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**Economic and Social Commission  
for Western Asia**

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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

**PROGRESS MADE DURING 1994 IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995**

Technical cooperation activities

**UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA  
18 MAY 1995  
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1. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has continued to undertake technical cooperation activities in the region by providing short-term regional advisory services and monitoring technical assistance projects, which the Commission undertakes in its capacity as an executing or associate executing agency, as well as providing those projects with substantive support.
2. Within the framework of the ESCWA regular programme of regional advisory services for 1994, assistance to member States was rendered in the following main areas: data processing, energy, environment, industrial promotion and management, national accounts and economic statistics, science and technology, transport and communications, water resource development, social statistics, development planning and social development. The advisory services provided during the above-mentioned period are summarized in the following paragraphs.
3. In the area of data processing, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:
  - (a) Egypt: (i) a statistics and data-processing project for the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University; and (ii) application of theoretical statistical projects at Cairo University;
  - (b) Oman: evaluating the statistical activities of the Statistical Department, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and recommending appropriate measures to enhance and develop the Department's performance;
  - (c) Qatar: (i) review of educational programmes related to statistics; and (ii) discussion of arrangements to hold a training workshop on a geographical information system at the University of Qatar;
  - (d) Saudi Arabia: (i) an industrial information system; and (ii) a strategic plan for an information system for the Ministry of Industry and Electricity;
  - (e) United Arab Emirates: statistical programmes and data processing for Al-Ain University;
  - (f) Yemen: (i) household income and expenditure surveys; and (ii) housing, population and establishments censuses;
  - (g) Jordan: (i) arrangements to hold a local seminar on the results of the household income and expenditure surveys for the Department of Statistics; and (ii) household surveys on consumption of energy for the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.
4. Other activities in the area of data processing included the following:
  - (a) Participating in seminars held in Cairo on the results of household income and expenditure surveys and on teaching statistics and dissemination of information in the Arab countries;
  - (b) Review of the second edition of the output of the Regional Seminar on the Household Manpower Survey, held at the Institute of National Planning in Cairo;
  - (c) Discussions with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, regarding arrangements to hold a seminar on a geographical information system (GIS);
  - (d) Participating in the Papchild Technical and Coordination Committee, Cairo;

(e) Participating in the expert group meetings on "International Classification of Impairment, Disability and Handicap" and "Impairment, Disability and Handicap Statistics and Surveys", organized by the United Nations Statistical Division and held in the Netherlands;

(f) Participating in preparations for a seminar on household surveys for heads of statistical organizations and senior statisticians in the ESCWA region, held at the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Cairo;

(g) Lecturing in a workshop on industrial statistics, held in the Syrian Arab Republic, and participating in the United Nations workshop on "Statistical Data Editing", held in Ireland;

(h) Revising the statistical questionnaire of the socio-economic household surveys to be conducted in a Syrian village that is part of the ESCWA project for rural development. (This questionnaire will also be used in a village in Egypt);

(i) Participating in the review of the progress made in the work related to the ESCWA regional household surveys project, held in Amman;

(j) Participating in the working session on survey processing, organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and held in Amsterdam.

5. In the area of energy, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

(a) Egypt: (i) a new and renewable energy programme; (ii) project profile of biogas projects; (iii) designs of biogas units that suit Egyptian rural areas; (iv) project documents on biogas technology for financing purposes; (v) preparation of project proposals on training requirements to construct, operate and maintain biogas units; (vi) preparing a project document on "wind-powered desalination for touristic villages on the Red-Sea coast"; and (vii) preparing a project document on "wind energy for sustainable development of remote areas in Egypt";

(b) Jordan: preparing technical materials for a seminar organized by the Jordan Young Women's Christian Association;

(c) Kuwait: the draft Fourth Strategic Plan of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) for Environmental and Earth Sciences Research for the period 1995-2000 and ways to implement it.

6. Other activities in the field of energy included:

(a) Participating in the Fifth Arab Energy Conference, held in Cairo;

(b) Participating in the Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy, held in Almeria, Spain;

(c) Lecturing in the training workshop on industrial statistics, held in the Syrian Arab Republic;

(d) Participating in the International Conference on Electronics, Circuits and Systems (ICECS), held in Cairo.

7. In the area of environment, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

(a) Kuwait: the draft Fourth Strategic Plan of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) for Environmental and Earth Sciences Research for the period 1995-2000 and ways to implement it;

(b) Syrian Arab Republic: pollution of Qattineh Lake resulting from industrial wastes (undertaken for the General Commission for Environmental Affairs).

8. Other activities in the field of environment included:

(a) Participating in the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Ad hoc Inter-agency consultation on the Follow-up of Chapter 35 "Science for Sustainable Development" of Agenda 21, held in Paris;

(b) Participating in the Regional Workshop on Gender Sensitization and Planning, organized by Environment Quality International and held in Egypt;

(c) Participating in a workshop on biodiversity, held in Amman;

(d) Participating in the Fourth International Conference on Environmental Protection: Environmental Protection is a Necessity of Life, organized by the United Scientists for Projects and Development (USPD) and the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) and held in Egypt;

(e) Participating in a preparatory meeting to discuss the proceedings of a regional environmental seminar on integration in the fields of biotechnology and environmental protection, held in the Syrian Arab Republic.

9. In the area of industrial promotion and management, assistance was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

(a) Jordan: (i) identifying suitable investment opportunities for which pre-feasibility studies could be prepared for the Industrial Development Bank; and (ii) preparing the terms of reference for preparation of pre-feasibility studies for a variety of industrial projects;

(b) Lebanon: (i) industrial pollution caused by two cement factories for the Council for Development and Reconstruction; and (ii) preparation of a project document for a workshop on integration of science and technology in the development process for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

(c) United Arab Emirates: (i) industrial development and entrepreneurship for Al-Ain University; and (ii) discussions with Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) and the General Organization for Industry (GIC) regarding arrangements to hold a training workshop on preparation of pre-feasibility studies;

(d) Yemen: (i) the existing industries programme in Yemen; (ii) carrying out an industrial survey for the Ministry of Industry; and (iii) preparation of a study on the industrial investment climate for the General Investment Authority.

10. Other activities in the area of industrial promotion and management included:

- (a) Participating in the seminar on development of the industrial sector and prospects for industrial investments in Yemen;
- (b) Discussing with officials of the International Standards Organization (ISO) in Geneva the possibilities for cooperation in various fields;
- (c) Participating in preparatory work for a training workshop on ISO 9000, held in Beirut in January 1995;
- (d) Participating in a training workshop on the ISO 9000, held in Amman;
- (e) Discussing with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) in Rabat matters pertaining to the project entitled "Establishment of an engineering infrastructure in Arab countries" and other industrial activities in the ESCWA region;
- (f) Participating in a seminar on financing petrochemical industries, held in Qatar;
- (g) Participating in a regional workshop on phasing out ozone-depleting substances from the aerosol industries, held in Amman;
- (h) Participating in expert group meetings on the Arab Declaration on Social Development and on the role of women in industry, both held in Amman.

11. In the area of national accounts and economic statistics, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

- (a) Bahrain: preparations for conducting the 1994 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, including preparation of questionnaires, terms and definitions and a timetable;
- (b) Jordan: preparing a pilot project for the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts;
- (c) Qatar: (i) the results of economic surveys, gross domestic product (GDP) on current and fixed prices, and on price index numbers; and (ii) lecturing on the 1993 System of National Accounts at the Supreme Council for Planning;
- (d) Syrian Arab Republic: comparison of industrial classifications with the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), for the Central Bureau of Statistics;
- (e) United Arab Emirates: suggesting ways of implementing a plan to increase the revenue of Ajman Municipality.

12. Other activities in the area of national accounts and economic statistics included:

- (a) Participating in the Asian Seminar on the 1993 System of National Accounts, held in Bangkok;

(b) Lecturing in a training workshop on industrial statistics, held in the Syrian Arab Republic;

(c) Organizing and lecturing in a training workshop on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts, held in Jordan.

13. In the area of science and technology, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

(a) Jordan: (i) preparation of a national study on the use of scrap metal in Jordan; (ii) utilization of by-products and waste products from ore beneficiation and fertilizer plants; (iii) use of petroleum shale in the phosphate industry and the treatment of waste resulting from it; and (iv) the effect of the mineralogical structure of phosphate ore on the flotation process (for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Corporation Research Centre);

(b) Lebanon: industrial pollution caused by two cement factories (for the Council for Development and Reconstruction);

(c) Syrian Arab Republic: appropriate measures were recommended to the General Commission for Environmental Affairs regarding the pollution of the Orontes River by industrial waste;

(d) Yemen: (i) assistance to existing industries in Yemen; and (ii) evaluation of the activities and future plans of the Directorate-General for Standardization and Specifications (for the Ministry of Industry).

14. Other activities in the area of science and technology included:

(a) Participating in the seminar on development of the industrial sector and prospects for industrial investment in Yemen and presenting a paper on science and technology for industrial development in Yemen;

(b) Participating in the Seminar on Statistics in Science and Technology, organized by the Federation of Arab Statisticians and the Jordanian Department of Statistics and held in Amman;

(c) Participating in the Second Jordanian Scientific Week, held in Amman;

(d) Participating in the seventeenth regular session of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, held in Amman;

(e) Participating in the Fourth World Symposium on Fertilizers, held in Amman;

(f) Participating in the First Jordanian Conference on Metallurgy, held in Amman;

(g) Preparing a project document for a regional meeting on utilization of scrap metal in selected countries in the region.

15. In the area of transport and communications, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

(a) Egypt: (i) port pricing policy; (ii) development of public sector transport companies, which involved examining those companies working in the field of road freight transport; and (iii) evaluation of

financial and operational performance indicators, review of their current status and recommending possible solutions;

(b) Jordan: (i) preparing a report on the main elements determining the cost of truck operation; (ii) preparing a project document entitled "Development of Human Resources Capacities" for the Ministry of Transport; and (iii) reviewing technical projects presented at a seminar on transport organized by the Ministry of Transport;

(c) Kuwait: (i) review of and comment on legislation regulating land transport activities; (ii) operations of truck scales; and (iii) organization of land transport operations from ports;

(d) Qatar: (i) transport data statistics and transport and communications surveys (for the Central Statistics Bureau); and (ii) development of the public transport sector in Qatar (for the Ministry of Agriculture and Municipal Affairs);

(e) United Arab Emirates: (i) overview of transport problems and a transport syllabus for Al-Ain University; and (ii) development of public transport services in the city of Abu Dhabi.

16. Other activities in the transport and communications area included:

(a) Preparing the technical terms required to conduct studies on the transport sectors in the Arab world (for the League of Arab States [LAS]);

(b) Participating in two meetings held by LAS on unification of road and vehicle standards along regional corridors and in the expert group meeting on a unified Arab triptick;

(c) Participating in the seminar on "Future Development of the Road Transport Industry", held in Amman.

17. In the area of water resource development, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

(a) Jordan: investigating the role of hydrodynamics (mainly the role of groundwater flow) in the transfer and accumulation of hydrocarbons in the Ghor Dhraa' area;

(b) Syrian Arab Republic: preparing a study on the use of water resources and Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Golan;

(c) Qatar: (i) issues pertaining to water resource development and management; (ii) reviewing techniques currently used for water balance computation; (iii) computer techniques and models for designing well spacing and well patterns and management of well fields; (iv) assessing the current status of water supply well fields and management needs; and (v) measures for the protection and quality control of drinking water supplies;

(d) United Arab Emirates (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries): (i) assessing the potential for development of the base flow of the waterfall at Wadi Waria'; (ii) proposing practical guidelines for water legislation, with emphasis on groundwater resources; (iii) preparing the hydraulic and hydrologic design

criteria for a small dam at Wadi Jazir; and (iv) site investigation programme at previously selected dam sites in Wadi Bassira, Wadi Waria' and Wadi Naqab.

18. In the area of social statistics, advice was provided to the countries mentioned below on the matters specified:

(a) Kuwait: (i) developing a social statistics system including all branches and updating data collection and cataloguing; (ii) conducting a training course on analytical statistics, covering social and economic statistics; and (iii) developing and preparing analytical studies pertaining to social statistics;

(b) Bahrain: (i) conducting a training course on analysis of social statistics based on the latest population census; (ii) preparing statistical forms and tables for analysis purposes; and (iii) conducting a training course on social statistics, sample design, sample survey and statistical inference, for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

19. In the area of development planning, assistance was provided to Oman in designing project forms to be submitted to the ministries and other government agencies. The forms will provide basic information on the projects proposed in the Five-Year Plan (1996-2000).

20. In the area of social development, assistance was provided to Oman in the preparation of a study on the cultural dimensions of development in Oman.