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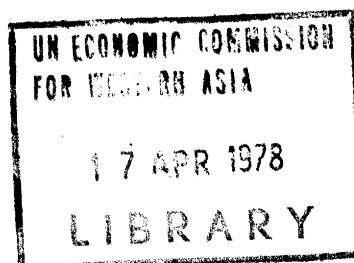
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Second Interagency Meeting on the
Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer
and Development of Technology

27 February - 1 March 1978
Beirut - Lebanon



REPORT OF THE SECOND INTERAGENCY
MEETING ON THE ARAB REGIONAL CENTRE FOR
THE TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING.....	1
II. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY.....	2
III. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY.....	2
IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING.....	7
V. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING.....	7

Annexes:

- ANNEX I : List of Participants.
- ANNEX II : Opening Address by Dr. Mohamed Zakaria Ismail,
Deputy Executive Secretary of ECWA
- ANNEX III : List of Documents Presented at the Second
Interagency Meeting.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Second Interagency Meeting on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology was organized by ECWA and held in Beirut between 27 February - 1 March 1978.

Attendance

2. The Meeting was attended by the following UN Organizations:
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
3. The following Regional Organizations were represented:
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS), Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (ACARS) and Islamic Development Bank.
4. The following governmental organizations were present:
Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Egypt), Centre for Scientific Research and Studies (Syria), Foundation for Scientific Research (Iraq), National Council for Scientific Research (Lebanon), Royal Scientific Society (Jordan) and Saudi Fund for Development.
5. The list of participants is presented in Annex I.

Opening Address

6. Dr. Ismail, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECWA opened the Meeting by welcoming the participants and reviewing the completed phases of the Plan of Action for the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology. The full text of Dr. Ismail's speech is given in Annex II.

7. The Meeting then moved to its agenda. All sessions were chaired by the Chief of the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division of ECWA.

Agenda

8. The Meeting adopted the following Agenda:
- (1) Opening Address by the Deputy Executive Secretary.
 - (2) Adoption of the Agenda.
 - (3) Organization of the work of the Meeting.
 - (4) Presentation of the Draft Feasibility Study.
 - (5) Discussion of the Draft Feasibility Study.
 - (6) Other business.
 - (7) Adoption of the report of the Meeting.
 - (8) Closure of the Meeting.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY

(Agenda item 4)

9. After a short introduction by the Chairman, Professor A. Zahlan, ECWA's Consultant, presented the Draft Feasibility Study in detail.

III. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY

(Agenda item 5)

10. Some speakers interpreted the draft feasibility study as calling for the establishment of a consulting firm whose services are determined by commercial considerations. In response to this, it was remarked that the proposed Centre aims at providing public services. Payment for the cost of these services has no relation to the benefits secured by the Arab States from these services.

11. One participant suggested that the proposed regional centre as a project ought to consist of:
 - (a) a main regional centre entrusted with cooperation, coordination and integration tasks as well as the general management of the project as a whole.
 - (b) Specialized regional centres to deal with specific technological fields selected in accordance with the need of the Arab world. Each of the specialized centres should be established in the country whose potentials are more suitable to the particular field.
12. The privileges and status called for were the subject of discussion. It was clarified that these are no more than what is granted to existing regional organizations and that these conditions are important to safeguard the stability and smooth performance of the Centre.
13. It was stated that the proposed size of the Centre was four times the one presented in the original working paper and discussed at the first Interagency Meeting. Some observed that size should be specified and the Centre designed to fit a smaller size while others expressed the opinion that the size should be determined by the needs and the types of services called for. In response to these comments, it was emphasized that the size presented in the Draft Report was based on the findings of the missions and the scale of the transactions in the technological field undertaken by the Arab States.
14. The manpower requirements of the Centre were discussed at length. Some expressed the view that the Centre may experience difficulty in recruiting the staff indicated. In response, it was pointed out that the pool of Arab professionals in and out of the Arab World was considerable and it should not be difficult to recruit the numbers called for. Furthermore, roughly only half the manpower involved will be on a permanent basis, the balance will consist of consultants serving on short-term contracts. The Centre will also recruit from amongst the considerable number of new graduates from Arab and foreign universities. The large number of Arabs that continue to brain drain annually also constitute an important resource from which to recruit.

15. It was pointed out that there exists a danger that the Centre may drain manpower from existing institutions. In response, it was indicated that the numbers of professionals so recruited will be relatively small and certainly not in excess of the movements of professionals presently experienced in the region. The Centre could assist institutions so affected in finding replacements.
16. It was mentioned that the Centre may have to be involved in the initial period in training its young recruits.
17. It was pointed out that the resumé of the mission reports as included in the draft feasibility study reflected the findings of the missions.
18. Some participants felt that the missions were of short duration and the volume of information collected could have been more extensive.
19. The subject of co-ordination between ECA and ECWA was raised and it was stated that consultation between ECWA and ECA in establishing this Centre has been underway since the inception of the project and would continue.
20. It was urged that the Draft Feasibility Study should include specific reference to services to be rendered by the Centre to the Least Developed Arab States and that favourable treatment should be given to these countries.
21. With regard to the promotional nature of the Centre, it was stated that the proposed Centre should promote the establishment and strengthening of national centres for the transfer of technology and should establish linkages with existing national centres.
22. The size and functions of the proposed Seminars and Training Programmes received attention. It was noted by some that the number of such Programmes could be reduced. Special reference was made to the technological content of these Programmes and to the need for financing the participation of trainees.

23. With respect to technology planning, it was indicated that under the function of policy design the centre should provide assistance in the preparation of national technology plans. This function will be included in the revised version. It was also mentioned that several Arab States need assistance in acquiring the capacity in technology assessment.
24. With respect to 'Information' transfer, it was suggested that the proposed Centre establish linkages with and make use of the existing or planned information centres and network operating in and out of the Arab World.
25. Under the item "Level of Activity", it was mentioned that the revised document should present a range of possibilities for the level of effort of the various functions.
26. It was pointed out that several Arab States need assistance in the preparation of requests for proposals and the formulation and negotiation of contracts.
27. It was generally felt that the proposed three-tier and one-tier systems would not be suitable. The three-tier system will be too cumbersome while the one-tier system will not provide adequate representation of all concerned parties. The two-tier system was favoured. The formula of a general assembly meeting every three years was generally accepted. It was felt that a general assembly and an executive Committee would be undesirable because of possible conflicts between the director and the executive Committee. Consequently, the second alternative of a general assembly electing a governing Board of 9 to 13 members was recommended.
28. This governing Board is to meet regularly, every six months or at shorter intervals. The General Assembly or the governing Board may appoint ad hoc technical committees to evaluate the policies and programmes of the Centre.

29. The subject of location was discussed at length. It was felt that the governing Board will undertake the necessary negotiations with interested host countries in order to determine the appropriate privileges and status of the proposed Centre.
30. One participant felt that the choice of location should be subject to the approval of the general assembly.
31. With respect to the suggested \$ 100,000 subscription fee, it was pointed out that this fee is to cover the services the Centre will provide the users free of charge. However, it was felt that this fee should not be the same for all members and it should therefore be flexible. It may be based on a system of two or three levels or on the contributions of the Member States to the Arab League.
32. Concerning the Action Programme for the establishment of the Arab Centre, it was indicated that a period of 3 months for Phase I would not be sufficient to undertake the work described under this Phase. It will, therefore, be extended to a period of six months.
33. It was agreed that the Draft Feasibility Study would be revised to take into consideration the comments made. Furthermore, it should include digests of all the relevant material in the previous documents on the subject with particular emphasis on those aspects relating to project justification.
34. The Meeting recommended that the ECWA Secretariat contact the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States with a view to forming a small committee that would start contacting the Arab States in preparation for the forthcoming inter-governmental meeting. The ECWA Secretariat will implement this recommendation taking into consideration the views expressed on it during this meeting.

IV. ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE MEETING
(Agenda item 7)

35. The Meeting adopted its report on 1 March 1978.

V. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

36. The representative of ALIECSO, speaking on behalf of all the participants, made a short statement conveying the appreciation of the participants for the continuous efforts made by ECWA and the valuable services provided by the Consultant in initiating work on the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology.
37. The representative of ECA, speaking on behalf of all participating U.N. agencies, assured the ECWA Secretariat of the support and cooperation of these agencies in the implementation of this important project.
38. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all the U.N. and Arab Organizations which responded to ECWA's invitation and attended this meeting.

A N N E X E S

I. U.N. BODIES AND AGENCIES

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Mr. Emmanuel Lartey,
Chief, Science and Technology

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Mr. Kanai Ali Sabet,
Regional Research Officer, Near East Region

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mr. Philip Akrawee,
Director, Regional Office Beirut

Mr. Frederick J. Pidgeon,
Regional Vocational Training Adviser

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Vasily Groneka,
Senior Economic Affairs Officer

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Jamal Harbi,
Regional Projects Officer

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mrs. Nadia Saad,
Acting Regional Director, Regional Office for West Asia

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Michel A. Saad,
Adviser, Regional Office, Cairo

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Ahmad Shukri Salen,
Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Mr. Farag Moussa
Counsellor, Head External Relations Section

II. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (ACARS)

Mr. Nizar N. Al-Shawi
Secretary-General

Mr. Ali M. Bedair,
Director General

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)

Mr. Nasrat Rashid Fadda,
Senior Agriculturist

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

Mr. O. A. El-Kholy,
Assistant Director General, Science and Technology

Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU)

Mr. Mohammed Amin Jaddoa,
Head Department of Production,
Consultant at the Supreme Agricultural Council, Iraq

Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS)

Mr. Khalil Khaled Abdulnour,
Director of Promotional Activities Division,
Supervisor of Planning and Follow-Up Division.

Islamic Development Bank (Saudi Arabia)

Mr. AbdulRehman Yusef,
Officer-in-Charge, Operations and Projects

III. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development

Ms. Maha El-Shawwa,
Economic Research Officer

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Egypt)

Mr. Ahmed S. El-Nockrashy,
Professor

Mr. Mohammed Hassan Fadl,
Professor

Centre for Scientific Research and Studies (Syria)

Mr. Adib Koulo,
Director, Department of Economy

Foundation for Scientific Research (Iraq)

Mr. Hatif H. Jalil,
President

Mr. Ghazi Abdul Wahab Derwish,
Professor

National Council for Scientific Research (Lebanon)

Mr. Elias Al-Maalouf,
Economic Adviser

Mr. Ali Mounzer,
Scientific Adviser

Royal Scientific Society (Jordan)

Mr. Albert Butros,
Director General

Saudi Fund for Development

Mr. Yusuf Biyari,
Economic Counsellor

IV. ECWA SECRETARIAT

Mr. Antoine Zahlan,
Consultant

Mr. Khair El-Din Haseeb,
Chief, Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division

Mr. Mouhieddine Soubra,
Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division

Mr. Asin Feridun,
Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division

Mr. Abdel Aziz El-Sherbini,
Chief, ECWA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division

Mr. Tariq Al-Khudayri,
Regional Adviser, Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division

Address by Dr. Mohammad Zakaria Ismail
Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

at the opening of the Second Interagency Meeting on the Arab Regional
Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology

27 February - 1 March 1978, Beirut - Lebanon

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, who is presently away from Lebanon, I have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Second Interagency Meeting on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology.

This Meeting is one of ECWA's activities in the implementation of Resolution 51 (IV) "Study of the Possibility of Establishing an Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology" adopted in April 1977.

In accordance with the Plan of Action made by ECWA Secretariat in June 1977, the First Interagency Meeting was held in Beirut, 24-28 October 1977, where twelve U.N., Regional and National bodies concerned have participated. The Working Paper, prepared by the Consultant, "The Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology" was thoroughly discussed. The paper covered Technology Transfer, Choice, and Centres with view to the regional conditions and needs. In the light of the discussions that took place, the Working Paper was revised.

Following that and during November and December 1977, two field missions were launched and twenty Arab Countries were visited. Besides ECWA staff, representatives of seven U.N. and Regional Organizations have participated in these missions. Findings and information collected from these missions as well as from National and International sources were incorporated in preparing the first draft of the feasibility study by the Consultant.

The "Draft Feasibility Study for the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology" is the main working document for this Meeting. It will be presented by the Consultant and will be discussed in details by participants. The study covers envisaged functions and activities of the Centre, short and long-term objectives as well as financial implications. The outcome of this Meeting will be endorsed by representatives of Member Countries in an Intergovernmental Meeting scheduled on 27 - 29 March 1978 prior to final presentation for discussion and approval in the Fifth Session of ECWA scheduled now early May 1978.

I do not have to over-emphasize the importance of appropriate technology transfer and development to all Arab Countries. I have to thank all U.N., Regional and National Organizations that have contributed and supported ECWA's activities in this respect.

In conclusion, I welcome all the Participants at the present Meeting, representatives of International, Arab, and National Bodies and Organizations, as well as Observers who are contributing to this Meeting. I wish you all and the present Meeting every success.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT
THE SECOND INTERAGENCY MEETING

<u>Title</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
1. Draft Feasibility Study for the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology	E/ECWA/NR/CTT/2
2. Background Document: The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology - Working Paper prepared by Professor A.B. Zahlan, Consultant	E/ECWA/NR/3
3. Background Document: Report on the First Preparatory Interagency Meeting on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology	E/ECWA/NR/9
4. Provisional Agenda of the Second Interagency Meeting	E/ECWA/NR/CTT.1
5. Agenda of the Second Interagency Meeting	E/ECWA/NR/CTT.1/Rev.1
6. Provisional List of Participants	E/ECWA/NR/CTT.1/INF.2
7. List of Participants	E/ECWA/NR/CTT.1/INF.2/Rev.1
8. Information to Participants	E/ECWA/NR/CTT.1/INF.1



