

Vote of Thanks

Honorable and distinguished National Representatives of RCA, my friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Now we have almost come to the start of 42nd REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL RCA REPRESENTATIVES that has been agreed and planned earlier to be host in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We are great honored also as the current Chair of RCA.

2. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the RCA GPs, RCA Focal Point and RCA Chair that have thus decided to resort to online video conference as a means for conducting the RCA National Representative Meeting (NRM) to be held online on 23 April 2020, to be chaired by Malaysia as the current chair of RCA. The recent unprecedented event of the Covid-19 pandemic has forced many countries to impose a Restricted Movement Order in order to control the spread of the virus that caused the disease through restricted movements, social distancing and stay at home policy. Hence, the ability to conduct socio economic activities including the RCA programmes, and in order not to lose sight of RCA management through the usual means is very much hampered and innovative ways of doing things has to be sought.

3. However, doing meeting in this mode is unprecedented for RCA GPs and conducting the business in this manner calls for a whole new ball game, much different from the physical meetings that we are all used to. Conducting meetings in this new way is much restricted by the technology itself and by the disparity of technological advancement in various member states or Government Parties. Hence, a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed for conducting the meeting in a more effective manner, including the choice of platform or the technology to be used and the manner that the meeting be conducted, since many of the mechanism for controlling physical meetings are no longer applicable for online meetings. In this instance, we are targeting the use of Microsoft Teams as the platform of choice for doing the video conference meeting.

4. I pay my sincere gratitude to, Mr. Dazhu Yang, Deputy Director General – Technical Cooperation, International Atomic Energy Agency, Ms. Jane Gerardo-Abaya, Director -Technical Cooperation Asia Pacific, and Mr. Sinh Van Hoang, RCA Focal Point, for their presence and continued support since the inception of this program and organize this virtual meeting.

5. A special thanks to all RCA NR's and RCARO delegates for your presence, acceptance to this meeting invitation and well-wishers during this meeting.

7. I also pay my gratitude to the Chairman, and my colleagues at the Malaysian Nuclear Agency for facilitating the necessary preparation, test run and support given throughout the planning and implementation of this online meeting.

8. I wish you all, a very successful day of sharing and exchanging knowledge for the development of nuclear science and technology in the region. Thank you very much and have a nice meeting and a pleasant day!