual Report for 2004. RCA Coordinator stated that the 27th NRM decided that MSs should submit their comments on the Annual Report before the 31st of May, but no comments were received by the Secretariat. He said he would make the necessary amendments to the Annual Report following further consultations with AUL.

Item No. 6 – OIOS Evaluation of Regional Agreements

AUL and NZE requested the Secretariat to provide feedback on the MSs' response to the OIOS Evaluation Report on Regional Agreements. The RCA Coordinator informed the Meeting that the comments of the MSs had been forwarded to the senior management soon after the 27th NRM and that the Action Plan of the TC Department in response to the OIOS Report was being finalized. AUL requested the Senior Management of the TC Department to provide the NRs with a draft of the Action Plan. IND and NZL endorsed this.

Item No. 10 – RCA Home Pages

MAL reported on the progress made in implementing the decision made at the 27th NRM regarding RCA Home Pages and requested the Member States to up-date the National Home Pages linked to the Members Only Home Page.

Item No. 11 – Possibility of holding a Ministerial Level Meeting at the 29th NRM

AUL, which had offered to host the 29th NRM to be held in 2007, inquired about the purpose of holding a Ministerial Meeting during the 29th NRM as proposed at the 27th NRM. MAL thanked AUL for agreeing to host the 29th NRM and proposed forming a Working Group to harmonize the provision of information concerning the Ministerial Meeting. PHI suggested that the exchange of information on the use of Nuclear Technology to achieve Millennium Development Goals could be a possible topic for discussion at this Meeting.

The Meeting decided to form a Working Group comprising AUL, MAL, NZE, PHI and THA to review the purpose, topics, financial support, and impact of the proposed Ministerial-level meeting. The Meeting requested the Working Group to circulate their proposals to the MSs as early as possible.

Item No. 20 – Development of an Intranet for RCA

PHI stated that it had submitted a proposal on developing an interactive web-site similar to Livelink, since not all stakeholders had access to Livelink. MAL the PLC for ENO stated that it had received the proposal made by PHI and had made a comparison of features of the PCMF web site of the IAEA, Livelink, RCA Members Only web site and the PHI proposal. MAL also mentioned that it was planning to add an interactive feature to the RCA Members Only web site and this could be done without any additional investments.

It was decided that MAL and PHI would have further consultations in this regard with the RCA Coordinator.

III. RCA Medium Term Strategy –RCANRM(34)/3

At the invitation of the Chair, AUL made a presentation on the RCA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) proposed by the Working Group appointed at the 27th NRM. The

preliminary report of the Working Group is given in Annex VI and the presentation of AUL in Annex VI (a).

JPN stated that OIOS feedback on the MSs' response to the OIOS evaluation would have to be taken into consideration in finalizing the RCA Medium Term Strategy. JPN also stated that it would be necessary to look into the implementation of the Strategy once it was adopted and mentioned that the Medium Term Strategy should be programme oriented and should include technical aspects.

CPR expressed its appreciation to the Working Group and stated that issues related to financial sustainability of the RCA Programme should be a part of the Medium Term Strategy. CPR also suggested the addition of an item on "Promotion of Nuclear Technology in the Region" to the Core Values of the MTS.

THA stated that adoption of a Medium Term Strategy for the RCA was timely and it was pleased to see such a strategy being presented. THA also highlighted the importance of identifying the activities that would lead to the achievement of the Medium Term Strategy. THA also stated that the formation of a Coordination Team within each Member State as proposed was essential for the success of the RCA Programme. THA was of the view that each MSs should have the infrastructure to manage the TC Programme and that RCA Management Structure should be a part of it.

PHI congratulated the Working Group and stated that cooperative research should be incorporated into the RCA Programme as Japan proposed a few years ago. PHI proposed the addition of an item on cooperative research to new strategic areas.

It was decided that the National RCA Representatives should submit their comments to the RCA Secretariat within 2 months. It was also decided that the Working Group should revise its Preliminary Report based on the feed back from the Member States and submit the Final Report for consideration of the 28th Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives.

IV. Recommendations of the Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators' Meeting –RCANRM(34)/4

The RCA Coordinator briefed the Meeting on the recommendations raised at the TSLCC Meeting held on 1-4 August 2005 at the IAEA Headquarters. (Annex VII).

PAK expressed its appreciation for the work done by the TSLCCs. PAK also noted that the three Chairs had been invited to the TSLCC Meeting in 2002 and this practice should be continued.

CPR expressed its reservations on the recommendation to make the new appointments of TSLCCs at the commencement of a new project cycle. (Recommendation 6)

AUL stated its support to all recommendations other than Recommendation 6.

JPN indicated strong support for Recommendation 5 and stated that the role of RCA Coordinator should not be diluted.

The Chair proposed that item no. 6 on the TSLCC recommendations be further discussed at the 28th NRM.

The Meeting decided to accept all the recommendations of the TSLCC Meeting other than recommendation 6, and decided to further discuss recommendation 6 at the 28th NRM.

V. Appointment of Thematic Sector Lead Countries / Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinators – RCANRM(34)/5

The RCA Coordinator stated that, as decided at the 27th NRM, the MSs were requested to inform the Secretariat of the experience and the qualifications of the TSLCCs they were proposing, and the information received was submitted to the 34th GCM for a decision regarding the appointment of TSLCCs. (Annex VIII) He said nominations had been received for the Thematic Sectors of Agriculture (2), Environment (2), Industry (3), Human Health (1) and Radiation Protection (1).

NZL raised an issue on the procedure and stated that the above Background Paper had been revised after its initial circulation, incorporating information submitted by MSs well after the deadline and as a result the National RCA Representatives did not have sufficient time to review the new information presented.

JPN supported NZL and stressed the importance of further consultations among MSs in order to find a mutually agreeable solution on this issue.

PAK stated that no decision was made to request MSs to submit information on qualification and experience of the TSLCCs at the 27th NRM, as recorded in the minutes of the Meeting, and that the procedure outlined in RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules should be followed in this regard. PAK stated that once a Thematic Sector Lead Country was appointed it should have the right to nominate a suitable person as the TSLCC.

MAL pointed out that the MSs had decided to revise the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules based on the decisions taken at the Meetings of National RCA Representatives.

RCA Coordinator, responding to the issue raised by PAK stated that all the decisions made at the 27th NRM were read out during the final session of the Meeting to ensure there was consensus on the wording of the decisions made. He also said that the draft minutes were circulated to the MSs for their views and corrected based on the views expressed, before they were adopted according to the procedure outlined in the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules.

IND was of the opinion that TSLCCs to all Thematic Sectors should be appointed together.

NZL agreed with the distinction made by PAK between TSLCCs and TSLCs and stated since several countries had expressed their wish to be TSLCs, further consultations would be necessary before a decision was made.

AUL emphasised the need to have consensus on decisions. AUL also was of the view that the TSLCCs should be properly qualified persons and if several countries offer to be a TSLC in a particular Thematic Sector, the best-qualified candidate should be chosen.

The Chair stated that he was encouraged to see so many Member States volunteering to be TSLCs. He also said he had informal consultations with the MSs that had expressed interest but it was not possible to reach consensus. He proposed to defer the decision in this regard to the 28th NRM.

It was decided to defer the appointment of Thematic Sector Lead Country Coordinates to the 28th NRM to be held in Thailand in 2006.

VI. RCA Programme for 2007/2008

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA Coordinator gave a presentation on the current issues facing the RCA Programme. He presented statistical information of the current programme, a summary of the status of implementation of the key decisions taken at the past meetings of National RCA Representatives and further action to be taken in finalizing the RCA Programme for 2007/2008.

He requested the MSs who had not provided information to the RCA Secretariat on their participation in the RCA Programme for 2007/2008 to do so as soon as possible. He also mentioned that only a few MSs had submitted Progress Reports and sought the cooperation of the National RCA Representatives to ensure the submission of the reports by the National Project Coordinators as early as possible. He further sought the cooperation of the National RCA Representatives for timely nominations for RCA regional events. The presentation of the RCA Coordinator is given in Annex IX.

The RCA Coordinator, referring to a document distributed at the Meeting (Annex IX (a)) containing proposed PLCCs for the projects to be selected for implementation in 2007/2008, requested the National RCA Representatives to inform the Secretariat of any changes to be made to the proposed list.

IND pointed out that none of the PLCCs proposed for the Industrial Sector were from India, although India was the TSLCC for Industry and sought further clarifications in this regard. The RCA Coordinator stated that the Secretariat had to propose PLCCs based on past experience for some of the Projects since not all Concept Papers provided information on the PLCCs as required. He also said that a list of PLCCs was presented to the 27th NRM for the projects recommended by the TSLCCs for implementation in 2007/2008.

PHI stated that the current practice was to appoint PLCCs at the Project Formulation Meetings. The RCA Coordinator stated that according to the revised RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules, the PLCCs had to be appointed before a project was formulated, since they would be involved in project formulation.

AUL stated that the number of projects proposed for 2007/2008 was too large considering that the MSs had decided to reduce the number of projects. The RCA Coordinator explained that the Project Concept Papers would be screened by the Agency and not all Project Concepts submitted by the MSs would be approved for implementation. He also stated that 5 projects in the current cycle would continue to the next cycle.

It was decided that any changes to the list of PLCCs should be conveyed to the Secretariat within one month.

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 presented the Meeting on the Progress of the RCARO and the New Initiatives. He informed the Meeting about the status of implementation of the tasks delegated to it by the 27th NRM, namely publication of RCA Success Stories, adoption of the Guidelines for the operation of the RCARO SAC, establishing collaboration between FNCA and RCA, and participation of RCA in the Quadripartite Meeting. He also reported on the new initiatives of the RCARO. The presentation of Mr. Choi is given in Annex X. The Chair proposed that the discussion on the presentation could be taken-up together with the report of the Chair of the RCARO SAC.

VII.2 Report of the Chair of the RCARO SAC

At the invitation of the Chair, who also functioned as the Chair of the RCARO SAC, AUL reported on the outcomes of the Meeting of the RCARO SAC held on the 22nd September. The Report of the RCARO SAC is given in Annex XI.

Participation in the Quadripartite Meeting

AUL reported that the RCARO SAC had recommended that the RCA should electronically exchange information with the other Regional Agreements. It was pointed out that the information exchange also could be through the Regional Coordinators and the Quadripartite Meeting should be utilized to finalize the consultations if needed.

It was decided that the RCA Chair and RCA Coordinator should attend the Quadripartite Meeting and convey the above views.

RCA Success Stories

AUL stated that the process proposed by the RCARO as presented by Director RCARO under Agenda Item VII.1 had value but it was too slow. AUL said that the SAC was of the view the Success Stories should be published before the next extension of the RCA Agreement. AUL further reported that the RCARO SAC Meeting had identified 1) Tissue banking 2) Air pollution analysis in the Philippines associated with ADB 3) Groundwater contamination analysis in Bangladesh associated with WB 4) Modification of natural polymers by radiation processing, and 5) development of Distance Assisted Training Material (DAT) for Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Radiation Oncologists as areas with potential for success stories. AUL said that the RCARO SAC had also recommended a time frame for publication of the Success Stories and had suggested that the material needed for development of publication of Success Stories could be obtained from the PLCCs and from the Meeting Reports in these project areas.

It was decided that the RCARO should publish Success Stories in the identified project areas, based on information obtained from PLCCs and information contained in the Meeting Reports and submit the draft write-ups for the consideration of the 28th NRM. It was also decided that the Success Stories should be published periodically and not limited to what was identified at the present stage

Guidelines on the Operation of the RCARO SAC

The Director of the RCARO reported that the Guidelines on the Operation of the RCARO SAC were duly adopted by the NRs in June 2005 after a review by the RCARO SAC.

Collaboration between RCA and FNCA

The Director of the RCARO, referring to the decision made at the 27th NRM requesting RCARO to communicate with FNCA regarding collaboration between RCA and FNCA, reported that there had been some changes in the management of FNCA and there was a need to have more time for consultations. These consultations were expected to take place in October 2005 in Tokyo.

AUL expressed the view that simply attending the RCA Meetings by representatives of FNCA and vice-versa had not benefited either programme.

IND expressed the view that the fuller participation of RCA Member States would be required to establish collaboration with FNCA.

It was decided that the RCARO should circulate the main topics for discussion with FNCA to the RCARO SAC for its views prior to the meeting with FNCA. It was also decided that the RCARO should report on the outcome of the consultations with FNCA to the 28th NRM

Guidelines for Projects Initiated by the RCARO

AUL reported that the RCARO SAC had recommended that the RCARO activities should not be considered as a Thematic Sector, and that the first recommendation of the Working Group should be deleted.

JPN thanked ROK for the support provided to the RCARO and expressed its appreciation of the work done by the RCARO. JPN also expressed the view that the 'Fast Track' projects should be reviewed within a reasonable time for consistency with the other RCA projects funded by the TCF.

The Meeting decided that the activities of the RCARO should not be considered as a Thematic Sector as recommended by the Working Group.
The Meeting also approved the procedure recommended for 'Fast Track' approval of projects initiated by the RCARO subject to agreement of Director of the RCARO, the RCARO SAC and the relevant TSLCC to the project proposal.
It was decided that the Guidelines would be effective from the date of approval.

New initiatives of the RCARO

Use of the RCARO 2005 Fund

AUL reported that, the RCARO SAC had recommended that the RCARO funds for 2005 be utilized for a workshop with the participation of related experts in the environment area, in particular marine environment, to identify future priorities of RCA environmental projects beyond 2008.

UNDP-Korea Project:

AUL also reported that the RCARO SAC had recommended that the RCARO should prepare a concept paper together with the TSLCC for Environment, which should be circulated to the RCARO SAC for further advice and comments and submitted to NRs for approval before submitting the formal project proposal to UNDP-Korea. The SAC had recommended that erosion analysis of marine coastal areas affected by the Tsunami could be an area to be covered by the project.

PEMSEA:

AUL reported that the RCARO would be participating in the 2006 PEMSEA (Partnership in Environmental Management of Seas of East Asia) International Conference to be held in December 2006 in China, after being advised by SAC and supported by NRs in June 2005. AUL also stated that the RCARO SAC had recommended that, since an RCA regional event under the RCA Project Improving Regional Capacity for Assessment, Planning, and Response to Aquatic Environmental Emergencies (RAS8/095) was planned to be held in conjunction with this conference, it would be desirable to interact with the PLCC of this project for detailed arrangements.

Enhancement of the RCARO Status

AUL stated that the RCARO had requested an amendment to the RCA Agreement in order to enhance its legal status and the RCARO SAC had recommended this to be considered at the extension of the Agreement for 2011-2016.

The Meeting approved the above recommendations of the RCARO SAC.

VIII. 28th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives, Thailand 2006

THA confirmed that the 28th NRM would be hosted by Thailand on 27-31 March 2006. THA also informed that it was considering the possibility of holding the Meeting at a location outside Bangkok, but it would not be possible to provide facilities for an event if it was not held in Bangkok. THA informed the Meeting that there would be an event during the NRM similar to the Scientific Forum. However the event title would be given differently from the “Scientific Forum” since it was not an appropriate title for the event.

IX. Extension of RCA Agreement RCANRM(34)/6

At the invitation of the Chair, the RCA Coordinator briefed the Meeting that the current extension of the RCA Agreement would expire on the 11th of June 2007, and said that a draft Agreement for extension was presented for the consideration of the MSs. (Annex XI). The RCA Coordinator also stated that as per past practice the Agency would forward the Agreement for extension to the MSs through the official channels.

AUL suggested there was a need to clarify what was meant by South Asia in the Agreement in view of the grouping of countries in the new structure of the TC Department.

It was decided that the Secretariat would officially circulate the draft Agreement for extension to the MSs through official channels according to the past practice.

X. Any other business

MAL proposed that a delegation of the National RCA Representatives should meet the DDG-TC during the week of the General Conference to further discuss the issues related to the re-structuring programme of the TC Department and its effect on RCA, preferably after a document with further details was provided to the MSs.

IND endorsed the proposal of MAL.

PHI stated that it would like to give its comments after reviewing the briefing note.

It was decided to request a meeting with the DDG-TC for discussions on the issues related to the re-structuring programme, and the past, current and next Chairs,

major donors JPN and AUL, and any other interested MSs would participate in the discussion.

The delegates of the MSs congratulated Ms. Alumanda Dela Rosa, the National RCA Representative for Philippines for the award she received from World Nuclear Association for her contribution to advancement of peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

XI. Closing

The Chair in his closing remarks thanked all the RCA National Representatives, representatives of the RCARO, and RCA Coordinator for their participation and contributions. He also thanked the RCA staff members, Mr. M.R. Kim, Mr. H.Rikihisa and Ms. C. Segura for their contributions.