



MEETING REPORT

30TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL

RCA REPRESENTATIVES

8-10 April 2008

Hanoi, Vietnam

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30th Meeting of RCA National Representatives

8-10 April 2008
Hanoi, Vietnam

Opening Ceremony

The 30th Meeting of National RCA Representatives was held at the Army Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam from 8 to 10 April 2008. 46 participants from 17 RCA Member States, the RCA Regional Office (RCARO) and an invitee from CAI-Asia Centre attended the Meeting. The list of participants is given in Annex 1. The IAEA was represented by Mr Manase Peter Salema, Director, Division Asia and the Pacific, Technical Cooperation Department; Mr. Prinath Dias, RCA Focal Person (RCA FP) and Mr Hiroshi Rikihisa, Cost Free Expert, RCA Secretariat.

HE Mr Le Dinh Tien, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology welcomed the participants (Annex 2). He reviewed the participation of Vietnam in the RCA programme and expressed his appreciation for the positive impact that the RCA programme had made to nuclear science and technology as well as economic and social development. In his closing remarks he thanked the IAEA, the RCA Regional Office and the RCA Member States for their various contributions to the Meeting.

Mr. Prinath Dias delivered the welcome remarks on behalf of the IAEA, due to be presented by Mr. Manase Peter Salema (Annex 3), who was not able to be present at the opening of the Meeting due to commitments at the IAEA Headquarters. The Government of Vietnam was thanked for hosting the Meeting and its contribution to the RCA. He cited as noteworthy innovations the progress being made by the RCA in the implementation of its Medium Term Strategy, including the development of improved designs for its projects being proposed for the 2009-11 cycle and the more detailed technical review of project performance now being undertaken by the Regional Meeting. The RCA Regional Office was also congratulated for the progress it was making in achieving greater recognition for the RCA as well as its pursuit of new partnership arrangements.

The outgoing Chair, Dr Ron Cameron, (AUL) expressed his appreciation for the arrangements made by Vietnam for the hosting of the Meeting. He expressed satisfaction with the progress and achievements being made by the RCA and expressed the hope that ongoing support from the Member States would continue to advance the programme (Annex 4).

1. Opening Session

1.1 Welcome Remarks of the Current Chair

Dr Ron Cameron thanked the participants for the support they had provided to the Chair over the past year. He welcomed the Ambassador for Thailand and the newly appointed National RCA Representatives for India and the Republic of Korea to the Meeting. He also welcomed the Representative of CAI-Asia who had been invited to attend the Meeting. He noted the good progress made by RCA during the past year

but reminded the National RCA Representatives that there were still challenges for them in complying with all their obligations and commitments under the RCA Guidelines and Operating Rules as well as those associated with the IAEA's technical cooperation programme (Annex 5).

He called for nomination for the new Chair.

1.2 Election of the Chair and Rapporteurs

JPN proposed Dr. Le Van Hong, Vice Chairman, Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission to be the new Chair of the RCA. PHI seconded the proposal. Dr. Le Van Hong was unanimously elected by the National Representatives. Dr. Hong welcomed all the delegates to Vietnam and thanked Dr. Ron Cameron for the work he had undertaken during the year while RCA Chair.

Dr Nahrul Khair Alang Md Rashid of MAL and Dr John Easey of AUL agreed to be rapporteurs for the Meeting.

1.3 Remarks of the Incoming Chair

Dr. Le Van Hong thanked the National Representatives for electing him Chair. He welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He briefly reviewed the tasks ahead for the Meeting and looked forward to cooperation and assistance from the Member States during the coming year.

2. Adoption of the Agenda - RCANRM(30)/1

No new items were proposed for the draft agenda.

The Meeting agreed to adopt the draft Agenda.

The adopted Agenda is given in Annex 6.

3. 29th RCANRM and 36th RCA GCM reports - Matters arising and follow-up action – RCANRM(30)/2

RCA FP reviewed the items listed in the briefing paper (Annex 7) and reported on the actions taken.

AUL enquired whether item 3 involving the RCARO had been completed. The Director RCARO explained that only two Member States had responded to the request for information and that the RCARO work plan for 2008 contained an activity to contact the MSs again requesting information.

The Meeting agreed that this item was closed as it forms a regular part of the RCARO Workplan.

CPR commented that the 17th World Conference on NDT would be held in Shanghai in 2008 and further information could be accessed from the dedicated website <http://www.17wcntd.com>

4. RCA Annual Report for 2007 – RCANRM(30)/3

RCA FP briefly reviewed the report. He requested the NRs to review the document and provide comments and feedback within 1 month. It was planned to finalise the report and distribute it electronically to the NRs by 31 May 2008. In addition the report would be posted on the Members Only Website.

He noted that the current format for the Annual Report, including the spreadsheet with the statistical information, had been in place for some years and he suggested that the NRs might like to review this to see if this provided an appropriate and useful summary of the annual activities. He requested that any comments on these formats should be sent to him and the format of the Annual Report could be discussed at the GCM in September 2008.

RCA FP reported that he was still not receiving contributions from the MSs in a timely manner and some contributions were submitted as individual project reports rather than a consolidated national report. This imposed additional work on his office to then merge the reports. Also some reports were provided in hard copy or PDF format, which also required the RCA FP office to re-enter the texts to Word or Excel documents. He explained that information from the RCA Annual Report was used as input for the TC Annual report. This TC document is prepared in January each year. Therefore late contributions from RCA MSs could not be incorporated into that report and thus prevents the presentation of the full picture of RCA performance during the year.

Although guidelines were provided for Country Reports as requested by the last NRM, there was a wide variation in the format of the reports received. RCA FP suggested that there was a need to adopt a uniform and concise format to keep the Annual Report to a manageable size. He suggested that the layout used by India for its 2007 contribution might be an appropriate format for other MSs to adopt. (Annex 8). He requested the NRs cooperation in improving the timeliness of the submission of the reports and to do this electronically in Word or Excel format.

The Meeting agreed that MSs would provide feedback on the 2007 Annual Report to the RCA FP by 12 May 2008.

Member States will evaluate whether the current format for the Annual Report is still appropriate and feedback will be discussed at the 37th GCM.

Commencing from 2008, the Meeting agreed to provide the RCA FP with country annual reports in Word and the statistics in Excel and the Meeting recommended that the use of the Indian format be considered.

The Meeting endorsed the Annual Report for 2007 subject to any revisions communicated by the 12 May deadline.

5. Progress on the Implementation of the RCA Medium Term Strategy RCANRM(30)/4

The RCA FP introduced the background document (Annex 9) and sought comments from the NRs. AUL suggested that the current practice for the technical review of the projects is now different to that described in item C.1.5. It was agreed to update the procedure to reflect current practice.

PAK suggested that the NRs should be able to review the final versions of the success stories before they were published and distributed throughout the region. It was agreed that the NRs had responsibility for materials that were issued about the RCA programme and that there needed to be a process of final review by the NRs before publication and distribution of these materials.

JPN proposed that the Secretariat consider the possibilities of publishing the IAEA Technical Document (TECDOC) on technical achievement of RCA activities where appropriate. That there have been precedents and some other project results may be suitable for future publication as TECDOCs.

The Meeting agreed that the implementation plan for MTS should be updated to reflect current practice in review of the projects.

The Meeting also agreed that the finalised version of success stories should be circulated to all National Representatives for comments and then published after approval by a National Representatives Meeting.

6. Review of the Implementation of the RCA Programme in 2007

a) Implementation of the RCA programme in 2007 – RCANRM(30)/5

The RCA FP highlighted major matters in the background document on the implementation of the RCA programme in 2007 (Annex 10). In particular he was concerned that the funding allocation for the provision of expert services was not being fully utilised. He suggested that it was possible that some project counterparts were not aware that a formal request needed to be submitted to him through their NR and that recommendations for the provision of expert services in project meeting reports were not sufficient to initiate such activities. There was also a reminder that 2 months lead time was required to arrange such missions and duty statements had to be provided so that the mission requirements could be fully satisfied.

The RCA FP encouraged the NRs to get their experts to complete and submit IAEA Personal History Forms so that they could be entered into the IAEA Expert Roster. He briefly outlined the IAEA procedures that were used when requests for expert services were received and the use of the Expert Roster in the identification of experts with the appropriate experience and qualifications to undertake missions. In discussions on expert services the Meeting agreed that the involvement of the PLCC in the selection of experts for specific project assignments would be beneficial.

Four other items of concern were identified by the RCA FP. The first involved the ongoing funding of RRU services for MSs that did not have the required facilities and

infrastructure. He reiterated that long-term sustainability depended on MS investing in these areas. The next item raised was project reporting, which continued to be problematic, with a number of reports either arriving after the due date or not being provided at all. He reminded the Meeting that this was not only a NR responsibility to ensure that the reports were provided; it was also an IAEA and TC requirement that 6 monthly progress reports be submitted.

Nominations for RCA training courses needed to be restricted to appropriately qualified and experienced personnel employed in the specific technological area. However some nominations did not have sufficient information to enable such assessments to be made. There was strong support for the requirement that nominees for training events should come from the National Teams. The NRs were reminded that they were expected to certify that appropriate participants were nominated.

The last item was extrabudgetary funding. He commented that the funding basis for the RCA programme in 2009-11 would be based on the expectation that 80% would come from TC and 20% from extrabudgetary contributions from the MSs. He requested MSs to inform him which projects or project activities could receive financial support from their extrabudgetary donations. In the subsequent discussions concerning preparations for the 2009-11 cycle, it was suggested that the RCA FP should approach potential MS donors to assess which RCA projects they would consider funding and then allocate the distribution of TC and extrabudgetary funds to the projects based on this information rather than have an arbitrary allocation of the extrabudgetary funds. In response to requests for more information on Agency financial terminology, the RCA FP agreed to provide a glossary on IAEA terms so that the financial details of the RCA budgets could be clearly understood by the NRs.

In his final comments he noted that there were still four RCA MSs that had not notified the Agency of their acceptance of the extension of the Agreement.

The Meeting agreed that:

- **PLCCs should be involved in the process for the recruitment of experts for assignments related to their projects;**
- **Member States will provide the Agency with completed Personal History Forms for qualified and experienced specialists to be considered by the IAEA for inclusion in the TC expert roster;**
- **Member States will be provided with a list of the NPCs for the various RCA projects; and,**
- **Member States will inform the RCA FP about their intentions for the distribution of their extrabudgetary funds to RCA projects or project activities in preparation for the 2009-11 cycle.**

b) Progress of the RCA Programme in 2007 – RCANRM(30)/6

The progress of the implementation of the projects was presented by each Project Lead Country:

Australia	Annex 11
China	Annex 12a and 12b

India	Annex 13
Japan	Annex 14a, 14b and 14c
Republic of Korea	Annex 15a and 15b
New Zealand	Annex 16
Pakistan	Annex 17
Philippines	Annex 18

After each presentation there was a discussion on implementation issues and especially constraints that were affecting the smooth delivery of the project.

In response to a question on the possible effects of the changes in the FAO's relationship with the Agency and the flow on effect to projects currently in the Joint Division area, the RCA FP commented that there had been no effect to date. The final decision by the FAO would be made later in the year and then the impact of any changes on the future RCA would need to be assessed.

In the presentation on RAS/6/029, "Upgrading Nuclear Medicine Technologist Training", there was a request for the Agency to initiate an interregional project in this area as there were spin off activities from this project in the other regions. There was support from the NRs for this but the RCA FP commented that the other TC Divisions were working in parallel with him and following the RCA procedures. He expressed doubt about what an interregional project could achieve that was not covered by this arrangement. Further comment was deferred to the next day when Mr Salema would attend the Meeting.

Mr. Salema agreed to consult further within the Agency, and to advise on the most appropriate way to maintain the integrity of the training material.

During the presentation on the Project RAS/9/042, AUL stated that Mr. David Woods of AUL had been functioning as the Lead Country Coordinator of this project, but since he was due to retire from service in January 2009, it had been proposed that Dr. K. Sakai Director, Research Center for Radiation Protection, National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Japan be appointed as the PLCC. JPN agreed to this suggestion.

The Meeting agreed that Dr. K. Sakai of Japan will function as the Project Lead Country Coordinator of the RCA Project on "Sustainability of Regional Radiation Protection Infrastructure" (RAS/9/042) with effect from January 2009.

During 2007 the progress in some participating countries of project RAS/6/041, "Prevention of Osteoporosis and Promotion of Bone Mass in Asian Populations using a Food-based Approach", had not proceeded as set out in the project plan because local financial constraints had affected progress with national implementation. The RCA FP recalled that the Agency did not provide funds for local operations and that this was an expected national contribution to underpin commitment to the project. The final review meeting is scheduled to take place in 2008, subject to funding. The project will be closed after this event.

There were extensive discussions on what actions might be appropriate to encourage the timely and meaningful reporting of project progress and the related issue of national commitment to project participation. The RCA FP reiterated that the submission of reports to the RCA Secretariat was both an RCA and a TC requirement. Submission of a national project programme as part of an RCA project was a demonstration of commitment and an indicator that there was prospect of underlying sustainability. With regard to nomination of National Team members for training events, lack of information in the nomination forms some times obscured whether the participant was suitably qualified for the event. He also noted that RCA projects had now moved forward and were designed for a specific purpose and not just for creating awareness of a technology.

NRs were encouraged to make project selection in a more focused manner and in all selected projects a progress report should be made as a commitment. However, limiting of participation in project activities because of no or inadequate reporting of national participation was not seen to be an appropriate action.

The Meeting agreed on the importance of improving the project reporting to the Agency and also improving the quality of the information in the nomination forms for training events.

7. Implementation Plan of the RCA Programme for 2008 RCANRM(30)/7

The RCA FP briefly introduced this item referring to the background document (Annex 19). He said that this item was added to the Agenda at the request of the RCA Chair, and said that the Background Paper contains a summary description of the activities planned for 2008, the financial status of the projects, the regional events planned for 2008, and the list of events for which Extra-budgetary funding is needed.

JPN stated that it would provide Extra-budgetary funds for events no. 3 and 4 to be implemented under the projects RAS/6/040 and RAS/6/048.

CPR Stated that it had provided funds from RCA reserve fund of China EB for event no.1 to be implemented under RAS/0/045 and will provide funds for event no. 2 to be implemented under RAS/5/046.

PHI suggested allocation of its EB contribution to events no. 3 and 4 and the RCA FP informed PHI that the EB contribution had been already allocated to RAS/0/048 as previously agreed

ROK stated that it planned to provide US\$90,000 to the TC Programme through the RCARO, and US\$50,000 out of this contribution would be for the RCA Project RAS/0/045.

AUL stated that RCA Secretariat should find out in advance which projects the RCA Member States proposed allocating EB funds and use this information when preparing the budget in the future. AUL also stated that industry should contribute to those projects from it would benefit.

The Meeting noted the implementation plan for 2008.

8. Report of the Director RCARO - RCANRM(30)/8

The Chair suggested that the discussion on the Agenda Items 8, 9 and 10 could be taken together. This suggestion was accepted.

The Director RCARO presented his report highlighting the work carried out in 2007, according to the agreed work plan and the activities planned to be implemented in 2008. (Annex 20).

9. Presentation on the Partnership between CAI and RCA

Mr Michael Co of the Clean Air Initiative – Asia Centre, who attended the Meeting on invitation delivered a presentation on the operation of CAI-Asia centre and elaborated the potential for collaborative arrangements with RCA (Annex 21).

PAK suggested that the discussion on this item should be carried out during a closed session of the delegates of the Meeting. JPN suggested that clarifications could be sought from the CAI-Asia Centre Representative during this session and the actions to be taken in this regard could be decided during a closed session. These suggestions were accepted.

Replying to a question from MAL regarding the CAI-Asia budget, the CAI representative stated that funds were received for the projects implemented by CAI. Responding to a question from PHI, on whether the RCA Member States could use the CAI database, he said that the database had yet to be established.

MAL stated that the database could be useful to identify trans-boundary pollution and inquired about the propriety rights of the data. The CAI Representative stated that only data that had been approved for release would be placed in the database and links would be provided to obtain more information from the sources of data

SRL stated that the Atomic Energy Authority had a joint programme with the Central Environmental Authority of SRL and a decision had been taken to ban the importation of two stroke engines, after the studies found a high level of lead in the air.

Replying to a query from JPN the CAI Representative confirmed that the CAI was collaborating with UNEP and that the CAI does not charge users for the utilization of the iAQM database; however, users of the database need to be officially registered.

The Chair thanked the representative of CAI-Asia for attending the Meeting and providing information on the activities of his organization.

10. Report of the Chair of the Standing Advisory Committee of the RCARO – RCANRM(30)/9

The Chair invited Dr. Ron Cameron of AUL to present the report of the 6th RCARO SAC Meeting held on Monday the 7th of April, on his behalf.

Dr Ron Cameron briefed the Meeting on the highlights and recommendations of the 6th SAC Meeting as set out in the report, which had been circulated to all delegates (Annex 22). He expressed appreciation about the concerted efforts made during the year by the Director and RCARO staff to promote the RCA and establish partnerships with other organizations. He advised that the evaluation of the performance of the Director of the RCARO had been one of the tasks at this SAC meeting and the SAC had concluded that his performance had been fully satisfactory. In addition the SAC strongly supported the proposal for the Director's term to be extended for one year and Mr Choi's acceptance of this proposal was considered to be a very positive outcome for both the RCARO and the RCA. In conclusion he sought the endorsement of the NRs was then sought for the recommendations set out in the SAC report.

PAK objected to the wording "common interests among RCA and RCARO" in the Report of the Director RCARO and requested that the Meeting Report record that the roles of RCA and RCARO are as defined by the NRM.

Specific comments were made by a number of NRs concerning the text and a number of revisions were agreed for the final report text. As agreed under the agenda item on the RCA MTS, the final approval for success stories would come from either the NRM or GCM. PLCCs would provide technical reviews of the success stories prior to the NRM or GCM.

The Meeting accepted the SAC report subject to the agreed text changes.

RCARO Work Plan for 2008

The Meeting endorsed the RCARO Work Plan with the recommendations for implementation suggested by SAC.

Partnership with CAI

The Meeting agreed with option 2 for the proposed collaboration with CAI-Asia Center, which was to first investigate the feasibility of the joint development of the iAQM, and then concluding the Letter of Interest (LOI) may follow. The RCARO was asked to liaise with the PLCC.

Workshop on Enhancing the Capabilities of the RCA

With regard to the proposed Workshop enhancing the RCA's capabilities, the Meeting agreed that this proposal required further discussion. It recommended that suggestions should be sent to the RCARO on what the format and content of the Workshop might be. The RCARO should report progress at the GCM.

Appointment of the Director RCARO

The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the SAC: (1) suggestion by the ROK of extending the current Director of RCARO for one year be accepted, and (2) the current Selection Committee take action to select Director of RCARO according to the established procedure.

11. The Enhancement of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) within the RCA Programme – RCANRM(30)/10

Dr John Easey (AUL) made a presentation summarizing the information set out in the background document (Annex 23).

In the subsequent discussions JPN noted that TCDC could support further social and economic benefits and contribute to increased partnerships and increased technology transfer all of which would give added value to the RCA programme. JPN also stated that since RCA itself is in large part TCDC, care needs to be taken not to jeopardize effective programme implementation by bureaucratization of the process.

PHI referred to the three existing modalities being used for transferring technologies and noted that follow up was an important additional ingredient. The proposed enhancement of TCDC was fully supported by PHI.

MAL commented on the value that twinning arrangements could have for facilitating technology transfer and added his support to the proposal. Further support for the proposal came from CPR, IND and VIE.

It was proposed that Dr Dela Rosa (PHI) should Chair a working group to further develop the proposal. It was proposed that Dr John Easey (AUL) and Dr Ainul Daud (MAL) should participate as members of the Working Group. CPR expressed interest in participating in the Working Group but was unable to nominate specific individuals at this stage.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would arrange for the first meeting of the Working Group to be held in June/July. MAL volunteered to host the meeting and this was gratefully accepted.

The Meeting agreed to form a Working Group to have initial discussions on the enhancement of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) within the RCA Programme. Dr. Dela Rosa (PHI) will be the Working Group Chair. Interest in participation in the Working Group was expressed by AUL, CPR, MAL and ROK. The Secretariat was requested to initiate the process for recruitment of the individual Working Group members, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group, for a Meeting to be hosted by MAL in June/July 2008.

12. Priority areas for the RCA Programme in 2009/2011 – RCANRM(30)/11

The RCA FP briefly explained the processes that had taken place in the development of the projects for the 2009-11 programme. The full details of the developed approved project concepts and those projects approved for continuation were given in the background document (Annex 24). The project designs were submitted for the approval of the Meeting.

AUL commented that project documentation should have a clear link between the performance monitoring and the outcomes so that the impact can be measured. The current documentation does not have this detail. There was some discussion on this and related issues.

ROK pointed out that the concept paper on nuclear power was not selected despite its high priority order and the support of the majority of MSs to this project. ROK further mentioned that it was shared with the MSs that nuclear power was of a priority area in Asia-Pacific region.

PAK expressed support to the project.

At the request of the delegates, Mr. M. P. Salema outlined the ongoing national and regional projects related to nuclear power.

The Meeting agreed not to develop the concept paper on nuclear power into a project as there were other national and regional TC projects that could provide the required support.

The Meeting endorsed the 15 projects set out in Annex 2 of the background document as the selection for the RCA Programme for 2009-11 subject to the PLCCs providing additional information on performance indicators related to the achievement of the outcomes.

All NRs will be provided access to PCMF for direct access to the full project documentation.

13. Presentation on FNCA

At the invitation of the Chair, Dr. Suelo Machi, the FNCA Coordinator of Japan, who attended the Meeting as a Member of the Japanese delegation gave presentation on the activities of FNCA. (Annex 25). The Chair thanked Dr. Machi for his contribution.

14. Collaboration between RCA and FNCA – RCANRM(30)/12

The Chair invited comments of the delegates on the collaboration between RCA and FNCA. The NRs considered that the current approach was appropriate and could be used in additional areas of common interest. The following decisions were made during the discussion on this issue.

The Meeting agreed to continue with the two areas of collaboration (Radiation Processing and Radiation Oncology).

The Meeting also agreed to investigate the possibility of extending this collaboration into the project on Mutation Breeding. Dr Machi agreed to discuss this at the FNCA's Coordinators Meeting, and the RCA PLCC for this area will consider in possible consultation with Dr. Machi what the scope of the collaboration might be. The PLC will report to the GCM with a view to having an agreed proposal to put to the next NRM in April 2009 (in Japan).

15. Arrangements for 37th RCA GCM and 31st RCA NRM

The Meeting agreed to hold the 37th RCA GCM on the Friday before the start of the IAEA General Conference. JPN agreed to host the 31st RCA NRM in April 2009.

16. Any other Business

VIE stated that the National RCA Representative of Malaysia would be retiring from service shortly and suggested inviting him to give his comments, since this would be his last Meeting as the National RCA Representative. At the invitation of the Chair, Dr. Nahrul Khair Alang Md. Rashid expressed his gratitude to RCA and IAEA for the opportunity to contribute to the regional cooperative programme for the past decade. He said that RCA has achieved a lot in terms of project implementation and management citing the establishment of the Guideline and Operating Rules, setting up of regional office, the use of e-meeting, and adoption of the Medium Term Strategy and its implementation schedule. He also commended the RCA secretariat in Malaysia and the Mission in Vienna for their supports and expressed confidence of continued support and active participation of Malaysia in RCA. He concluded by wishing RCA even greater success in future.

17. Adoption of the Report of the 30th RCANRM

At the suggestion of the Chair, the Meeting reviewed and revised the recorded decisions and decided to inform the RCA Secretariat of any changes to be made to the text of the rest of the report within two weeks. The Secretariat was requested to circulate the report to the delegates

18. Closure

At the invitation of the Chair the National RCA Representative of IND thanked the host Vietnam for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

Mr. P. Dias the RCA Focal Person thanked the outgoing Chair Dr. Ron Cameron for his contribution to the RCA Programme during the past year. He also thanked Dr. Hong the RCA Chair for bringing the Meeting to a successful conclusion. The RCA FP expressed his appreciation for the cooperative way in which the Meeting had worked to address and resolve the various issues raised. He noted especially that the bulk of the inputs had come from the MSs which, in his view, positively demonstrated the mature nature of the RCA and that the MSs were actively taking the major role in decision making and the management and administration of the programme. He thanked the delegates for their cooperation and contribution to the success of the Meeting and wished them a safe journey back to their home countries

Mr. Manase Peter Salema, Director, IAEA Division for Asia and the Pacific, thanked Vietnam for hosting the Meeting and for the hospitality extended to the participants. He congratulated the NRs for another productive meeting. He mentioned that adoption of the RCA MTS in 2006 was an important milestone in the history of the RCA, and that the core values and other strategic aspects of the programme were in line the current thinking of the IAEA as it looks into the future. He also highlighted the smooth cooperation between countries at different levels of development in the nuclear field as something that RCA should be proud of and build on. He reiterated Agency' commitment to continued partnership with RCA.

Mr. Le Van Hong, RCA Chair thanked the National RCA Representatives and all delegates for their cooperation and valuable contribution to the success of the Meeting. He also thanked Mr. Manase Peter Salema, Director, IAEA Division for Asia and the

Pacific, Mr. P. Dias the RCA Focal Person, outgoing Chair Dr. Ron Cameron, next Chair Dr. Yasuyoshi Komizo and the rapporteurs for their cooperation and support given him during the Meeting. He expressed the hope that he would continuously receive the cooperation and support from all National RCA Representatives in the implementation of RCA programme.