

RCA NEWSLETTER

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**BRINGING PROSPERITY
TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

RCA MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING

Room CR3, IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
Monday, 26 September 2022

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

12.30 - 13.00	Opening of the RCA Exhibition (Hallway, A Building)
14.00 - 14.30	Registration
14.30 - 14.50	Opening of the 50th RCA Anniversary Ceremony and RCA Ministerial Level Meeting
14.50 - 15.10	Overview of the RCA - Successful delivery of the RCA Programme over the last 50 years
15.10 - 16.30	Country Keynote Speech
16.30 - 16.45	RCA Ministerial Joint Declaration
16.45 - 17.30	RCA Awards Ceremony
17.30	Closing
19.00 - 21.00	Reception





Exhibition on the 50th Anniversary of Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA)

Date and Venue:

26-30 September 2022 / Hallway of A Building

Opening Ceremony:

12:30-13:00, 26 September 2022



Celebrating the RCA 50th Anniversary As One

The RCA (Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific) was established in 1972 as the first regional agreement under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Over the past 50 years, it has been an effective framework for the 22 Government Parties in Asia and the Pacific for facilitating regional cooperation and the transfer of nuclear science and technology.

Throughout the five decades, the RCA has created significant impacts and achievements in the region, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Firstly, it demonstrated the strength of cooperation among the 22 countries with different cultures and development needs. By understanding each other and looking for collaborative ways to make synergies, the Government Parties could identify the sharing needs and priorities for regional improvement and make the best out of the limited resources.

Secondly, it disseminated the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, brining social and economic development in the region. The RCA conducted diverse activities, including training courses and expert missions, to promote the transfer and use of nuclear technologies that enhanced the living environment and wellbeing of the residents.

Last but not least, it proved the abilities and potential of the Asia-Pacific region. The RCA supported the Government Parties to adopt advanced nuclear technologies and develop related human resources, making the region more resilient and closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Marking the 50th Anniversary of the RCA in 2022, the Government Parties were of one mind that it is imperative to look back upon the footprints and draw the future of the RCA together. Under the agreed theme “the 50th Anniversary of the RCA – Bringing Prosperity to the Asia-Pacific,” the Government Parties agreed to hold a Ministerial Level Meeting for the first time in the RCA history, where high-level officials could get together and pave the way for more effective implementation and further development of the RCA. Moreover, a wide range of other activities were carried out by the Special Task Force (STF), in cooperation with all the Government Parties and stakeholders, to celebrate the achievements made together and seek for future collaboration.

In this article, we wish to share what efforts and works have been made to commemorate the monumental occasion of the RCA’s 50th Anniversary as a whole. ✓



**BRINGING PROSPERITY
TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

The first RCA Ministerial Level Meeting Ever – Looking Back, Looking Forward

The RCA Ministerial Level Meeting is being held for the first time to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the RCA. It will be held on 26 September 2022, the first day of the 66th IAEA General Conference, at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna. The Meeting will be conducted in a hybrid mode, in purpose of promoting participation of RCA stakeholders from the Government Parties. The RCA Ministerial Level Meeting aims to provide a forum to the Government Parties and stakeholders to gather for celebrating the Anniversary and for sharing key points of cooperation under the RCA framework.

The RCA Ministerial Level Meeting, the objective of which is to celebrate the 50-year achievements of the RCA and create a strong momentum to revitalize the RCA for the next 50 years, will comprise special events and sessions, such as the RCA Awards ceremony and country keynote speeches, for facilitating high-level dialogue on further enhancing the RCA ownership and its socio-economic impacts in the region. Moreover, a ministerial joint declaration, reaffirming the Government Parties’ dedication to the development of the RCA and the region is expected to be adopted at the Meeting.

Mainly inviting representatives of the Government Parties (National RCA Representatives, Ministers/Deputy Ministers and representatives from the Permanent Missions) as well as other RCA stakeholders (IAEA staff, RCA Programme Advisory Committee and Working Groups on RCA Medium Term Strategy and RCA Regional Office), this Meeting is expected to draw the attention of high-level officials and solidify the foothold for enhancing the RCA’s impact and awareness in the region. ✓

Exhibition to Showcase the RCA Achievements to the World

In conjunction with the RCA Ministerial Level Meeting, an exhibition is being held during the whole week of the 66th IAEA General Conference on 26-30 September 2022 at the IAEA Headquarters. The purpose of the exhibition is to promote the 50-year achievements of the RCA and present its future directions to the high-level officials, experts and other visitors in the field of nuclear science and technology from the RCA Government Parties as well as from the other IAEA Member States.

The exhibition will showcase the overview, key achievements and future vision of the RCA through diverse means, including the RCA videos developed for the 50th Anniversary and publications. Moreover, it will feature the achievements of the RCA at national and regional levels based on the information of success stories and sample products collected from the Government Parties.

The opening ceremony of this special exhibition is scheduled to be held at 13:00-13:30 on 26 September 2022, right before the RCA Ministerial Level Meeting. Throughout the week, the exhibition will offer the RCA family a chance to appreciate the past accomplishments of the RCA achieved together and opportunities to expand the network with potential partners. ✓

Exploring the Success of the RCA Programme

As the 50th Anniversary of the RCA signifies the end of its first half century and the beginning of the latter half, it would be the most opportune time to trace back the footprint of the RCA to admire its achievements and seek guidance for the future. For this purpose, it was suggested to draw on and assess the social and economic impacts that the RCA Programme created in the region. Experts from the Government Parties and the IAEA gathered to conduct the assessment based on their expertise on monitoring and evaluation methods for Technical Cooperation (TC) projects.

It sure was complex to evaluate such Programme as there existed several challenges within the RCA, for instance, evidencing outcomes and impacts, determining the attribution of the RCA and resulting social and economic value. As a solution, a systematic methodology was developed and diverse methods were deployed to gather and analyze the evidence and data. The experts, with strong support and cooperation of the IAEA and the Government Parties, collected and evaluated the quantitative and qualitative evidence, taking into consideration social, economic, cultural and environmental values of the region.

This first-of-its-kind initiative of the RCA was pioneered by the case study on crop mutation breeding as the representative technology in Agriculture, followed by two sets of case studies done on radiotherapy and non-destructive testing for the thematic sectors of Human Health and Industry respectively. A considerable amount of time and efforts of the responsible experts as well as unwavering support of the Government Parties were put in to the whole conduct of each study. However, it was, indeed, worthy to determine tangible outcomes and impacts of the RCA and solidify its instrumental role in facilitating technology transfer and capacity building in the fields of nuclear science and technology in the region.

As a highly satisfactory result, the reports of the social and economic impact assessment of the RCA Programme in the three thematic sectors were published, and their publication were announced by Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, at the 44th Meeting of the National RCA Representatives on 19 April 2022. The reports well describe quantitative and qualitative outcomes of each nuclear technology at regional level and at national level as well. The reports can be found from the dedicated website for the RCA 50th Anniversary (<https://rca50.rcaro.org/publication>) and the IAEA website (<https://www.iaea.org>). ✓

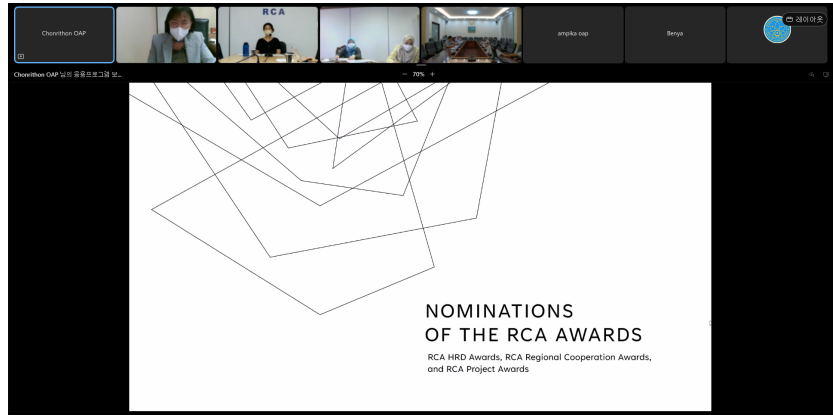


Honoring the Contributions of RCA Family

Over the past 50 years, the RCA has played a pivotal role in bringing prosperity to the region through facilitation of the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. Behind the successful achievements of the RCA were the active involvement and concerted efforts of national, regional and international stakeholders of the RCA, from individuals, institutes and organizations to the Government Parties, to effectively implement and expand the benefits of the RCA and its Programme.

In commemoration of the strong commitment and work done by all the contributors, it was decided to present the RCA Awards to the experts, organizations and parties identified based on specified categories. The RCA Awards consists of i) Governance Awards for those who have been devoted to the good governance of the RCA, ii) Project Awards for the individuals who have actively participated in the RCA projects, iii) HRD Awards for the institutes that hosted various capacity building activities and provided in-kind contributions, iv) Regional Cooperation Awards for the Regional Resource Units that vitalized regional cooperation, and finally v) Special Awards for individuals or parties that showed strong dedication to the RCA in ways of operational, technical and financial support.

According to the set guide to selecting the RCA Awardees, the Government Parties and the RCA Awards Committee nominated the most suitable candidates for each category based on the nominee’s achievements and contributions to the RCA. After a thorough review and sufficient analysis of the past records, the Committee short listed a total of 28 candidates to be awarded with the RCA Awards. The Awards ceremony will take place during the RCA Ministerial Level Meeting to honor the contributions of the awardees together with the participants of the Meeting. ✓



Virtual meeting of the RCA Awards Committee

Celebrating the RCA’s 50th Anniversary All Together

Throughout the preparation of the RCA 50th Anniversary, the Government Parties and the stakeholders were deeply engaged in diverse activities as a way to celebrate the Anniversary with one accord. The RCA family extended their strong support and contributions to offer information and resources that would let us best enjoy and appreciate this special occasion. Celebratory messages from the representatives and experts of the Government Parties, featured on the dedicated website (<https://rca50.rcaro.org>) and in the videos, show the collaborative festive atmosphere to celebrate the 50th Anniversary from wherever we are. This historic moment is certain to strengthen to bond of the RCA family and solidify the foothold for the future development of the RCA and the region.

As Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi said in his video, we wish you all a very happy centenary of the RCA! ✓



Remarks by Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, IAEA Director General



Celebratory messages from RCA family members