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

**PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
WORK PROGRAMME**

Part X

Science and Technology

X. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The Science and Technology programme in ESCWA is oriented towards enhancing the development of local capabilities in the process of transferring, developing and adopting technologies, as well as improving the selection and the acquisition of imported technology.

The programme is composed of two subprogrammes consisting of nine programme elements. In view of vacancies and one resignation, emphasis was put on the first subprogramme entitled "Strengthening of national scientific and technological capabilities". Out of a total of nine programme elements, two were implemented, three terminated and four postponed.

Planned and utilized resources under this programme were as follows:

Description	Allocated			Utilized			Balance		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
Professional (w/m)	120	-	120	25.5	-	25.5	94.5	-	94.5
General Service (w/m)	48	-	48	48	-	48	-	-	-
Consultancy (w/m)	4	-	4	2	7	9	2	-7	-5
Consultancy (\$US)	15,000	-	15,000	20,300	-	20,300	-5,300	-	-5,300
Travel (\$US)	11,900	-	11,900	6,300	-	6,300	5,600	-	5,600
Meetings (\$US)	-	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	-	-8,000	-8,000
Others (\$US)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A. SUBPROGRAMME 1: STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

Six programme elements were planned under this subprogramme. Two elements were completed, two were terminated and two others were postponed to the next biennium.

Programme element 1.1: Status of development of scientific and technological institutions in ESCWA countries

This programme element was terminated at the initiative of the secretariat because of vacancies. Allocated professional resources for this element were 12 work-months under the regular budget.

Programme element 1.2: Strengthening the research and development capacity and linkages with the production sector in the ESCWA region

This programme element was initiated in April 1985, but following the resignation of the second professional staff member in the programme, it was decided at the initiative of the secretariat, to postpone its implementation to complete the implementation of programme element 1.3 which was also initiated in 1985 and was supported by extrabudgetary resources. Out of 16 work-months of professional resources and 1 work-month of consultancy under the regular budget, 3 professional work-months were utilized.

Programme element 1.3: Promotion of subregional and regional co-operation for the strengthening of national scientific and technological capabilities

This programme element, which was initiated in 1984, was implemented in co-operation with five main scientific research centres in the region. To achieve concrete results within the limited time and resources available, the objective of the project was reformulated to concentrate on the promotion of co-operation in the field of scientific research. The coverage of the project was, at this initial stage, confined to co-operation in scientific research between the well established scientific research centres in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. For this purpose an expert group meeting was convened to select the scientific research areas in urgent need of co-operative approach. These were chosen and grouped according to a priority list. Agreement was also reached regarding the method of implementation, and the future role of ESCWA and the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils. This output was further expanded in scope to include a related ad hoc activity financed by the Netherlands Fund. In this connection, an expert group meeting on "Scientific and technological co-operation among Western Asia countries" was held in October, 1985 (E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.6/7) and another follow-up meeting in January, 1986 was held.

The output of this programme element appears as a report to the thirteenth session under agenda item 6(a), (See document E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.15).

Resource utilization during the biennium 1984-1985 is shown as follows:

Description	Allocated			Utilized			Balance		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
Professional (w/m)	12	-	12	10.5	-	10.5	1.5	-	1.5
Consultancy (w/m)	-	-	-	-	5(a)	5(a)	-	-5	-5

Note:

(a) An equivalent of five work-months of consultancies was contributed by five research centres in the region.

Programme element 1.4: Mid-decade review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development

This programme element has been fully implemented as planned in the work programme for the biennium 1984-1985, and a report has been produced entitled "Mid-decade

review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development", (E/ECWA/NR/85/WG.3/W.13/Rev.2). It was completed in 1984 and reported to the twelfth session of the Commission.

Resources used during the biennium are as follows:

Description	Allocated			Utilized			Balance		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
Professional (w/m)	12	-	12	12	-	12	0	-	0
Consultancy (w/m)	-	-	-	2	2	4	-2	-2	-4

Programme element 1.5: Role of financial institutions in strengthening indigenous scientific and technological capabilities

This programme element was postponed to the 1986-1987 biennium by the third Technical Committee for the Programme (twelfth session) because of the vacancy situation in the programme. Allocated Professional resources were 12 Professional work-months and one work-month of consultancy under the regular budget.

Programme element 1.6: Promotion and use of the scientific and technological information for development in the ESCWA region

This programme element was terminated at the initiative of the third Technical Committee for the Programme (twelfth session) because of the vacancies. It had 12 work-months of Professional resources under the regular budget.

B. SUBPROGRAMME 2: TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

No work has been undertaken under this subprogramme. One element was terminated and another two postponed.

Programme element 2.1: Role of public enterprises in the acquisition of technology in selected countries of the ESCWA region

This programme element was postponed to the 1986-1987 biennium at the initiative of the third Technical Committee for the Programme (twelfth session) due to the vacancies. Allocated resources were 12 work-months and one work-month of Professional and consultancy services respectively under the regular budget.

Programme element 2.2: Analysis of institutions and policies for the transfer of technology in selected countries of the ESCWA region

This programme element was postponed to the 1986-1987 biennium at the initiative of the third Technical Committee for the Programme (twelfth session) due to the vacancies. Professional resources allocated were 20 work-months and one work-month of consultancy under the regular budget.

Programme element 2.3: Transfer of technology in small-scale industries

This programme element was terminated at the initiative of the Technical Committee for the Programme (twelfth session) due to vacancies. Planned resources amounted to 12 work-months of professional services under the regular budget.

APPRAISAL

The major problem faced by the programme during the biennium 1984-1985 has been the very high vacancy rate. One staff member was hired but resigned after a short time and another Professional was identified but declined the offer. This has meant that only two programme elements could be completed: one was started but postponed to the next biennium following the resignation of the staff member and the rest of the programme elements were either terminated or postponed to the next biennium.