



RCA NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RCA

The celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the RCA was successfully held in conjunction with the 66th IAEA General Conference in September 2022 at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. This issue gives the sketches of the ceremonial events in hopes of recalling the good memories that we made together in Vienna and celebrating the Anniversary with the other RCA family members in the world. In addition, the list and messages from the awardees of the RCA Awards are included in the issue. More details and pictures from the Anniversary could be found at the dedicated website (<https://rca50.rcaro.org/>).✍️

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RCA NEWS



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Reunion, Celebration, Aspiration

Since its establishment in 1972 as the first regional agreement under the auspices of the IAEA, the RCA has served to promote regional cooperation and disseminate the peaceful use of the nuclear science and technology particularly in the development priority areas of the Asia-Pacific region. Based on the active engagement of the RCA Government Parties and strong support of the IAEA, the RCA has implemented 173 cooperative projects and trained 10,000 professionals through more than 650 training courses with a total budget of USD 90 Million invested during the last five decades. Through these activities, the RCA has fueled applications of advanced nuclear technology, contributing to the improvement of socio-economic wellbeing of the region.

Marking the 50th year in 2022, it was the most opportune time to look back on its footprint and prepare for the next half century. The RCA collected resources and data to assess its actual achievements and drew out a draft declaration that would reaffirm commitment and dedication of the Government Parties for the coming years.

Moreover, special events, including the first Ministerial Level Meeting and an Exhibition on the achievements of the RCA, were prepared in celebration of the 50th Anniversary. With the leadership of the Special Task Force, the Government Parties offered ideas, discussed the plans and worked as a whole to make the best of this occasion. Even though there were some risks owing to the ever-changing situation of the global COVID-19 pandemic, thankfully it was possible to organize the events as physical events, in conjunction with the 66th IAEA General Conference.

During the last week of September, the delegates from the

RCA Government Parties and stakeholders gathered at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna. It was the reunion of the RCA family after a 3-year period of having to meet virtually, which made it more meaningful in that we could celebrate this important occasion of the 50th year of the RCA jointly.

With more details to come in the next pages, the ceremonial events were a huge success. The first-ever RCA Ministerial Level Meeting became an event that witnessed the strong aspirations and dedication of the Government Parties for enhanced RCA in the future. The RCA Exhibition held during this period successfully attracted attention of the delegates from the other parts of the world, making the RCA more visible in the global society.



BRINGING PROSPERITY TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Through the success of the ceremonial events, we once again realized the importance and value of regional cooperation in achieving the shared goal and even drawing a better result. The last week of September in Vienna will remain in the hearts of the RCA family for a long time, adding the second meaning of the RCA: Reunion of the RCA family, Celebration for the past and Aspiration for the future.//

Raising the RCA Ownership for the Future

The first-ever RCA Ministerial Level Meeting was held in celebration of the golden jubilee of the RCA. By inviting high-level officials, the Meeting intended to highlight the RCA's role and the benefits it brought to the region throughout the last five decades and ensure continuing commitment of the Government Parties for further and more effective facilitation of the RCA in the coming years. Noting the importance of the occasion, more than a hundred delegates, including the Ministers, Ambassadors and the National Representatives, participated in the Meeting. To open the Meeting, Mr Huynh Thanh Dat, Minister of Science and Technology of Viet Nam and Representative of the country with RCA Chairmanship, welcomed the participants and congratulated the RCA for its 50th Anniversary and the RCA Regional Office for its 20th Anniversary.

The 50-year developments and achievements of the RCA were presented by Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya, Director of Division for Asia and the Pacific, and Mr Sinh Van Hoang, RCA Focal Person from the IAEA. Tracing back the footprints of the RCA stimulated pride in the attendees in the journey we have completed and the benefits we have brought to our nations, through our combined efforts.



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Next, starting from Australia, the Government Parties delivered keynote speeches. Through the speeches, the Government Parties extended their congratulations for the successful

50 years of the RCA and showed their aspirations to further development of the RCA in the future. The keynote speeches are available on the RCA 50th Anniversary website (<https://rca50.rcaro.org/keynote>).

Whereas the speeches were given at national level, the following adoption of the Ministerial Joint Declaration was for announcing the RCA future vision as one. During the past 50 years, the RCA has realized the potential of nuclear science and technology as an effective tool for bringing prosperity to the region. More importantly, it has proven the importance of cooperation of the Government Parties to facilitate the transfer and development of nuclear science and technology. The joint declaration well described the Government Parties' recognition of the great impact of the technology to address regional needs and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It also stressed the importance of the RCA Ownership and for continual success of the RCA as an effective framework for regional cooperation and promotion of nuclear technology. Moreover, reflecting the changes of the RCA as well as the global trend over the years, the declaration emphasized the necessity of strategic and innovative approaches to maximize the RCA's impacts and lead to the inclusive development of the region. Adopted unanimously, the Ministerial Joint Declaration will work as a guidance for facilitating stronger cooperation among the Government Parties with solidified ownership that would derive sustainable and resilient development of the RCA.

Finally, the RCA Awards ceremony took place as the finale of the Ministerial Level Meeting. A total of 28 individuals, institutes and governments received awards for their tremendous efforts and contributions without which the RCA could not have been what it is now. The list of the awardees and their messages are included in the latter pages of this newsletter.



The RCA Ministerial Level Meeting, which was held at the highest level in the RCA history, served as a momentum to wrap up the past and leap up to the second half century. Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, showed his expectation to the RCA in his speech, that it will take a bigger role in the future in addressing challenges, such as the climate change and energy security issues, reaching out its impacts as far as to the global society. To this end, the strengthened RCA Ownership and strong support of the Government Parties and stakeholders pledged at the Meeting will be crucial than ever in the years to come. //

Enhancing the RCA Visibility in the World

The RCA Exhibition was also another major event held to celebrate the 50 years of the RCA. Whereas the other events were intended for the RCA Government Parties and stakeholders, the Exhibition aimed to promote the remarkable achievements and future potential of the RCA to the people from worldwide participating in the IAEA General Conference. Spearheaded by the RCA Regional Office, the RCA Exhibition was pre-



pared on the basis of active contribution of the RCA Government Parties and experts, especially in terms of the contents of the Exhibition booth: the Government Parties were enthusiastic in providing detailed information of RCA projects' success stories made in their countries; the IAEA provided valuable publications to be distributed at the booth for publicizing the RCA's achievements; the RCA experts offered congratulatory messages which made the booth more festive. With the unique design and perfect location of the booth, the RCA Exhibition was ready to welcome and proudly present the RCA to the visitors from worldwide.

The opening ceremony of the RCA Exhibition was held in the early afternoon of the 26th before the RCA Ministerial Level Meeting. As the time for the opening of the exhibition approached, the hallway in front of the exhibition booth became fully packed with RCA well-wishers. Mr Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, congratulated the successful opening and organization of the Exhibition. He also pointed out the exceptional achievements of the RCA and appreciated the active support of the Government Parties for their cooperation with the Agency. Mr Pill Hwan Park, Director of the RCA Regional Office, highlighted the efforts of the contributors by calling the exhibition as “an integration of the concerted efforts made by the RCA Government Parties and diverse stakeholders to commemorate the Anniversary with one accord.”

Beside the speeches of the delegates, the opening ceremony presented interesting events that caught the eye of the audience. The ceremony went out on a high note with a series of celebratory messages of the RCA family members. From different places and with different looks, they were celebrating the 50th Anniversary with one voice, just like what everyone at the opening ceremony was doing.

The RCA Exhibition received a large number of visitors not just at the opening, but throughout the week of the General Conference. Visitors were especially interested in how the RCA worked as an effective modality to promote the peaceful application of nuclear technologies and lift the level of socio-economic wellbeing in the region. Other Regional Agreements and entities showed their willingness to learn from the RCA and sought for potential collaborations. This Exhibition was regarded to have drawn the world's attention to the RCA, giving it a driving force to contribute to the further development of the region as well as to the global society.

Bringing Together the Diversity of the RCA

The last highlight of the ceremonial events on the 26th was the reception for the RCA family. After the big successful day, it was finally the time to relax and enjoy the excitement. Mr Hua Liu, Deputy Director General of the IAEA, described that the night is to reflect on and celebrate the strength of the RCA in cooperating for a more prosperous future.

The reception turned out to be a good chance that showed

diverse colors of the Asia-Pacific region. While ethnic Vietnamese music and Indian dance performances heated up the hall in the beginning, videos showing beautiful sceneries of the countries fascinated the attendees throughout the dinner. Although the reception was a mixture of people from all around the Asia-Pacific region and also from the other parts of the world, there was no boarder in terms of nationality, personal status, etc., and the participants enjoyed the time together, feeling the strong bond they share.

Topping off with the evening reception, the big day for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RCA was over. It seemed like a flame compared to the years of preparation and massive endeavors put in by the RCA family, but the events made memorable and distinct impression to us all and to the world, making it more reliable that the RCA will become a stronger facilitator to encouraging cooperation and peaceful usage of nuclear technologies to bring prosperity in Asia and the Pacific region. ✓



Awardees of the RCA Awards

RCA Human Resource Development (HRD) Awards

In pursuit of recognizing the contributions of the institutes to the development of human resources through supporting various capacity building activities

- The Coordination Office of Nuclear Agricultural Science for IAEA/RCA (China)
- Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (Korea)
- Singapore General Hospital (Singapore)
- Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
- Dalat Nuclear Research Institute (Viet Nam)

RCA Regional Cooperation Awards

In pursuit of recognizing the contributions of the institutions to vitalizing and strengthening regional cooperation by utilizing the resources voluntarily

- Malaysian Nuclear Agency (Malaysia)
- Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (Pakistan)
- Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation (Korea)
- Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (Thailand)
- Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute (Viet Nam)

RCA Project Awards

In pursuit of appreciating the contributions of the experts to the enhanced socio-economic wellbeing of the region through active participation in RCA projects

- Mr Luxiang Liu (China)
- Mr Manki Lee (Korea)
- Mr Ronald Szymczak (Australia)
- Mr Muhammad Azam Tasneem (Pakistan)
- Mr Takashi Nakano (Japan)
- Mr Wonil Jang (Korea)
- Mr Irfan Ullah Khan (Pakistan)
- Mr Ilham Mukriz Zainal Abidin (Malaysia)

RCA Governance Awards

In pursuit of acknowledging the strong support of the experts and group to the National RCA Representatives in the policy matters, strengthening the ownership and governance of the RCA

- Mr John F. Easey (Australia)
- Mr Mahendra Prinath Dias (Sri Lanka)
- Ms Alumanda Dela Rosa (The Philippines)
- Mr Sinh Van Hoang (IAEA)
- RCA Chair

RCA Special Awards

In pursuit of recognizing the long-term and special service and commitment of the groups and government to the RCA

- The Government of the Republic of Korea (Korea)
- RCA Regional Office
- IAEA Technical Cooperation, Division for Asia and the Pacific
- Working Group on RCA Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 Coordination
- RCA Programme Advisory Committee



Singapore General Hospital (Singapore)

“On behalf of the SGH, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the RCA HRD Award. Singapore has been a strong supporter for the RCA Programme and had actively participated in the RCA projects since first becoming a party to the RCA. This is especially true for our hospital, which had been actively participating in and contributing to the RCA projects in the Human Health sector since 1998. Through the projects and in their capacity, the SGH had provided consultation to the RCA Government Parties, including hosting training courses as well as provision of fellowship trainings over the years. We are grateful that the SGH’s long-time contributions had accumulated to its recipient of the Award. Singapore will continue to participate in and support the RCA Programme, and looks forward to the good cooperation and coordination with the RCA and its Government Parties in the years to come.”

Messages of the Awardees

Dalat Nuclear Research Institute (Viet Nam)

“Thanks to the RCA activities, DNRI had opportunities to transfer knowledge and techniques to specialized research institutions in Viet Nam to develop human resources and expand applications of atomic energy for peace. On behalf of DNRI, it is my honor to receive the RCA HRD Award. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the RCA Awards Committee for their hard work to recognize excellent candidates from the Government Parties. The DNRI in particular and VINATOM in general will endeavor to develop the HRD in Viet Nam and in the region through RCA activities.”

Malaysian Nuclear Agency (Malaysia)

“I thank the RCA Award Committee for selecting Malaysia to receive two awards, namely the Cooperation Award and the Project Award. It is indeed a great honour for me and my country to receive today these two awards, which demonstrate the recognition and appreciation for Malaysia’s contributions for the RCA framework. These awards, especially the one for the Malaysian Nuclear Agency, corresponds with the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of our national nuclear science and technology research and development institution. I hope our cooperation and partnership will continue, with a view to addressing existing and new challenges, as well as in achieving mutual benefits for all Government Parties.”

Ms Alumanda Dela Rosa (The Philippines)

“With great gratitude and appreciation, I accept the RCA Governance Award. Based on my experience as the National RCA Representative of the Philippines and as the Chairs of RCA Working Groups, I candidly share that I contributed to increasing ultimately the effectiveness and efficiency of the RCA governance. I thank my past and present colleagues from the RCA Government Parties, the Asia-Pacific Division of IAEA Technical Cooperation Department and the RCARO for the memorable times we shared and productive cooperation we undertook for the RCA. I thank my colleagues from the Philippines especially from the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute for the hard work we exerted and the fulfilling team work we nurtured through the years in implementing the RCA Programme for the benefit of the country and the region. Allow me to dedicate this Award to my two grandchildren, Aurora Dalisay and Allister. They belong to the future generation for whom we are all working very hard to pass on a better world. Thank you all very much.”

Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation (Korea)

“KONICOF once again celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the RCA and would like to convey its sincere gratitude to many institutions and individuals, including the RCA Government Parties, RCARO and the IAEA that have worked hard for the successful commemoration event. The RCA Awards ceremony was a meaningful event that recognized the contributions of individuals and institutions to the RCA in the last 50 years and it is a great honor for KONICOF to receive the RCA Regional Cooperation Award. KONICOF is in charge of overall support for RCA activities and project management in Korea, and it serves as a communication channel between the Korean government and international organizations, including the RCA, to facilitate cooperation. KONICOF also actively participates in various advisory groups, thus contributing to interregional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. KONICOF will continue its efforts to encourage domestic institutions and experts to participate in the RCA activities, and also take part in Working Groups to provide expertise in setting strategic directions for the RCA Programme. We also look forward to further cooperating with the Government Parties and stakeholders in various areas to prepare for the next 50 years of the RCA.”

Mr Luxiang Liu (China)

“I am very happy to have received the RCA Award in Agriculture in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for organizing the Award, which is also the highest recognition for the participating Government Parties, who have contributed to developing new mutant varieties and to responding to climate change and food security by using induced mutation technology during the last two decades. Although in the leading position, there are still many common problems in mutation breeding research in the Asia-Pacific region, including development and utilization of efficient new mutagens and development and application of breakthrough crop varieties with high-quality & green traits. China will make full use of the advantages of mutation induction in the creation of mutant resources, share our experience on the application of new mutation technologies, such as heavy ion beams and space mutagenesis, and contribute to the utilization of mutation induction in crop breeding in the Asia-Pacific region, promoting the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.”

Mr Mahandra Prinath Dias (Sri Lanka)

“It was an honor to receive an award in connection with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA and I thank the Awards Committee for considering me worthy of receiving an RCA Governance Award. I also thank my former colleagues in the Department of Technical Cooperation and the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications of the IAEA, without whose support I could not have effectively functioned as the RCA Focal Person. I also thank the members of the RCA PAC, current RCA Focal Person and the RCARO for the support I receive as the PAC Chair.”

Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (Pakistan)

“Pakistan commends the dedication and commitment with which RCA has fortified regional cooperation and yielded substantial outputs. The RCA’s efforts to promote technical cooperation among developing countries are especially appreciated. This region is unique in that it has both highly developed countries and less developed countries. Sharing of expertise and facilities within the region to meet development goals has resulted in substantial outputs.”

A Stakeholder's Perspective on the Future of the RCA

- Dr. Alumanda Dela Rosa
Chair, WG on MTS 2018-2023 Coordination



The Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) celebrated its 50th Founding Anniversary on September 26, 2022 in Vienna, Austria. The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, joined the

twenty-two RCA State Parties in celebrating this milestone. Uploaded onto the big screen were numbers and data confirming the achievements of the RCA over the past 50 years. At the first RCA Ministerial Level Meeting held on the same day, the Representatives of the State Parties adopted a Declaration reaffirming their commitment to regional cooperation in facilitating the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology for the inclusive development of all. The State Parties further reaffirmed a stronger commitment to the value of ownership of the RCA programme while strengthening partnerships and networking among stakeholders in sharing knowledge and mobilizing resources to enable the RCA Programme meet regional needs and respond to new regional challenges. At the same Ministerial Level Meeting, the RCA conferred various awards to individuals and institutions in recognition of their contributions towards the attainment of the vision and mission of the RCA.

The RCA 50th Founding Anniversary provided us an opportunity time to honor the past and identify qualities that must be preserved to enable the RCA to make it to another 50 years. The occasion also opened up the opportunity for the RCA to innovate for the future.

The following observations are borne from my long stint as the Philippine RCA National Representative, and six years thereafter.

RCA Governance

There is no framework in the RCA now that taps fully the vast reservoir of knowledge and experience of the National Representatives (NRs) to influence regional governance. The National Representatives meet twice a year, and the meetings are focused mainly on the reports of committees and working groups, and Lead Country Coordinators of technical projects. The NRs react to these reports, and make policy decisions as necessary. Seldom is the opportunity where the NRs themselves propose and discuss on the floor strategic matters of importance for a more effective and efficient system of RCA governance.

The past, present, and future RCA Chairs (NRs of Thailand, Vietnam, and Australia) collectively performed an excellent job in preparing and executing the program for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the RCA. A Committee of RCA Chairs is hereby proposed to serve as the vehicle for greater involvement of the NRs in the affairs of the RCA. This arrangement works very well in the Standing Advisory Committee of the RCARO. The NRs could institutionalize this proposed committee as it provides continuity and smooth turnover of RCA matters between Chairs.

This Committee of RCA Chairs could initiate the discussion by proposing a topic of either strategic or operational nature at any of the two major meetings of the NRs. The committee could also invite the NRs to submit ideas/proposals, consolidate these ideas, and submit these for debate in the next NR Meeting.

Medium Term Strategy

The Medium Term Strategy (MTS) has taken center stage over the past decade as a critical document that provides the RCA stakeholders a road map in preparing and implementing the RCA Programme. The mid-term review of the current MTS marked the first time that an RCA MTS is subjected to a formal review using a predetermined set of performance parameters. This activity makes the RCA unique among the regional agreements in that it has provided a systematic framework that has been tested, and can be used to evaluate the performance of the RCA in any given MTS cycle. From the study undertaken by the Working Group on MTS Coordination (WG MTSC), the process of formulating the Regional Programme Framework (RPF) and the MTS should be streamlined. Furthermore, there should only be one entity responsible for crafting the RPF and the MTS. This entity, which is the WG Drafting the MTS (WG MTSD), should prepare the required single document within a specified period of time. The NRs established the WG MTSC to provide them a support system in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the MTS. The NRs should extend their action and make the WG MTSC a permanent committee.

RCA Programme

From the perspective of an outsider, the RCA Programme seemingly consists of the same TC projects repeated over several TC cycles. However, a closer scrutiny of the projects would show that there is progression in the objectives of the projects to address the present regional needs, focus in the gaps of needed data, and align with the current trends in the technology. Credit should be given to the Lead Country Coordinators, the National Project Coordinators, and their national teams for the smooth flow of activities from one TC cycle to the next. The recent reports on the socio-economic impacts of the RCA projects in three areas (mutation breeding, non-destructive testing, and radiotherapy) attest to the effectiveness of this approach in producing significant outcomes and impacts of the projects in the socio-economic development of the Asia-Pacific region.

There is a need, however, to open up the RCA programme for participation by other sectors within the national nuclear institutions (NNIs) by injecting new areas of cooperation in the programme. One area would be radioisotope production and radiolabeling of biomaterials and other compounds which will find applications in health, agriculture and the environment. The radiochemistry and radiobiology divisions of the NNIs would be able to participate in the programme. This new area lends itself to cooperative research projects which would challenge the young scientists in RCA State Parties to innovate. The RCA TC project on “Introducing Theranostics in Nuclear Medicine” is a good starting point. I believe it is just a matter of time that more developing State Parties will acquire their own cyclotrons.


Another area of cooperation is using a Host Facility in a developing State Party for undertaking a TC project. The Synchrotron Facility at the Synchrotron Light Research Institute of Thailand could be considered as the Host Facility to support TC projects and cooperative research in nuclear physics, biomedicine, metallurgy, and related fields. This idea brings to mind the operation of the Natural Rubber Irradiation Facility of BATAN in Indonesia in support of the IAEA/RCA/UNDP Project in the 1970's. Opening up this area as part of the RCA programme will enable the nuclear physics and other sectors of the NNIs to participate in the programme.

Infusion of new areas in the RCA programme will elicit the participation of a broader group of experts from both developing and developed State Parties thereby enhancing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), South-South and Triangular Cooperation, catalyze the participation of Regional Resource Units (RRUs), and induce the participation of young scientists.

Resource Mobilization

One would argue that the financial resources available to the RCA are barely enough to support its present programme.

This should not be an impediment for the RCA to expand its programme because the RCA State Parties and their scientists have the capability to widen their resource base. Starting from the home front, the State Parties can volunteer to increase their extrabudgetary contributions or start to extend extrabudgetary contributions to the RCA fund to match 25-50% of the present TC fund. With the joint effort of its scientists, the RCA could formulate big ticket project proposals based on its regional needs while matching the interests of prospective grant donors. Lastly, the RCA could develop partnerships to enlarge its network for greater exchange of knowledge and information between and among scientists in the Asia-Pacific region and outside of the region. These partnerships may bring in additional funds for the RCA projects.

In conclusion, this stakeholder looks forward to a great future for the RCA as it harnesses the full potential of its leaders for an efficient and effective governance, adds new areas of cooperation, mentors young scientists and prepares them to take over the helm of leadership, and works for additional funding to support the RCA Programme. 

WHAT'S MORE

A Workshop that Paved the Way for New Possibilities

Ionizing technologies are used in a variety of industrial applications, including medical device sterilization, food pasteurization, phytosanitary treatment of agricultural commodities. They are known as energy-efficient and eco-friendly technologies that could deal with the challenges associated with existing radioisotope-based technologies, such as the increasing costs and security risks of radioactive materials, the projected short supply of isotopes and many others. Noting the advantages of the technologies, the RCA Regional Office has taken the initiative in disseminating e-Beam technology through implementation of partnership projects with the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, contributing to the increased adoption and applications of the technology in the region.



Even after the completion of the projects in 2021, there were continued demands of the Government Parties for facilitation of the technology. The lack of deep and actionable information as well as the shortage of human capital and equipment were noted as the main obstacles that delayed the adoption of the technology. As a way to tackle down these challenges, the RCA Regional Office hosted a Workshop on “Accelerating the Adoption of e-Beam/X-ray Technologies in Asia and the Pacific” for one week from the 14th to the 18th of November, 2022, in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The Workshop was held uniquely in cooperation with the Office

of Radiological Security (ORS) of the US Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration, who works to encourage the use of accelerator technologies and addresses both the information barrier and the lack of resources related to the technologies.

Attesting to the strong interest of the Government Parties in the event, the Workshop was attended by around 130 researchers, decision makers and representatives from the industry and private sectors from 22 countries. The participants were provided with more than 50 lectures and presentations that helped them understand the principles and potentials of the new emerging technologies. Moreover, the Workshop covered actionable information for adoption of the machine-based radiation technologies, for instance, the capital and operating costs and decisions for building the infrastructure, as well as lessons from previous cases in other countries. Focusing on such practical aspects related to adoption and promotion of the technologies, the participants were able to draw up feasible plans to facilitate the technologies in their countries by engaging stakeholders from diverse sectors.

The Workshop also included a technical visit to the relevant facilities in the host country, namely the Advanced Radiation Technology Institute (ARTI) of Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) and the Radiation Instrument Standardization Research Center of Korean Association for Radiation Application (KARA) in Jeongseup, Korea. In addition to the theoretical lectures, the opportunity to actually see the facilities in person deepened the understanding of the participant in the wide applications and advantages of the technologies. On the other hand, the clear and fine weather and beautiful sceneries of autumn in Korea were other factors that made the day enjoyable.



Despite the tight and intense schedule of the Workshop, the participants were highly active and enthusiastic to learn about the new emerging technologies throughout the whole week with the willingness to promote the technologies that seem to have great potential for enhancing the socio-economic wellbeing in their nations and the network built among the participants from various sectors and countries is expected to support effective adoption and facilitation of the technologies in the region. This unprecedented event was a good opportunity for the RCA to work with other entities with common interest from in and out of the region to take advantage of advanced radiation technologies.//

International Symposium Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the RCA Regional Office

In addition to the 50th Anniversary of the RCA, the year 2022 marks the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the RCA Regional Office. Over the last 20 years, the RCA Regional Office has put every effort to fulfill its Mission to increase the RCA Visibility and Viability. Furthermore, it has contributed significantly to the RCA in diverse aspects by conducting a wide range of cooperative activities and facilitating mobilization of resources and expertise. The major achievements of the RCA Regional Office include bringing in more than USD 1.1 Million extra-budget through partnership projects, training 1,300 professionals through training courses and workshops, providing USD 500,000 to promote research activities in the RCA and many others.

In celebration of its 20th year, the RCA Regional Office is organizing an international symposium on 15 December 2022 at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. Under the theme, “Cooperative Leadership in Nuclear Science and Technology and Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region: Future Vision of the RCARO,” the symposium aims to investigate the achievements of the RCA Regional Office and suggest its future directions based on analysis of the regional status and priorities.

The symposium consists of three sessions to meet the objectives from multiple perspectives: Strategic Approach to Goal Achievements for the RCA; Dissemination of Nuclear Technology through Technical Cooperation; and Panel Discussion on the Future Vision of the RCARO for the RCA Government Parties. Renowned experts in the fields of nuclear science and technology as well as regional cooperation will be invited as speakers and panels to exchange their insights for the future vision of the RCA Regional Office. In particular, IAEA and RCA experts, including Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, and Mr Tran Chi Thanh, RCA Chair, will give speeches on the success and future directions of the regional cooperation, which will become the impetus for the development of the RCA and fertilizing the region. Moreover, the awards ceremony for the contributors to the expanding the impacts of the RCA Regional Office as well as photo exhibition on the 20 years of the RCA Regional Office will be organized during the symposium.

For more information, please visit the symposium website (https://rcaro.org/rcaro_20th)./





International Symposium Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the RCA Regional Office

Cooperative Leadership in Nuclear Science & Technology
and Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

**15 December 2022, 9:30-16:30
Daejeon, Republic of Korea**