

Annex 4

**REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION
25TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
MESSAGE OF HON. KEHELIYA RAMBUKWELLA
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.**

Dr. D.A. Nethsingha, Chief Guest, Dr. Peter Salema, Director of the Division for Africa, East Asia and the Pacific and other Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Prof. Prinath Dias, Guest of Honour, distinguished National Representatives and Delegates, Chairman, Atomic Energy Authority, Senior Officials of the Ministry of Economic Reform, Science and Technology, Distinguished Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I convey my best wishes for fruitful discussions and successful conclusion of the 25th Meeting of the National Representatives of the Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Asia and the Pacific Region. I regret my inability to be present today to convey my wishes personally, since urgent Government business has made it necessary for me to be abroad.

It is the policy of the Government of Sri Lanka to harness science and technology to improve the quality of life of the Sri Lankan population. The Government has recognized the contribution nuclear technology can make in improving health care facilities, improving agricultural and industrial productivity and in controlling environmental degradation. Resources needed by the Atomic Energy Authority, the national nuclear institute, to successfully apply nuclear technology for these purposes have been made available. This includes a new building constructed at a cost of about 1 million US\$.

We are grateful for the technical support provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency for utilizing nuclear technology for improving the well being of our people. The Health, Agricultural and Industrial Sectors have significantly benefited from the technical assistance provided by the IAEA under its Technical Cooperation Programme.

I am also impressed by the achievements made through regional cooperation as a result of the activities undertaken under the Regional Cooperative Agreement. I convey my appreciation and the appreciation of the Government of Sri Lanka to the donor countries and agencies and to all RCA Member States for their contribution. I also wish to inform you that the Government of Sri Lanka will financially and physically support all activities of the IAEA and the RCA that will provide tangible benefits to the people of our country in a cost effective manner.

In conclusion I thank the IAEA for giving Sri Lanka the opportunity to host this meeting and wish all the delegates a successful and pleasant stay in Sri Lanka.