

**THE MESSAGE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (TECHNICAL COOPERATION)**

The DDG-TC thanked the RCA Member States for inviting her to attend this important meeting and welcomed the National Representatives and other delegates to Vienna. She said that this is her first opportunity to attend an RCA meeting and said that she wishes to share her views on the RCA and to interact with the National Representatives of the Member States. She stressed that the National RCA Representatives have the responsibility of ensuring the RCA Programme reflects the real needs of the Member States and that RCA Projects would bring tangible socio-economic benefits to their respective countries. She noted that there is a high degree of diversity among the RCA Member States and in the national capabilities for utilizing nuclear technology and said that this diversity is both a strength and a challenge.

The DDG-TC outlined the modalities the Agency has to assist the Member States to utilize nuclear technology in support of their development objectives, namely national, regional and inter-regional programmes. She emphasized that Member States would get maximum benefits out of the Agency's programmes when the optimal combination of these mechanisms is used. She remarked that the allocation of a pre-determined portion of funds for national and regional projects would not necessarily result in this optimal combination. She further stated that in future the allocation of funds for national and regional projects would be governed by the principle of optimising benefits to the Member States.

The DDG-TC mentioned that the regional projects should be of clear regional interest, demonstrating cooperation among countries and with clear national commitments. She also hoped that the Member States would be more creative in project design to obtain the specific advantages of the regional agreement without limiting the activities to those the Agency can undertake without such an agreement. She hoped that the projects approved for implementation in 2005/2006 would meet the criteria of the funding agencies, and exhibit added value.

The DDG-TC also said that the RCA Regional office in the Republic of Korea was an important step towards a new era of RCA. She commended the Republic of Korea for hosting the Regional Office and hoped that the Regional Office could effectively liaise with the Member States and the RCA Office in conducting its activities to further strengthen the RCA programme.

In concluding, the DDG-TC wished the delegates a successful Meeting and wished that decisions taken at this Meeting would further strengthen the RCA.