

MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF RCA MEMBER
STATES
20 SEPTEMBER 2000
WELCOMING ADDRESS
BY
MR. QIAN JIHUI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Distinguished RCA National Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all of you on behalf of the Director General of the IAEA to this 29th RCA General Conference. I have been informed that all the RCA Member States are represented here, which is a sign of your continuous interest in and commitment to the RCA.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my colleague Mr. Werner Burkart, who joined the Agency recently as Mr. Machi's successor. As you know, these two department, TC and NA, work together closely to co-operate with RCA.

Your meeting today is especially important since you will be dealing with issues relevant to the future programme of RCA and its management. I am pleased to note the progress that RCA has made in the past few years.

Simply that you do not need a Sunday meeting prior to the GC is a sign of improvement in RCA Management.

At the 21st RCA meeting in Singapore, I challenged Member States to submit quality projects that had the basic Model Project features. The Agency would not automatically allot funds for RCA project proposals.

It seems now the quality of project proposals has generally improved and the efforts of the Lead Countries as well as those of the Secretariat should be commended. There were difficulties with a few projects in certain fields but in the end, the overall RCA programme has shaped up quite well. The size of the proposed RCA programme for 2001-2002 has remained almost at the same level.

One of the biggest projects, the joint UNDP/RCA/IAEA project, was evaluated at its mid-term stage by a team of experts in April and May of this year. The report concluded that the project was on track and pointed out the high degree of ownership of the projects through the Lead Countries. This was something that was not equally evident with UNDP. This message is encouraging. It tells us that in some projects the Lead

Country concept is already working. We would like to see more evidence in other projects and it is noted that this topic is included in the agenda.

I have been informed that one Member State, the Republic of Korea, has offered to host an RCA Regional Office and support its cost. This offer seems to be in line with one of your earlier recommendations made during the 1996 RCA General Conference. Several years have already past, under the current situation it will be your decision to accept his offer and to determine the terms of reference and operational modality.

I would like to mention that, in the past years, this year we are again going to have a tripartite meeting of RCA, AFRA and ARCAL. This year, the agenda for the tripartite meeting requires each agreement to present and share with the other some of their successes. Each agreement is also tasked to exchange information on new, successfully demonstrated technologies for interregional collaboration.

As other regions, RCA has many good projects and therefore it is expected that you will have many success stories to tell. As for candidates for new technologies to be transferred to the other regions, this will be the subject of the tripartite meeting.

Distinguished Representatives, I wish you a fully successful meeting and that you may accomplish your agenda. Additionally, I sincerely hope, that based on the Lead Country approach and other innovative management initiatives such as Regional Resource Units, the future RCA programme will generate more significant results which will benefit all the Member States of RCA.

Thank you for your attention.