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FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination	MTN	Multilateral trade negotiations
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ADB	Asian Development Bank	PC	Pepper Community
ANRPC	Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries	RCD	Regional Cooperation for Development
APCC	Asian and Pacific Coconut Community	RCTT	Regional Centre for Technology Transfer
APCWD	Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development	RMRDC	Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre
APDAC	Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre	RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
APDI	Asian and Pacific Development Institute	SEATRADC	Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
CCOP	Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas	SPC	South Pacific Commission
CCOP/SOPAC	Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas	SPEC	South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance	SWDCAP	Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa	TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
ECDC	Economic co-operation among developing countries	UIC	International Union of Railways
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EEC	European Economic Community	UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
GSP	Generalized system of preferences	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce	UPU	Universal Postal Union
ILO	International Labour Organization	WHO	World Health Organization
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
ITC	UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	WTO	World Tourism Organization
LRCS	League of Red Cross Societies		

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 18 March 1978 to 16 March 1979, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 545th meeting on 16 March 1979. It is submitted for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session, 1979, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Commission's terms of reference.

Chapter I

ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DRAFT DECISION FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission: membership of Fiji and Solomon Islands, and admission of the New Hebrides and Niue as associate members of the Commission

2. At its 533rd meeting, the Commission unanimously approved the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting that Fiji and Solomon Islands have become members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with paragraph 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission,

"Noting also the recommendation of the Commission with regard to the requests of the Governments of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and also of New Zealand, that the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides and Niue respectively should be included in the geographical scope of the Commission and admitted as associate members, as contained in its annual report,

"Decides to amend paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly."

Annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

3. At its 545th meeting, the Commission unanimously approved the following draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

"...Annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

"At its meeting, on 1979, the Council:

"Took note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the period 18 March 1978 to 16 March 1979 and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in chapters III and IV of the report."

B. RESOLUTIONS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

4. The Commission draws the attention of the Council to the following resolutions contained in chapter IV:

191 (XXXV). Regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>192 (XXXV).</i> | Statute of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre | <i>197 (XXXV).</i> | Role of the public sector in promoting the economic and social development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific |
| <i>193 (XXXV).</i> | Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system | <i>198 (XXXV).</i> | Technical and economic co-operation among developing countries of the region in shipping matters |
| <i>194 (XXXV).</i> | Promotion of and support for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries | <i>199 (XXXV).</i> | Regional inputs into the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade |
| <i>195 (XXXV).</i> | Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | <i>200 (XXXV).</i> | Organization on human settlements at the regional level |
| <i>196 (XXXV).</i> | Role of the co-operative movement in the social and economic development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific | <i>201 (XXXV).</i> | Regional activities on the International Year of the Child, 1979 |

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

5. The medium-term plan, 1980-1983, was endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session. The Commission also approved the programme changes made in the programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979 which had been endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-third session.

6. Also during the year, the Environmental Coordinating Unit (ECU) was established with the financial assistance of UNEP and incorporated in the Office of the Executive Secretary. ECU is an interdivisional co-ordinating unit intended to strengthen the environmental dimension of the Commission's activities in the fields of agriculture, natural resources, development planning, industry, human settlements and technology, transport and communications, shipping and ports, population and social affairs and statistics. In addition, the Unit is to develop and implement a number of specific activities in the work programme of the Commission designated as relating to the environment.

7. The following are some of the major achievements during the year: (a) the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP), a main outcome of the ARSAP/fertilizer phase, was formally established as 10 member countries officially joined and designated national technical liaison organizations for the Network; (b) two meetings of consultants were held to prepare material on the secretariat's project, "Strategies for the 1980s", which is the ESCAP regional input into the new international development strategy for the next decade, and a Group of Eminent Persons was convened to conceptualize emerging development issues in the region and possible responses at the national and regional levels; (c) RCTT commenced its work immediately after its inauguration in July 1977; and (d) the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific was held in August 1978; as an outcome of the Conference, the Trade Co-operation Group held its first session in November 1978, adopted its rules of procedure and set up seven subgroups to implement the measures in the programme for interregional trade expansion and co-operation.

A. ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

8. The Committees on Industry, Housing and Technology, Statistics, Natural Resources, Shipping, and Transport and Communications, Social Development

and Population met during the year under review. The Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific was held in lieu of the Committee on Trade. In accordance with their terms of reference, the Committees on Agricultural Development and Development Planning did not meet during the year.

9. Details concerning the meetings held are given in annex II to the present report.

Agricultural development

10. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

ESCAP/FAO Village-level Workshops on Group Farming, February-August 1978

Expert Group Meeting to Study the Feasibility of the Asian Rice Trade Fund, Bangkok, July 1978

Board of Directors of the Asian Rice Trade Fund (third session), Manila, October 1978

ESCAP/FAO Workshop on the *Saemaul Undong* Movement in the Republic of Korea, September 1978

Expert Group Meeting on Local-level Planning for Integrated Rural Development, Bangkok, November 1978

Seminar on Rural Employment Planning, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 1978

11. The ESCAP/FAO Village-level Workshops were held subsequent to the ESCAP/FAO Regional Planning Consultation held at ESCAP in June 1977. Each national co-ordinator, from nine countries of the region, conducted several case studies of successful small farmer group farming in his home country. These "success" studies were then used in a village-level workshop, in which the successful farmer leader also participated, to encourage other small farmers to start similar groups and to expose the relevant government agencies to this "farmer-trains-farmer" extension technique. ESCAP provided technical support to all of these workshops and participated in the regional evaluation of the methodology held in Indonesia in October 1978 and sponsored by FAO headquarters.

12. The Expert Group Meeting to Study the Feasibility of the Asian Rice Trade Fund (ARTF) adopted

-recommendations (a) to amend the Agreement Establishing ARTF by admitting developed countries of ESCAP members/associate members as ARTF members and simplifying procedures to enable an eligible country to become a member if sponsored by one ARTF member, without requiring the unanimous decision of all members and (b) to approach international financial bodies such as ADB and UNDP and donor countries again, to secure operational funds for financing a mission for fund-raising and expansion of membership. The Expert Group also felt that if implementation of those recommendations did not attract the needed funds, the Board of Directors might wish to recommend to the Commission the dissolution of the Fund by the middle of 1979.

13. The Board of Directors of the Fund, at its third session, considered the report of the Expert Group Meeting and endorsed the amendment of the Agreement recommended by the Expert Group. The Chairman of the Board reported that he had held discussions with ADB and had been informed that the Charter of the Bank did not allow it to engage in commodity financing. The Board authorized the Chairman and other members to request the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to provide secretarial and technical assistance to help the Board in expanding membership and soliciting financial assistance for the Fund.

14. At the *Saemaul Undong* Workshop, a joint ESCAP/FAO project hosted by the Republic of Korea, three-man teams of senior rural development specialists from nine countries of the region were able to undertake an in-depth study of the *Saemaul Undong* rural development movement in the Republic of Korea. After complete immersion in the programme, which included participation in ongoing "farmer leader" training and visits to progressive and less progressive villages, each team developed a plan to apply appropriately modified innovations to its home country programmes.

15. The Expert Group Meeting on Local-level Planning reviewed the current practice of local-level planning in selected countries of the region as a basis for suggesting ways of improving national capacity for achieving the desired results along the same lines. The rationale for local-level planning is based upon its role in facilitating decision making by the rural poor, in formulating and implementing development projects and activities more acutely attuned to their requirements and in mobilizing and allocating resources to exploit fully the growth potential of local areas. The experts recommended a programme for follow-up action, including training, studies, exchange of experience and field experiments in local-level planning.

16. The Seminar on Rural Employment Planning was sponsored jointly by ESCAP and the National Economic and Social Development Board of Thailand. The participants in the Seminar, who came from 25 government agencies of Thailand, reviewed the approaches to rural

works programmes and manpower and employment planning activities undertaken in the region. The aim of the Seminar was to formulate guidelines for rural employment planning and plan implementation within the context of the integrated rural development plan of Thailand.

17. In pursuance of resolution 174 (XXXIII), adopted by the Commission at its thirty-third session, and of the recommendations of the Commission at its thirty fourth session, the nucleus staff on coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber (CGPRT) crop development in the secretariat was strengthened. Initial work was done on the formulation of a joint UNDP/ESCAP/FAO project document for the development of CGPRT crops in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific, in negotiation with the related organizations. The nucleus staff on CGPRT crops undertook preparatory work for the establishment of a regional coordination centre and several socio-economic surveys and studies which would constitute the initial activities of the centre. Project documents were drawn up and funding was sought from donor Governments. Funds were granted by the Netherlands Government as partial assistance to an ESCAP high yielding maize hybrid evaluation project in the Republic of Korea, with the major portion of the project being given financial support by the Government of the Republic of Korea. The results will be published for dissemination to ESCAP member countries by the end of 1979. Other projects have been initiated, including a study on demand potential for livestock feed and industrial uses of CGPRT crops, and a study on CGPRT crops in human diets in selected countries. Financial assistance is awaited from donor Governments for these projects. The secretariat was in touch with the Government of Indonesia with regard to the offer of host facilities for the regional co-ordination centre at Bogor. The plan to hold a seminar in the USSR on the development of CGPRT crops was discussed with representatives of the USSR Government: it was decided that the seminar would be held in 1980-1981 and a draft project document is being prepared by the secretariat. The report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on CGPRT Crops, held at Bangkok in December 1977, together with selected papers, is being published as reference material for the use of ESCAP member countries and donor Governments.

18. The phase of work under the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific on chemical fertilizer (ARSAP/fertilizer), which began in 1975, ended in July/August 1978. The Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP), a main outcome of the ARSAP/fertilizer phase, was formally established. The interagency steering and evaluation committee of the Network has still to be established. Three staff for the Network took up their assignments during February/March 1979 and another two are expected to join in the first half of 1979. FAO, in the context of its commitments to the regional network

work, conducted consultancy work for the Government of Thailand on fertilizer quality control, a project identified through ARSAP activities. Contributions to the Network from the other participating United Nations organization, UNIDO, are still awaited. As part of the ARSAP/fertilizer phase, two more country survey reports were completed, one on Thailand (a revised and updated report) and the other on Pakistan. The responsibilities of the ARSAP team for operations under FADINAP have in fact been carried out in various ways, including participation in the study meeting on fertilizer convened at Tokyo in November 1978 by the Man Productivity Organization, the preparation of an updated market survey report on the Republic of Korea and the publication of a newsletter on agro-chemicals for which correspondents were located in developing member countries. Under the new phase of ARSAP on agro-pesticides, staff went on country missions to arrange for country studies on the agro-pesticides market, using local expertise, and to collect information on the current status of legislation, enforcement and training related to those inputs. Consultations were held with Governments and with the private pesticides industry in nine developing member countries concerning the regional programme for the training of pesticides retail distributors. That activity will form the main component of the work programme of ARSAP/agro-pesticides during 1979 and 1980.

19. The agricultural information development scheme was granted financial support for 1978/79 by the Government of Japan. The second issue of the Agricultural Information Development Bulletin is scheduled to be published in March 1979 and further issues are planned on a regular (quarterly) basis. The activities of the Quick Reference Room, which is a component of the scheme, were strengthened and expanded.

20. A paper entitled "Perspectives on food and nutrition in Asia and the Pacific in the third development decade" was completed. It provides an input into the secretariat's work related to development of an over-all regional strategy/strategies for the 1980s. A regional study on terms of trade between rural and urban areas to strengthen linkages between agriculture and other sectors was initiated. A further study, "Socio-economic aspects of small-scale fisheries development in Asia and the Pacific: a regional analysis and project proposal", was completed.

Development planning

21. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Preparatory Meeting of Consultants for the UNEP/ESCAP Project on the Environment and Development: Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Lifestyles in Asia and the Pacific, Pattaya, Thailand, April 1978

Preliminary Meeting of the South-east and East Asia -Group of Consultants in connexion with the Implementation of ESCAP Resolution 180 (XXXIV): Strategies for the 1980s, Bangkok, July 1978

Preliminary Meeting of the South Asia Group of Consultants in connexion with the Implementation of ESCAP Resolution 180 (XXXIV): Strategies for the 1980s, Bangkok, August 1978

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Development' Planning Techniques and Plan Implementation at Various Levels of Socio-economic Planning, Dushanbe and Moscow, August 1978

Round Table on Adaptation of Administration to Rural Development: Decentralized Management and People's Participation in Poverty-focused Programmes, New Delhi, August 1978

Seminar on Rural Employment Planning, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 1978 Expert Group on Development Policy and Planning (fifth session), Bangkok, November 1978

Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee on Rural Development Administration, Bangkok, January 1979

Third Consultants' Group Meeting on Poverty and Social Participation, Pattaya, Thailand, January-February 1979

Group of Eminent Persons on Emerging Development Issues, Bangkok, February 1979

Seminar on Long-term Projections of Economic Growth in ESCAP Member Countries, Bangkok, February-March 1979

22. The Preparatory Meeting of Consultants for the UNEP/ESCAP Project was convened to discuss the outline of research material to be commissioned for the Seminar due to take place in July 1979. The Meeting was attended by eight consultants from the region, and a representative of UNEP headquarters. It led to the commissioning of 12 papers on various aspects of the relationship between the environment and development planning, including case studies describing the experience of three countries of the region.

23. Two meetings of consultants were held to prepare material on the secretariat's project, "Strategies for the 1980s", which is the ESCAP regional input into the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade. These were the first meetings of the groups and the second round is to be held in April 1979. At the meetings, the content and organization of the research material pertaining to the respective regions were discussed, including the outlines of each of the proposed specialist papers, which numbered 20 in all. The Group of Eminent Persons on Emerging Development Issues was convened to conceptualize emerging development issues in the region and possible 'policy responses at the national and regional levels.

Its conclusions were intended to provide broad over-all guidance to the secretariat in its thinking on future development strategies. A report by the secretariat on strategies for the 1980s will be considered by an expert group in June 1979 prior to an intergovernmental meeting scheduled for August 1979.

24. For three weeks during August 1978, 23 participants from 11 developing countries of the region attended the Seminar-cum-Study Tour hosted by the USSR. The Seminar studied various techniques and methods of plan formulation and implementation on the basis of Soviet experience and evaluated the scope for application of those techniques and methods to planning in individual developing countries of the region. A study tour of the principal Soviet institutions engaged in the planning process was arranged in Moscow after the Seminar. A further five topics on aspects of planning techniques and implementation were proposed -as subjects of future seminars-cum-study tours in the USSR. The report of the Seminar is available.

25. The Round Table on Adaptation of Administration to Rural Development was opened by the Prime Minister of India and brought together more than 100 high-level planners, administrators and scholars from India, as well as representatives of Indonesia, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea and experts from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The policy implications of adapting administration to the needs of the rural sector were discussed with the intention of bringing about basic changes in the thinking of planners and administrators with regard to that sector. The final report of the Round Table is available. A follow-up to the meeting will be held at Jaipur in late 1979, at which a set of guidelines will be drawn up for improving the delivery systems so as to provide greater access by the rural poor to public services. The Joint Consultative Committee for this project met in January 1979 to review implementation of the decisions taken at the New Delhi meeting and to initiate action on the further phase of the project. A round table with high-level participation on lines broadly similar to those of the New Delhi meeting is currently being planned for the south-east Asia region. In respect of activities related to resolution 181 (XXXIV) on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries, the secretariat has commissioned two comprehensive studies of the role of public sector enterprises as part of its work on strategies for the 1980s, and has begun to collect basic information concerning public sector enterprises in the region.

26. The Seminar on Rural Employment Planning involved both the Agriculture and the Development Planning Divisions of the secretariat and has been reported on earlier. In the case of the Development Planning Division, the Seminar marked the culmination of a two-year project on techniques of manpower planning.

27. At its fifth session, the Expert Group on Development Policy and Planning discussed the preparation of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978* and made a number of recommendations regarding both its structure and its content. The Expert Group also examined the programme of work to be executed in the field of development planning during 1979 and 1980-1981. In connexion with the ongoing work on development strategies, the Group expressed its views on the content of the proposed alternative scenarios that were intended to highlight the strategy options.

28. The principal consultants involved in the project on poverty and social participation met at Pattaya, Thailand, at the end of January 1979 to discuss the contents of the draft material received from the four participating countries; they drew up a time-table for the completion of the project which would result in a comprehensive report.

29. In the field of quantitative analysis for development planning, the Seminar on Long-term Projections was hosted by the secretariat. The ongoing work of the secretariat on both long-term projects and LINK modelling was discussed in relation to the models devised by other United Nations agencies, including the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNITAR and FAO, which sent representatives to the Seminar, as did academic institutions in Japan and the Netherlands. Discussions were also held on growth trends, targets and scenarios, the incorporation of basic needs aspects into modelling and the requirements of future work. A revised preliminary draft of the long-term projections of economic growth of ESCAP member countries is available.

30. In the course of the year, the secretariat prepared the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978*. Although nominally a biennial review, the principal theme of the Survey was the lessons of the 1970s as a whole, comparing development performance with the previous decade and drawing attention to the problems faced by the developing countries of the ESCAP region on the threshold of the 1980s. The year also saw publication of two further issues of the *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*.

31. Phase I of the project on growth, equity and structural change, which examined development patterns in selected developing countries of the region, was completed in early 1979, laying the basis for the two further phases which will be carried out during the current year. Also recently completed was the joint ESCAP/FAO project on the promotion and training of rural women in remunerative activities, which included the holding of nine field workshops in member countries. Drawing on the success of these workshops, the implementation of a follow-up project will be planned at a regional meeting of the national co-ordinators in April 1979. Another project expected to terminate in 1979 concerns an analysis of the scope for automotive complementation

among the ASEAN countries. Finally, regional advisory services on the improvement of administrative capabilities in plan implementation were extended to member countries during the year.

Industry, housing and technology

32. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Intergovernmental Meeting on Integrated Industrialization in Non-metropolitan Areas, Tokyo, March 1978

Workshop on the Integrated Dairy Industry, New Delhi, April 1978

Workshop for Directors/Officers-in-Charge of National Focal Points for the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer, Bangalore, April 1978

Meeting of Eminent Persons, Bangkok, May 1978

Workshop on Small-scale Iron and Steel Making, including Sponge Iron Production, Bangkok, May 1978

Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (fourteenth session), Bangkok, May 1978

Sub-Committee of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, Los Banos, June 1978

Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Bangkok, July 1978

ESCAP/UNEP Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlements Technology, Bangkok, July 1978

Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Manual on Physical Planning of Rural Centres, Bangkok, August 1978

Third Seminar on Foreign Investment and Tax Administration, Sydney, September 1978

Governing Body of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (first session), Los Banos, September 1978

Working Session on the Establishment of Pilot Projects on Industrialization in Non-metropolitan Areas in Indonesia and the Philippines, Bangkok, October 1978

Joint Subnetwork Workshop/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, Los Banos, October 1978

Workshop on Small- and Medium-scale Industries at Selected Sites in the People's Republic of China, October-November 1978

Intergovernmental Consultative Group Meeting among National Planning Bureaux with Participation

of Development Banks on the Establishment of Regional Industries, Bangkok, November 1978

Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Investment, Tokyo, December 1978

Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers of Industry, Bangkok, January 1979

33. The Intergovernmental Meeting on Integrated Industrialization in Non-metropolitan Areas endorsed the recommendations of the fact-finding mission on the concept, objectives and procedure to be followed in the identification of pilot projects to be established in non-metropolitan areas and urged the secretariat to undertake studies within a specified time frame in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. At the request of the Government, Sri Lanka has also been included in the survey.

34. The Workshop on the Integrated Dairy Industry recommended that: (a) focal points should be identified in member countries for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the dairy industry and the countries should appoint national correspondents who would supply ESCAP with information to be published in the form of a newsletter; (b) countries should avail themselves of the expertise on the dairy industry available in the region on a TCDC basis; (c) in view of the importance of training in the dairy industry, the availability of fellowships should be explored from all possible sources; (d) feed manufacturing units using indigenous raw materials should be established; (e) research and development activities should be strengthened to improve indigenous dairy products so as to increase their marketing potential; and (f) regional/subregional co-operation in the dairy industry should be promoted.

35. The Workshop for Directors/Officers-in-Charge of National Focal Points for the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer elaborated on the immediate programme of work of the Centre and recommended that it should provide assistance to interested countries in the development of technology plans and policy and in the establishment of national centres. The Centre should operate on the basis of a network establishing linkages with relevant institutions and organizations within the region and outside. The Workshop identified five priority areas for subnetwork activities: (a) cement-like material from agro-waste; (b) mini hydro plants; (c) machine tools; (d) medicinal plants; and (e) small-scale sponge iron plants. The Workshop also stressed the need for training programmes and for the issuance of a newsletter and publication of rosters of experts in selected areas.

36. The Meeting of Eminent Persons was convened to assist the secretariat in formulating a design for country studies to be undertaken to examine progress made in the implementation of the four elements of the new strategies identified by the Meeting of Ministers of

Industry held in November 1977. The Eminent Persons finalized the design for the studies and recommended that they cover Bangladesh, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand. On completion of the studies, a synthesized report was presented to the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers of Industry in January 1979, for observations and follow-up action.

37. The Workshop on Small-scale Iron and Steel Making recommended that a working group be constituted, consisting of representatives of institutions in the developing countries involved in the technological and production aspects of sponge iron. Arising out of the recommendation of the Workshop, a project document, "Establishment of sponge iron plant in ESCAP developing countries", has been formulated and sent to UNIDO for financial assistance.

38. The Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (a) considered the draft regional paper of 1 May 1978 and made suggestions for improving it; (b) felt that the principal role of the economic commissions was to harmonize the activities of the United Nations system and provide them with a regional focus so that problems of common interest could be dealt with in the most efficient manner; and (c) emphasized the need for, *inter alia*, developing indigenous technologies, generating employment opportunities, focusing on rural problems and dealing specially with problems of tropical agriculture etc. Initiatives in the foregoing activities should be taken by ESCAP.

39. The Sub-Committee of the Technical Advisory Committee of RNAM (a) considered the report of the joint FAO/UNIDO consultant on the selection of prototypes and agreed with the recommendations made in respect of rice transplanters and cereal harvesters. It also agreed with the suggestion that, in respect of power weeders, the host country should carry out a study to collect information regarding weeding attachments developed in the participating countries and prepare a detailed report for consideration by a subnetwork workshop; (b) approved the subnetwork activity pertaining to improvement in production technology; (c) considered the work programme and budget, and also decided that the project activities should include an item relating to bridging the gap between design and development and manufacture; (d) suggested that training programmes might include some study tours for senior engineers; and (e) proposed that the six-month courses should be reduced to three months and that experts and consultants should be so recruited as to be in position about one month before the receipt of the prototypes.

40. The Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) (a) noted the progress made in the preparation of national papers; (b) considered the draft of the regional paper and made valuable comments and suggestions to be incorporated in its

final version, which would be issued as a document of the ESCAP secretariat; (c) adopted a programme of action containing measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels; (d) suggested the formulation of programmes to ensure greater involvement of women in science and technology; and (e) felt that the momentum generated by the preparatory activities at the national and regional levels should be maintained.

41. The ESCAP/UNEP Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlements Technology recommended, *inter alia*, that: (a) policies relating to human settlements and the environment should constitute an integral part of national development plans; (b) the role of ESCAP should be to formulate regional projects which would strengthen national activities; (c) at the national level, a network structure of institutions on human settlements technology should be organized, and at the regional level, ESCAP should organize a regional network; and (d) in co-operation with UNEP, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and donor countries, ESCAP should, to the extent possible, undertake the following projects: (i) a study on standards in human settlements for ESCAP countries, (ii) a workshop on construction techniques and industry, (iii) a seminar on low-cost housing, (iv) a training course in management of housing and human settlements and (v) training for personnel in human settlements technology.

42. The Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Manual on Physical Planning of Rural Centres recommended that: (a) the title of the study should be changed from "Manual on rural centre planning" to "Guidelines for rural centre planning"; (b) more case studies from the ESCAP developing countries should be included; and (c) roving seminars should be organized in selected countries of the region to explain the use of the guidelines.

43. The Third Seminar on Foreign Investment and Tax Administration recommended that special programmes in the field of foreign investment and tax administration should be developed for the benefit of the least developed countries. In addition to recommending the convening of a regional panel of experts to provide advice to countries on tax treaties and other tax matters, it recommended that regional training institutions should introduce curricula for the training of tax officials. It also recommended the convening of investment promotion meetings.

44. At its first session, the Governing Body of RNAM (a) adopted its draft rules of procedure with minor amendments; (b) decided that the following should be members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): all eight participating countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand, ESCAP, UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and Australia, Israel and Japan; (c) endorsed the report of TAC, with certain modifications regarding the participation

of fanners in the evaluation of prototypes; (d) approved the work programme and budget up to August 1980; (e) approved the establishment of a local committee consisting of the Chairman, the Dean of the Institute for Agricultural Engineering Technology, a representative of IRRI, the resident representative of UNDP and the project manager to consider any urgent action calling for a change in an approved activity; and (f) recommended that those Governments which had not yet established national farm mechanization committees should do so as soon as possible.

45. The Working Session on the Establishment of Pilot Projects on Industrialization in Non-metropolitan Areas considered the survey mission report in respect of Indonesia and the Philippines with the participation of representatives of the two Governments. The recommendations made in the survey reports in respect of both pilot industrial projects and locations for their establishment were discussed in detail and finalized for approval by the respective Governments.

46. The Joint Subnetwork Workshop/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of RNAM (a) decided that 14 rice transplanter prototypes and 14 cereal harvester prototypes should be procured and distributed to member countries; (b) approved the training programme for 1979; (c) finalized the 1979 calendar of workshops on paddy transplanters, harvesting machines, weeders and manufacturing technology; (d) decided that the participating national institutes would prepare lists of improved machines and tools developed within the countries and send them to the project manager; (e) considered the draft test code for rice transplanters, incorporated changes and recommended that RNAM should refine the approved test codes to make them as uniform as possible and have them circulated; and (f) considered the test format for cereal harvesting machines, and suggested amendments to the format, which was to be refined, printed and circulated by RNAM.

47. The Workshop on Small- and Medium-scale Industries gave an opportunity to participants from developing countries to study the policies and strategies adopted by China in the promotion and development of that sector and to exchange experiences and ideas. The stress on decentralization of small- and medium-scale industries to communes in China was studied with great interest. As a result of the Workshop several lessons have been drawn for possible emulation in different socio-economic systems.

48. The Intergovernmental Consultative Group Meeting among National Planning Bureaux considered ways and means by which regional and subregional industries could be promoted expeditiously. The Meeting recommended that the secretariat should undertake desk studies and identify a portfolio of 10 to 12 industries which had the prospect of being established on an inter-country co-operation basis. Those studies would be carried a step further by the Association of Development

Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, which would undertake pre-investment studies for the selected industries for consideration by interested member Governments. The Meeting requested the donor countries to assist the secretariat in undertaking the studies.

49. The Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Investment considered ways and means of increasing co-operation among countries in investment regulation in the developing countries of the region. The Meeting felt that, in view of the different levels of development involved and the need to follow policies suited to different situations, it was premature to consider harmonization of policies in that regard. Other important matters which the Meeting considered and recommended for action included activities on dissemination of information on investment, increased advisory services, the holding of seminars on specific aspects of investment promotion and the establishment of a panel on foreign investment.

50. The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers of Industry took note of the second-generation issues brought out by the studies and suggested the specific further action that might be taken at the regional and country levels. The former would include studies in respect of selected agro-industries on (a) terms of trade between agriculture and industry, including the whole gamut of institutional relations and the resulting balance of bargaining power, and (b) the role of agro-industry boards. The Meeting also made recommendations regarding the follow-up of the ESCAP project on industrialization in non-metropolitan areas and regarding preinvestment studies for regional industries.

51. Two meetings of the Interagency Task Force on Human Settlements and three meetings of the Interagency Task Force for UNCSTD were held.

Surveys and field missions

52. ADB has agreed to provide assistance for conducting an industrial survey in the South Pacific countries. ESCAP has to raise the balance required to meet the rest of the expenses, and is negotiating bilaterally and with UNDP to this end. So far, the following South Pacific countries have indicated interest in being covered by the survey: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. The survey is expected to be launched in April 1979.

53. With extrabudgetary assistance provided by India and Japan, country surveys to identify pilot projects for the industrialization of non-metropolitan areas in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand were completed within the period under review. Those surveys have indicated the possibilities of setting up pilot projects in selected areas.

54. During the period under review, a survey on post harvest technology was carried out in Indonesia.

55. With the assistance of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, a survey of existing sources of information on human settlements in the ESCAP region was undertaken by a consultant who visited a number of selected countries. The consultant's report on his findings and his proposal for establishing a regional human settlements information system network are available and will be circulated to all members and associate members of ESCAP. The report will also serve as a discussion paper at an intergovernmental forum proposed for mid-1979.

56. As a result of the mission fielded by ESCAP, the prime-mover industry has made headway in Nepal. A feasibility study in respect of an industrial estate in Surkhet is in progress. A similar exercise has been initiated in Afghanistan, where projects are being developed in co-operation with UNIDO and UNDP, with extrabudgetary assistance from the Netherlands.

57. With the assistance of the Australian Government, a three-man mission was fielded to the two United Nations Regional Housing Centres located at Bandung and New Delhi. The mission reviewed the activities and facilities of the two Centres and, in consultation with officials of the Centres, identified their needs and requirements and recommended ways and means of strengthening their capabilities so that they could perform their regional functions more effectively.

58. With support received from UNIDO, UNDP and the Federal Republic of Germany, an expert mission has surveyed engineering industries in the ASEAN countries with a view to designing a scheme for complementary collaboration among them. The mission's recommendations were discussed at a workshop of experts held on 16 and 17 January 1979. The workshop recommended two important steps: (a) undertaking techno-economic feasibility studies in respect of some of the engineering industries which have been identified as having potential for regional complementation, and (b) the establishment of a permanent technical body within the ASEAN system which would undertake such studies in future for the formulation of specific projects. The assistance of UNDP/UNIDO is being sought for the first step and for a study to elaborate the functions and structure of the proposed body.

Studies and publications

59. A study on the building industry in the ESCAP region was reviewed and is being finalized.

60. A study on problems relating to slums and squatter settlements in the ESCAP region has been completed with the assistance of Bouwcentrum International Education, Rotterdam, which provided a consultant. It covers case studies of Bangkok, Bombay, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Jakarta and Manila and will be printed and distributed.

61. The preparation of the guidelines for rural centre

planning is progressing well, with the financial assistance of the Government of the Netherlands, and is expected to be completed in March 1979.

62. Information was collected for issue 14 of *Industrial Development News. Asia and the Pacific*.

63. The following publications were issued: (a) *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, No. 15; (b) *Newsletter on Science and Technology for Development*, Issue 3, March 1978, Issue 4, June 1978, and Issue 5, August 1978; (c) *Newsletter -Regional Centre for Technology Transfer*, Issue 1, November 1978; (d) *Newsletter-Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery*, Issue 1, April 1978, and Issue 2, October 1978; (e) *Development of Leather and Leather Products Industry in ESCAP Region*; (f) *Housing Management and Tenant Education in the ESCAP Region*; and (g) two volumes of a loose-leaf publication on taxation and incentive systems in the ESCAP countries, which have been published with the support of the Netherlands Government.

International trade

64. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (fifth session), Bangkok, April 1978; (sixth session), Bangkok, January-February 1979

Fourth Seminar on Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Bangkok, May 1978; Fifth Seminar, Hong Kong, January 1979

ESCAP/UNCTAD Co-ordination Committee on Multilateral Payments Arrangements and Monetary Co-operation among Developing Countries, Bangkok, July 1978

Third ASEAN Working Group Session on Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Geneva, July 1978

Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, August 1978

Seminar for Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing Countries, New Delhi, August 1978

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Workshop on Harmonization of Tariff Nomenclatures and Foreign Trade Statistics, Bangkok, October 1978

Trade Co-operation Group (first session), Bangkok, November 1978

Workshop on Special Measures in favour of Least Developed Land-locked Countries, Kathmandu November 1978

UNCTAD/ESCAP Seminar on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, Pattaya, Thailand, December 1978

Expert Group Meeting on Tropical Hardwoods, Pattaya, Thailand, December 1978

Trade expansion and monetary co-operation

65. At its fifth session, the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement finalized its views on the common rules of origin to be adopted by the member countries. Negotiations between Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea were held during the session.

66. The second Workshop on Harmonization of Tariff Nomenclatures and Foreign Trade Statistics among the participating countries of the Bangkok Agreement was organized jointly by the ESCAP and UNCTAD secretariats with the financial support of UNDP. The main emphasis of the Workshop was on the harmonization of concepts and practices in international trade statistics, commodity classification and reporting of foreign trade statistics.

67. A Meeting of Senior Trade Officials was held at New Delhi in August 1978. It considered a proposal for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region and decided to recommend to the Ministerial Conference a regional programme of action for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region.

68. The Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific concluded that a programme in intraregional trade expansion and co-operation was urgently needed and emphasized that the primary objective of such a programme in Asia and the Pacific should be the growth of trade generally and the increased economic development of all countries of the region, particularly the developing countries. The Conference approved a programme of action for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region as recommended by the Senior Trade Officials and agreed that a Trade Co-operation Group should be constituted as a forum to consider how effect should be given to the programme.

69. At its first session, the Trade Co-operation Group adopted its rules of procedure and set up seven subgroups on the following subjects: (a) network of trade promotion centres, (b) trade-creating joint ventures, (c) long-term contracts, (d) commodities, (e) monetary and credit co-operation, (f) encouragement and liberalization of trade within the region and (g) harmonization of trade statistics, customs tariff nomenclatures and customs and transport facilitation procedures and documentation. The membership of each subgroup was established in accordance with the expressed wishes of countries to participate in the implementation of the particular measures concerned.

70. The subgroups adopted their respective rules of procedures and reported to the Trade Co-operation Group on the progress of their work.

71. At its sixth session, the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement decided to hold the second round of negotiations on trade liberalization in January 1980.

72. The seventh session of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) is expected to be held in the first half of 1979.

73. Representatives of 16 countries or areas of the ESCAP region, and experts from UNCTAD, GATT, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the interregional project on MTN participated in the Fourth Seminar on Multilateral Trade Negotiations organized jointly by ESCAP, UNDP, UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Important issues covered at the Seminar were tariffs, tropical products, non-tariff measures (including the codes on quantitative restrictions, technical barriers to trade, subsidies and countervailing duties, government procurement- and customs valuation), safeguards and framework. Special problems of the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries were also dealt with. Representatives of 22 countries or areas in the ESCAP region, and experts from UNCTAD, GATT and the Commonwealth Secretariat participated in the Fifth Seminar. Since MTN had reached a crucial and conclusive stage, a comprehensive analysis and evaluation was undertaken of the vital issues involved, which affect the trade interests of the developing countries, such as tropical products, tariffs, non-tariff measures (standards, customs valuation, import licensing, subsidies and countervailing duties and government procurement), safeguards and framework. An examination of the operation of the renewed Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (Multi-Fibre Agreement) was also undertaken.

Trade promotion and development

74. The ESCAP Trade Promotion Centre (TPC) has continued to render assistance to members and associate members of ESCAP through its four services, namely, advisory, market/product development, professional development and trade information services.

75. A joint plan of action to promote the foreign trade of Maldives commenced in December 1978 and a symposium was organized; at the request of the National Agency for Export Development, TPC is providing assistance to Indonesia in various areas of trade promotion; a study has been prepared and forwarded to the Singapore Government relating to the procedure and feasibility of establishing trade promotion offices abroad; at the request of ILO, advisers participated in an interco-operative trade promotion workshop held in Singapore in January 1979; a South Pacific technical assistance programming mission completed its findings in October 1978 and a comprehensive trade promotion programme has been drawn up for implementation in 1979-1981; a guide to the market of the Federal Republic of Germany has been completed and awaits printing; studies on the markets for ceramic tiles in Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Middle East have been completed; a detailed study of prospects for wooden furniture exports from Asian developing countries to the Japanese market is being prepared; assistance

in the preparatory work in connexion with the ASEAN Trade Fair held at Manila from 7 to 21 May 1978 was undertaken; an Afghanistan marketing mission for edible nuts and livestock products with the help of ITC/TPC in several selected Asian markets was undertaken in April/May 1978; several product notes on newsprint and other varieties of paper, and on dried fish, have been prepared and disseminated to interested ESCAP members.

76. Since its establishment TPC has adopted as its goal the establishment of a trade information service as the base for a region-wide trade information network. In this regard, several services are operated for the benefit of 23 participating countries, including a Data Bank of Sources of Trade Information on a continuing basis; a Directory of Trade Information Sources; a trade inquiry system; assistance in the exchange of information sources among participating countries; and notices and information bulletins on items of special interest. The project team is currently working with 30 trade information agencies in the 23 participating countries. During the year numerous country missions have been completed and various forms of assistance provided, including in-service training of trade information personnel; planning, designing and organization of trade information centres; development of effective acquisition procedures, storage and retrieval systems, current awareness programmes and selective dissemination of information schemes; production of trade directories and exporters' registers; conduct of businessmen's workshops; and assistance in the development of integrated national trade information networks within individual countries.

77. At the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, which was attended by representatives of 28 countries, high priority was given to the continued improvement and expansion of trade information services in the ESCAP region. A draft project revision has been prepared for the years 1979-1980 outlining additional and expanded activities based on requests from the participating Governments. The draft revision, which has been approved by ITC, has been forwarded to UNDP headquarters for consideration.

78. In the area of professional development a substantial number of training events in expert promotion were completed in 1978. The major exercise was the extremely successful mobile training programme held in March/April 1978 for some South Pacific countries, which involved participants from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga attending three events held at Pacific island centres. The ASEAN subregional training project organized many events covering the whole spectrum of export and trade promotion activity and attracting participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

79. Other activities originating with TPC included

three "in-country" training of trainers seminars at Jakarta, an export promotion course at Colombo and an export promotion seminar at Kuala Lumpur.

Raw materials and commodities

80. Through the generous contribution of the Netherlands Government, ESCAP provided technical assistance to ANRPC in implementing the project "Technical assistance on improvement of natural rubber statistics in ANRPC member countries", to APCC in implementing the project "Field survey and study on a remunerative level of prices for coconut products" and to PC in undertaking the "Study on the stabilization of export earnings from pepper". The projects were expected to be completed by mid-1979. A number of new projects were requested by ANRPC and APCC for implementation in 1979 and 1980 with the financial and technical assistance of ESCAP: a study on the improvement of processing and marketing of small holders' rubber, fellowships for the training of officials in relevant subjects for the development of rubber small holders, a follow-up study on rubber supply and demand, a base case project on cargo consolidation of rubber, a study on possible alternative modes of ocean transportation of bulk latex and technical assistance on rubber-based manufacturing industries were requested by members of ANRPC (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam); a study on the development of agro-based manufacturing industries for coconut products was requested by members of APCC (India, Indonesia, Malaysia; Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Thailand).

81. In the context of establishing regional co-operation among tropical hardwood producing countries, the project "Development of standard contracts/general conditions and formulation of uniform grading rules and specifications for the tropical hardwood trade in the ESCAP region" was funded by the Japanese Government and is being implemented by the secretariat. Further funding is necessary to organize an expert group meeting to consider the findings and recommendations of the studies, so that follow-up action and implementation of the recommendations by the agencies concerned can be pursued.

82. Under the project "Inter-country co-operation in tropical hardwoods", funded by the Netherlands Government, an Expert Group Meeting on Tropical Hardwoods was convened to discuss the co-operative measures to be undertaken by tropical timber producing/exporting countries in the ESCAP region. The Meeting recommended the establishment of an Asian and Pacific tropical timber community to implement the identified co-operative measures effectively. The Meeting also recommended that, prior to convening the intergovernmental meeting of tropical timber producing/exporting countries scheduled to be held in late 1979,

a mission should be launched to hold consultations with the Governments concerned on the establishment of the proposed community. In this connexion, FAO, during the second ESCAP/FAO annual joint review of the programme of work and priorities in food, agriculture and rural development in January 1979, expressed its willingness to work jointly with ESCAP in the mission as well as in the preparation of background papers and in servicing the proposed intergovernmental meeting. In addition, the Meeting agreed that a dialogue between tropical timber producing and consuming countries should be organized by the ESCAP secretariat, as and when appropriate.

83. As a follow-up of a decision of the Trade Co-operation Group and its subgroup for commodities at their first sessions in November 1978, provision of technical assistance to the existing commodity associations/communities will be continued and expanded and feasibility studies on the establishment of new communities undertaken.

84. A Seminar on the Integrated Programme for Commodities was organized jointly by the UNCTAD and ESCAP secretariats, to examine progress and developments under the Programme, particularly concerning those commodities of socio-economic interest to countries in the ESCAP region. The Seminar recommended that measures should be formulated to accelerate the progress in the negotiation of international action programmes, such as the Integrated Programme for Commodities, and to give more emphasis to commodity problems at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels; and that TCDC/ECDC principles should be employed, as far as possible, in the implementation of the work programme on raw materials and commodities in the region. A seminar of jute-producing countries on jute and jute products, sponsored by UNCTAD in February 1979 at Kathmandu, recommended that in order to promote co-operation among jute-producing countries in the region and to discuss matters of mutual interest, ESCAP, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies, should organize regular meetings of the jute-producing countries. Such meetings would also greatly facilitate producer-consumer co-operation in implementing an action programme for jute.

85. In relation to the work programme on raw materials and commodities, regional and country-level workshops on shippers' co-operation and cargo consolidation were organized during 1978 by the secretariat, with the generous financial support of the Norwegian Government. In addition, assistance was extended to the ANRPC, APCC and SPEC secretariats, and to the Governments of Malaysia and the Philippines in undertaking feasibility studies on the cargo consolidation of major exports, including rubber, timber and coconut products. These activities will continue to be carried out by the secretariat.

Trade facilitation and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation

86. The secretariat was represented at the Trade Facilitation Conference held at Manila in May 1978 in co-operation with the National Facilitation Committee of the Philippines. That event took place in conjunction with the ASEAN Trade Fair.

87. The Agreement Establishing the Asian Reinsurance Corporation was opened for signature during the thirty-third session of the Commission. Nine Governments have signed the Agreement and so far seven, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka have ratified it. All the signatories have paid their share capital except China, which recently signed the Agreement. The Government of Bhutan, in January 1979, informed the Executive Secretary of its decision to sign the Agreement.

Least developed, land-locked and developing island countries

88. A Seminar for Least Developed, land-locked and Island Developing Countries was held at New Delhi immediately after the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific. The main purpose of the Seminar was to provide a forum in which participants could formulate a plan of action in favour of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in the light of the decisions of the Ministerial Conference. The Seminar formulated a draft action programme and decided that the draft should be circulated to all the least developed, land-locked and island developing members and associate members of ESCAP to seek comments and suggestions on the draft before it was finalized by the secretariat.

89. Under the UNDP-financed project on assistance to least developed land-locked countries, a Workshop on Special Measures in favour of Least Developed Land-locked Countries was held at Kathmandu in co-operation with UNCTAD and was attended by participants from both land-locked and transit countries of the region. The Workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to familiarize themselves with the activities carried out within the United Nations system, including ESCAP and UNCTAD, to have an exchange of views and experiences on problems relating to the subject as well as to learn of each other's limitations and difficulties in dealing with them. In addition to having discussions on such subjects as development of alternative routes and modes, the role of air transport and minimization of cargo losses in transit, the participants were able to observe the operation of the establishments and facilities engaged in the transit trade of Nepal. The participants recognized the importance of such a forum in that it helped to promote better understanding between the land-locked and the transit countries, and thus recommended that it be organized on a regular basis.

This was the third workshop organized under the above project.

Programming mission for technical assistance in trade promotion for selected developing island countries in the South Pacific

90. A joint ITC/ESCAP programming mission was launched in September/October 1978 for the purpose of on-the-spot appraisal of the specific trade promotion needs of the countries of the South Pacific. In its visits to the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia (SPC), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga, the mission carried out the following activities: (a) it collected and analysed information and documentation relating to product areas and industries with export potential; (b) it assessed ongoing and/or programmed projects to determine the scope of their future co-ordination with ITC and ESCAP trade promotion activities; (c) it determined other areas for future ITC/ESCAP assistance; and (d) it consulted authorities for the purpose of singling out potential national priority areas for ITC assistance. The mission has submitted its recommendations, which could serve as a basis for future ITC/ESCAP trade promotion assistance at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Natural resources

91. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Expert Group Meeting on Biogas Development, Bangkok, June 1978

Working Group Meeting on Energy Planning and Programming, Bangkok, August 1978

Seminar and Study Tour on Rural Electrification, Tashkent, USSR, November-December 1978

Meeting on Co-operation in ESCAP Mineral Programmes (second session), Bangkok, March 1978; (third session), Bangkok, December 1978

Third Working Group Meeting on Stratigraphic Correlation between Sedimentary Basins of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November 1978

Expert Working Group Meeting on Water Resources Data Systems, Bangkok, April 1978

Workshop on Efficient Use and Maintenance of Irrigation Systems at the Farm Level in China, August-September 1978

Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific (first session), Bangkok, September 1978; (second session), Bangkok, February 1979

Meeting on Remote Sensing Activities in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November-December 1978

92. The Expert Group Meeting on Biogas Development, having reviewed the state of development of

biogas systems, framed a set of guidelines on design, construction, operation and management. A guide-book which is being compiled on the basis of the guide-lines will be issued shortly.

93. The Working Group Meeting on Energy Planning and Programming reviewed the current status of energy development and problems in developing countries of the region and updated the priority needs for regional activities. This indicated the need for some changes in the ESCAP programme of work and priorities for 1979, and led to the formulation of proposals for the 1980-1981 programme. Other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and outside regional organizations, attended the Meeting and indicated their willingness to co-operate in activities related to their own interests. The proceedings of the Meeting are being compiled.

94. The Seminar and Study Tour on Rural Electrification reviewed the status of electricity supply in rural areas in participating countries of the region. The participants became acquainted with technology employed in rural electrification development in the USSR, particularly in the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.

95. The Meeting on Co-operation in ESCAP Mineral Programmes, at its second session, identified the areas and agreed on the means of liaison and co-operation among the Mineral Resources Section of ESCAP, RMRDC, SEATRADC, crop and CCOP/SOPAC. At its third session, the Meeting agreed on the details of implementation of co-operative work, particularly in areas where interests and responsibilities could not be delegated to a single office.

96. The Third Working Group Meeting on Stratigraphic Correlation, which was held in conjunction with the Third Regional Conference on Geology and Mineral Resources of Southeast Asia, reviewed the progress of the project activities in member countries and agreed on the work programme for 1979-1982. It also adopted a subproject entitled "Sedimentary basins of the ESCAP region: analyses and resources".

97. The Expert Working Group Meeting on Water Resources Data Systems discussed the main elements of a comprehensive and integrated hydrologic data system and stage development of data systems. It recommended that a training course in the development of integrated hydrologic data systems should be organized for senior technicians and trainers.

98. Two participants each from eight member countries and three ESCAP staff members (two from the Natural Resources Division and one from the Agriculture Division) participated in the Workshop on Efficient Use" and Maintenance of Irrigation Systems at the Farm Level in China. The participants visited a number of irrigation systems in southern, central and northern China, where they observed, discussed and

identified organizational, engineering and agricultural factors contributing to the efficient use and maintenance of irrigation systems in China as well as their degree of transferability to the respective countries of the participants. It was the consensus that, with some slight modifications, many of the technical factors could be transferred to the countries represented in the Workshop.

99. The first session of the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific was attended by representatives of ESCAP, UNDP, UNEP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and WMO. In addition to endorsing its draft terms of reference, the Task Force discussed the respective activities of its members in the field of water resources development and identified those in which co-operation could be useful. The second session of the Interagency Task Force was attended by representatives of the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, ESCAP, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. The information on the regional follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference was discussed. It was agreed that the agencies would provide ESCAP with the information available to them, including country as well as regional information, for the period 1979-1981, and ESCAP would compile the information in an appropriate format. The list of projects in which two or more organizations had a common interest was revised at the meeting.

100. The Meeting on Remote Sensing Activities in the ESCAP Region identified seven principles for the formulation of a three-year regional programme for training, technical assistance, research and development, information exchange and management, as well as elements to be included in the 1979 programme. It stressed the urgent need for recruitment of a UNDP co-ordinators and a short-term UNDP consultant to work with the co-ordinator on more detailed project formulation, and recommended that: (a) ESCAP should convene meetings at the intergovernmental level, at about annual intervals, to provide guidance in remote sensing activities in the region; (b) at the project level, the co-ordinator should be located in the secretariat; (c) the secretariat and the co-ordinator should maintain close contact with other bodies concerned, both national and international; and (d) a review of the activities should be made in 1980-1981.

101. In the energy field, the Government of India has arranged for a study on the financing and management of rural electrification to be carried out in the context of TCDC, and the work has been progressing. Preparations are in hand for a working group on efficiency and conservation in the use of energy, an expert group meeting on evaluation of geothermal energy, and a study on the optimization of the utilization of electricity-generating plant.

102. Three publications were issued in 1978; the

Proceedings of the Seminar and Study Tour on Electricity Distribution Systems in Urban Areas and Their Integration with Transmission Systems, Peak-load Coverage with Particular Reference to Gas Turbines and Hydroelectric Plants and Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1975 and 1976. In addition, lists of organizations concerned with research and development of solar energy, wind energy and biogas were produced and distributed to interested parties.

103. In the field of mineral resources development, in compliance with the decision of the Commission at its thirty-third session and the recommendation of the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session in 1976 that the secretariat should prepare a triennial publication reviewing and analysing the developments in the region, member countries have been requested to supply the necessary information and data. The compilation and analyses of this information will be considered by the Committee at its sixth session in late 1979.

104. Based on work carried out on the compilation and analysis of basic geologic data in south-east Asia, technical papers were presented to the Circum-Pacific Energy and Mineral Resources Conference, held in Hawaii in August 1978, and the Third Regional Conference on Geology and Mineral Resources of Southeast Asia, held at Bangkok in November 1978. Compilation of the tectonic framework and geochronology of the igneous bodies with reference to mineralization of a number of countries of mainland south-east Asia is expected to be completed very soon. Experience to date has confirmed the potential value of this work, and in 1980-1981 it is proposed to expand these activities, emphasizing the appraisal of mineral potential on an inter-country or subregional basis.

105. Stratigraphic columns on stratigraphic correlation of the sedimentary basins of the ESCAP region contributed by 17 member countries were edited and processed for publication in the Mineral Resources Development Series. The *ESCAP Atlas of Stratigraphy I*, containing the contributions from Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, was published in December 1978 as Mineral Resources Development Series No. 44 and was distributed to the member countries. Four sedimentary basins maps of the region have been printed and distributed during the period under consideration and, with the five sheets completed in the previous year, nine maps have been presented to the member countries. Thirteen such sheets will encompass the entire region.

106. The first co-ordinator of the project provided by the Government of Australia at no cost to the project completed his term with ESCAP in December 1978 after a little over two years, and his successor, also provided by Australia under a similar arrangement, assumed his duties from the beginning of 1979 and is expected to continue until the end of the year.

107. Various delays have prevented the publication of the second edition of the *Mineral Distribution Map of Asia*, but it is expected that it will be printed very soon. Work on the planning of the third edition of the *Oil and Natural Gas Map of Asia* is beginning, and it is expected that the whole of the regional mapping programme will be reviewed and priorities allocated at the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, which will be concerned particularly with mineral resources.

108. The water resources statistical data supplied by countries at the request of ESCAP were analysed and 23 items were selected for inclusion in the *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific*. A preliminary appraisal of the availability of data and problems in assessing the potential development of some international rivers was made, based on which a questionnaire was prepared and sent to 19 member countries in order to obtain the needed information. By the end of June 1978, replies had been received from only four countries. The lack of response from the countries of the region suggests that this activity should be removed from the programme.

109. Preparations are in hand for a seminar/study tour on measures to improve irrigation efficiency at the farm level in the USSR. Case studies of selected existing irrigation projects with a view to identifying causes of good or poor performance and desirable measures to stimulate optimum performance are to be carried out in co-operation with the Regional Office of FAO and the ESCAP Agriculture Division. Preliminary consultations have been held and the criteria for evaluation of the performance of irrigation projects are under preparation.

110. As agreed in consultation with ACPR, an announcement on the holding of an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on water was sent to the member countries on the understanding that it would be held only if a sufficient number of countries would participate. At the end of January 1979 it was decided that the proposed meeting would not be held in 1979, as the number of countries willing to participate proved to be insufficient.

111. Support continued to be provided to the work of the Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

Population

112. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Expert Group Meeting on Measuring the Social Impact of Population Trends and Development, Manila, October 1978

Expert Group Meeting on Problems to be Solved in the Development of Data for Integrated Population and Development Planning, Bangkok, October 1978

Second Regional Training Institute for Development

of Staff of Population Resource Centres in Asia and the Pacific ("Bangkok II"), Bangkok, November 1978

Regional Workshop on Techniques of Analysis of World Fertility Survey Data, Bombay, November-December 1978

113. The Expert Group Meeting on Measuring the Social Impact of Population Trends and Development recommended, *inter alia*, that countries should develop a set of social indices that would measure progress toward their own national goals, rather than simply label as social indicators a collection of currently available statistics, and that while international guidelines should be consulted, the set of indicators must be tailored to each country's unique resources and goals. It emphasized that social indicators should usually measure "outputs" from, rather than "inputs" into, a social system and that more comprehensive statistics and more sophisticated techniques of analysis were required before social measures could become useful for national development planning.

114. The Expert Group Meeting on Problems to be Solved in the Development of Data for Integrated Population and Development Planning recommended, *inter alia*, that central statistical organizations should provide a comprehensive annotated inventory of published and unpublished data from censuses, surveys and other sources to avoid duplication in the collection of data and to facilitate the full use of existing data by planners, policy makers and researchers and that, in order to meet the requirements of population and development planning authorities, as well as other users, a national data base of demographic and socio-economic variables should be established that would incorporate usable data from as many sources as possible.

115. The Second Regional Training Institute recommended that a committee of qualified persons in the field of population-related documentation and library science from key institutions within the region should be convened by ESCAP to investigate and plan over-all training efforts, function as a co-ordinating body, review the implementation of the recommendations of the First and Second Training Institutes and make an inventory of the needs, resources and capabilities of the region. It also suggested that training in research utilization should be provided for librarians and documentalists, materials translated into local languages and financial help there for sought from UNFP A and other funding agencies. It recommended that a loose-leaf directory of training programmes at the local, national and regional levels should be prepared and regularly updated for the ESCAP region, and that training should be evaluated. The Institute also called on ESCAP to help countries to establish clearing-houses of population information and arrange specialized training programmes at the regional and national levels.

116. The Regional Workshop was aimed at imparting

intensive training in statistical techniques required for advanced research work to the national staff directly involved in the in-depth analysis of fertility data from those countries participating in the World Fertility Survey programmes. The trainees were given lectures and laboratory exercises in techniques of evaluation of data, estimation of fertility rates and indices and multivariate analysis, including standardization, multiple classification analysis, regression analysis and path analysis.

117. The country monograph on the population situation in the Philippines was published and distributed; monographs for Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea were in various stages of preparation. A new series of monographs for the island countries of the Pacific was also initiated. Work continued on the first phase of the comparative study on the relationship of migration and urbanization to development. The population projections of Thailand prepared by the secretariat and cleared by the Government were published; the projections for the Republic of Korea were sent to the Government for clearance. A report on the study on resource planning and allocation methods for achieving demographic goals in family planning programmes was prepared for publication. The secretariat convened a meeting of the study directors of the countries for the regional study on organizational determinants of integrated family planning programme performance at Bangkok in October 1978 to finalize their respective study schemes based on the secretariat's regional research design. Expert consultative meetings were organized in preparation for: (a) a study on the relationship between fertility behaviour and size, structure and function of the family; (b) a seminar on the social and psychological aspects of fertility behaviour in the Islamic cultural setting; (c) a study of the impact of family planning programmes; and (d) a regional seminar on an integrated approach to population, food and nutrition in national development. The secretariat assisted the Government of the Republic of Korea in convening a national seminar on the utilization of research findings for family planning programme development at Seoul in April 1978. It continued to provide documentation services at the regional level and technical assistance in the establishment of national population clearing houses and information systems and to publish the quarterly *Asian Population Programme News*, the monthly *Population Headliners*, the monthly *Asian and World-wide Documents on Population Topics* (ADOPT), the Population Studies Translation Series and occasional studies in the Asian Population Studies Series. The third volume of *Population Research Leads*, focusing on the organizational effectiveness of integrated family planning programmes, was published.

118. The regional population adviser assisted the Governments of Solomon Islands and Tonga in understanding better the interrelationships between population and development programmes, emphasizing the importance of integrating population activities with

development programmes, and in assessing the interest of the various government departments in incorporating appropriate population activities in selected sectoral programmes. He also assisted the Government of Tuvalu in preparing a project proposal for the national population and housing census planned for 1979 and in identifying population-related activities which could be undertaken by the various government agencies, as well as the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the preparation of a project proposal for the establishment of a national statistical system. He assisted the Government of Afghanistan in training statisticians working in the fields of family planning, public health, rural development and vital statistics.

119. The secretariat organized one-month training programmes for trainees from Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea in several aspects of clearing-house activities and functions; assisted the Ministry of Plan Implementation of the Government of Sri Lanka in preparing a draft statement on a national population policy; launched a survey to ascertain the subject interest of about 4,500 persons on the secretariat's mailing list for population information, and commenced the design of a format for a tabulation form to monitor trends in the demand for documents by the users of the Population Reference Centre of the secretariat and recipients of the secretariat's population publications and other materials; helped the Government of Viet Nam in the formulation of a project document for UNFP A detailing the establishment of a national clearing-house for population/family planning information; and assisted the Government of Bangladesh in formulating a project proposal for the establishment of a national population information service.

Shipping, ports and inland waterways

120. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on Convention on International Multimodal Transport, Bangkok, July 1978

Ship Management Seminar, Tokyo, October 1978
Seminar on Planning for Change: Unit Loads in ESCAP Ports, Hong Kong, December 1978

Two regional workshops on shippers' co-operation: Negotiations in Shipping, Bangkok, September 1978; Decision-making Exercises in Shipping, Bangkok, November-December 1978

Five country-level workshops on shippers' co-operation: Kuala Lumpur, April 1978; Singapore, May 1978; Karachi, August 1978; Dacca, August 1978; Bangkok, February 1979

Subregional Workshop on Shipping and Marketing of Coconut Products, Suva, May-June 1978

Meeting of Chief Executives of National Shippers' Organizations (second session), Bangkok, June 1978

Joint Meeting of Chief Executives of National Shippers' Organizations and Shipowners' Associations (first session), Bangkok, June 1978

Meeting of Chief Executives of Shipowners' Associations (first session), Bangkok, June 1978

Visit of Port Training Personnel to the Port of Singapore Authority, October 1978

Seminar on the Planning of Ocean Shipping Services, Colombo, December 1978

121. The Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting explored the interest of developing countries of the region involved in reaching a regional consensus to assist in safeguarding their interests, and also examined in detail the outstanding issues in the preparation of a convention on international multimodal transport. It recommended that, in order to help the developing countries to prepare for full and effective participation in developing the technology of transport and to bring out the full implications of the systems involved, in-depth studies should be initiated immediately by international/regional agencies.

122. The purpose of the first Ship Management Seminar was to acquaint decision-making executives of major shipping companies and government shipping officials of the developing ESCAP countries with the Japanese Government's shipping policies and the management techniques of Japan's shipping business. Participants urged the ESCAP secretariat to organize more seminars to deal with specific aspects of shipping management and felt that there was a need for closer co-operation between Japan and the developing countries of the ESCAP region with regard to the transfer of technology.

123. The Seminar on Planning for Change was aimed at providing port management with a set of insights and tools of analysis and an awareness of the techniques of sound planning for the development of unit load berths, terminals and operations. It recommended that, in view of the rapid rate of increase in the number of containers which might be expected in most ports of the developing countries, there was a need for planning ahead for containerization in such matters as layout, equipment, space, manpower and documentation. It urged the secretariat to ensure the continuation of the top-level management seminars, in both general planning and specific areas.

124. The objective of the Regional Workshop on Shippers' Co-operation held in September 1978 was to enable the participants/shippers to acquire the necessary knowledge, techniques and skills in negotiating the terms and conditions for the carriage of their cargoes. The Regional Workshop held in November-December 1978 was aimed at augmenting the knowledge of shippers and their organizations concerning shipping operations and economics.

125. The purpose of organizing the five country-level workshops was to give more nationals of developing

member countries an opportunity to acquire a knowledge of shipping operations and economics, thereby improving their ability to contribute towards rational transport solutions and their negotiating abilities in respect of both quality and strength.

126. The purpose of the Subregional Workshop on Shipping and Marketing of Coconut Products was to enable the participants from the coconut-producing countries of the South Pacific region to discuss the problems of shipping as they related to the future pattern of production and marketing of coconuts and coconut products, the shipping economics background for decision-making purposes and the feasibility of introducing alternative methods of production, collection and marketing of those products. It recommended, *inter alia*, that a study should be made of the options for the ocean transport of copra and coconut products so as to maximize the returns to the countries of the region which produced those commodities.

127. The main issues considered at the second session of the Meeting of Chief Executives of National Shippers' Organizations were the usefulness of increased knowledge of shipping matters among shippers and their organizations, which contributed to the effectiveness of shipper-shipowner relationships; the lack of information provided by the liner operators for proper evaluation of demands for freight rate increases and for the evaluation of capital values in shipping; the various formats used in obtaining shipping information; and surcharges. The Meeting also agreed that a working group should be established to examine the draft articles of association for the proposed organization of shippers' councils for the Asia and the Pacific region. In that connexion, a Working Group on Shippers' Institutions met at Bangkok in February 1979.

128. At its first session, the Joint Meeting of Chief Executives of National Shippers' Organizations and Shipowners' Associations issued a communique in which it recognized the interdependence of shipowners and ship users in the region in the carriage of trade and concluded that joint discussions would contribute positively to the interests of both shipowners and ship users and lead to practical co-operation. It further concluded that joint meetings should continue to be held on a regular basis with the assistance of the secretariat.

129. At its first session, the Meeting of Chief Executives of Shipowners' Associations urged the ESCAP secretariat to assist shipowners in the field of management training, in undertaking studies on the

on cargo commodity flows, costs of services, port facilities etc. It was also recommended that the ESCAP secretariat should take the initiative in encouraging the establishment of a regional shipowners' association.

130. The purpose of organizing the Visit of Port Training Personnel to the Port of Singapore Authority was to acquaint the participants with the management training facilities and programme of the Authority and to assist them in formulating programmes of training in their own ports. It was the first time that all those responsible for training programmes in the region's ports had met to discuss training under a TCDC programme.

131. The Seminar on the Planning of Ocean Shipping Services was held with the purpose of discussing the integration of all aspects of ocean transport so as to facilitate Sri Lanka's foreign trade to the greatest possible extent. The Seminar urged that the Government should base its decision making in the field of shipping and ports on the principles of (a) close monitoring of foreign trade developments, (b) integration of shipping and ports and (c) strengthening of national shipping, and that an urgent action programme for implementation should be drawn up, making use of all relevant domestic and foreign resources. The Seminar was followed by a meeting of a working group whose object was to plan an action programme on the basis of the report and recommendations of the Seminar. The group recommended: (a) that first priority should be given to port development (to include Colombo, as well as Trincomalee and Galle) and its infrastructure, including container facilities, to ensure fast turn round of ships, and meet increased trade flows and transit trade; (b) that the fleet of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation, including oil tankers, should be expanded; (c) that ship maintenance and repair facilities and dockyard and shipbuilding facilities should be improved; and (d) that systematic and permanent training (including ship management) facilities should be established for personnel on board ship (deck and engineering officers and ratings) and personnel ashore.

132. In addition to those meetings, the secretariat held in June and November 1978, the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Advisory Group of the Ship Users' Co-operation Project to review and evaluate project implementation in the field of shippers' co-operation.

133. The secretariat also participated, during the period under review, in the following meetings: (a) meeting of APCC at Bangkok, in March 1978; (b) Sixth Assembly of ANRPC, at Colombo, in April 1978; (c) annual meeting of the Federation of ASEAN Shippers' Councils, at Manila, in May 1978; (d) meetings of the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations, at Pattaya, Thailand, in March 1978 and in Singapore in August 1978; and (e) UNCTAD seminar on training courses in port management at Gothenburg, in June 1978.

Studies/surveys

134. A survey was undertaken to review the upgrading of courses and syllabuses of the national training courses for seagoing personnel with a view to assessing their efficiency and relevance to the latest developments in shipping operation and technology in 1978.

135. A survey was also made on the future requirements for seafaring and managerial personnel to ensure that the development of institutions remained in keeping with the expected demands for labour in the field of shipping and ports.

136. The study of the regional shipping network begun in 1977 was completed in 1978 with the aim of designing an adequate structure of regular shipping services within the ASEAN subregional grouping and of developing a methodology which could be used in other subregional areas. The draft report was presented to the Governments concerned for comments and the final report is to be issued in early 1979.

137. In order to develop a standard format for assembling the basic information required for assessing the performance and the cost of liner services, a study was undertaken of liner operations on the routes between Europe and Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The study was presented at various meetings in the countries concerned.

138. A study of the possibility of consolidating cargoes of two or more compatible commodities for shipment in shiploads was completed for Malaysia. Another project was commenced in 1978 under the TCDC programme for the same Government on the possibility of establishing a freight booking centre. The project was also requested by the Government of the Philippines.

139. The secretariat undertook a comparative study of freight booking and ship chartering practices and the activities of intermediaries in the demand for and supply of ships, with a view to assisting the developing countries of the region in the problems of sea transportation of national cargoes. The report on the study was discussed and approved at the second session of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications.

140. In order to assist the countries of the region in the problems of port congestion, a study was undertaken on vessel delays and their causes in the ports of the region. The second phase of the study on port labour was initiated.

141. At the request of the Government of Bangladesh, the secretariat conducted a feasibility study on establishing a subregional centre in Bangladesh to provide training and advisory services and undertake studies in the inland water transport sector. Follow-up action on the study is being undertaken.

142. At the request of the Government of Viet Nam, the secretariat organized a mission to that country to

investigate its development needs in the field of coastal shipping, ports, inland waterways and dredging.

Advisory services

143. The secretariat rendered advisory services on the development, management and administration of merchant marines to Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tonga.

144. The development of freight study units has been encouraged by the secretariat by means of a series of meetings, studies and advisory services over the past six years. During the year under review, the secretariat rendered advisory services in that connexion to the Governments of India, Iran, Pakistan and Thailand.

145. The secretariat has also been very active in assisting the developing countries in implementing a uniform system for the collection and presentation of economic statistics of shipping. During the year under review, the secretariat rendered advisory services in that field to Bangladesh, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Samoa and to ANRPC. Reports on such services have been submitted to the Governments of Bangladesh, Fiji and Malaysia. Such services were also requested by the Governments of India and Iran.

146. Advisory services on the improvement of port facilities were provided to the Governments of Fiji, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

147. A data and information service on shipping was established in the secretariat in January 1978 with the financial assistance of the Norwegian Government. The service was designed to provide information on shipping, ports and inland waterways to Governments upon request. The secretariat has surveyed the extent of the information available in the countries of the region and will continue this survey in preparation for the establishment of a data and information network.

Extrabudgetary assistance

148. In undertaking the above studies and surveys and in providing advisory services, the secretariat was generously assisted by the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia.

Social development

149. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Regional Consultation on the International Year of the Child for Asia and the Pacific, Manila, November-December 1978

Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Women's Organizations in Rural Areas, Bangkok, August 1978

IPPF/ESCAP Regional Training Workshop on the Development of Youth Programmes in Responsible Parenthood, Manila, September 1978

Regional Training Workshop for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders on the Development of Rural Institutions for the Participation of Youth in National Development, Kathmandu, September-October 1978

150. The Regional Consultation, which was hosted by the Government of the Philippines, was held in pursuance of Commission resolution 187 (XXXN). During the Consultation, views and information were exchanged on country proposals for activities in observance of the International Year of the Child (IYC) and proposals made for national long-term programmes for the development and welfare of children. The Consultation identified major problems affecting the child population in the region and suggested a possible action programme to solve them, covering nutrition, health care, education, handicapped children, child abuse, impact of industrialization on children, geographical isolation of children in rural areas, young drug addicts and offenders and development needs of pre-school children. Some of the major recommendations of the Consultation were: (a) IYC should be not only a year of celebration but also a springboard for active advocacy and lobbying on behalf of children as well as for continuous effort and sustained development of programmes suited to the welfare and development of children in the respective countries; (b) there should be an over-all national policy for children involving the efforts of every sector of the community, including governmental and non-governmental agencies, principles, approaches, strategies and priorities for long-term programmes for the development of children during the 1980s; (c) ideas and information on the problems of child welfare/development and remedial measures should be shared regionally and internationally through a focal point, and ESCAP should become such a focal point; (d) ESCAP should serve as a clearing-house and data bank by collecting information and disseminating it to the respective countries in the region; (e) ESCAP should recommend, through the Economic and Social Council, that the General Assembly adopt a resolution to the effect that the third United Nations development decade should give high priority to social development, with special emphasis on the child, so that it can play an integral and vital role in achieving the goal of human progress and development; (f) ESCAP should include in its programme in 1980 a review and evaluation of IYC activities in the region during 1979 to provide a further basis for formulating a strategy for long-range programmes at the national and regional levels; (g) the United Nations and other appropriate international organizations should be requested to extend technical and financial assistance to countries, according to their priority needs, for basic services to children, and also for conducting studies, training of personnel, sharing of experiences, maintaining the tempo of IYC activities

and for publication/documentation of such activities; and (h) at meetings of United Nations bodies held in 1979 and 1980, matters relating to children should be included in the agenda as appropriate.

151. The Expert Group Meeting was attended by experts from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and the South Pacific, APCWD and the specialized agencies. Five country case studies were prepared to give the Meeting an experiential base on which consultations could be held to devise feasible and viable models for women's organizations in rural areas.

152. The IPPF/ESCAP Regional Training Workshop, which brought together participants from 10 countries and representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and related non-governmental bodies, was sponsored jointly with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and hosted by the Philippine Government. Its objectives were to promote the contribution of youth to the initiation, planning and implementation of responsible parenthood programmes and to formulate guidelines for joint pilot projects on responsible parenthood to be undertaken by youth at the country level. Arising out of the Workshop, country programme proposals were drawn up jointly by the governmental and non-governmental representatives of each of the 10 countries represented.

153. The Regional Training Workshop, hosted by the Government of Nepal, was held in collaboration with the Commission for Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD) and UNESCO. It was attended by 23 senior youth and social development officers representing six countries in the region. The participants studied and evaluated existing rural institutions for the participation of youth in national development and, through practical exercises and the sharing of country experiences, gained additional knowledge and skills in developing and implementing projects (e.g., agro-based industries, rural co-operatives and vocational training) and designing country programme proposals. It is anticipated that these proposals will be channelled to the proper authorities for subsequent implementation, with the technical and financial assistance of CCPD and ESCAP, as a follow-up of the Workshop.

154. The secretariat was represented at the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was discussed, as well as the proposal to hold the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, and also at the first session of the Preparatory Committee held at Vienna in June 1978 to plan for the proposed World Conference. At that meeting it was recommended that regional preparatory conferences should be held prior to 1980. The holding of the Regional Preparatory Conference for the ESCAP Region proposed for 1979 was approved at the second session of the Committee on Social Development. The Government

of India has offered host facilities for the Conference. After consultation with United Nations Headquarters and the Government of India, the dates proposed for the Conference are 29 October to 2 November 1979.

155. The secretariat continued its support of APCWD. It was represented at the APCWD Advisory Committee meetings held at Teheran in February and Fiji in July 1978. It also participated in a UNDP mission to identify and formulate project proposals which could be undertaken by APCWD. As a follow-up, UNDP has approved a preparatory project assistance request submitted by the secretariat for the appointment of a temporary consultant and a documentalist.

156. The following projects were approved by the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women during 1978 and are being implemented: (a) training of trainers of rural women leaders in income-generating and labour-saving activities/devices in Afghanistan and Nepal; (b) two country-based projects, also in the area of income-generating activities: (i) a Philippine project on a national women's co-operative programme for the field testing of economic enterprise-based co-operatives for Filipino women and (ii) a Sri Lankan project for development programmes for rural women; (c) an FAO/ESCAP technical co-operation project for the promotion and training of rural women in income raising group activities, through country case studies and country-based workshops. (Workshops have taken place in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Following the country workshops, a regional workshop will be held for the exchange of experience, evaluation and formulation of project proposals for the funding of women's income-raising activities. The Voluntary Fund will assist by providing initial financial outlay for that purpose within the framework of the project for nine countries.); (d) case studies on the impact of change on the social and economic position of women and research studies on the effects of modernization and development on the status and roles of rural women, and the printing of a resource book containing information on expertise, training courses and institutions, publications and techniques for programming related to concerns of women, compiled by APCWD.

157. At its session in March 1979, the Consultative Committee also approved the following projects for implementation during 1979/80: (a) technical assistance to planners for integrating the activities of women into national development plans in three selected countries; (b) subregional workshops for project identification and development, one in the Pacific region and another in the Asian region, both to be implemented by APCWD; (c) subregional workshops on social welfare strategies to enhance the role of rural women in socio-economic activities, to be implemented by SWDCAP; (d) promotion of group activities and training of women within

the FAO small fanners' development project; and (e) a workshop on women's participation in a dairy co-operatives development programme, to be implemented by ESCAP with the participation of village-level women involved in milk production.

158. Advisory services in social work and community development training were continued. These included a visit to India to assist in organizing a workshop on Indian creative literature for social work education, and the presentation in Thailand of a technical paper on guidelines for the development and use of materials for the training of para-professionals, at a national workshop on the topic sponsored jointly with SWDCAP. The adviser has also been extensively involved in the work of the mobile training scheme (MTS) and regular consultations have taken place between the adviser and the MTS team members on important substantive matters pertaining to the scheme.

159. The regional adviser on social welfare aspects of family planning, on request, has undertaken advisory missions to Bangladesh to attend a meeting on the UNFPA-assisted project on population education for out-of-school youth, and to Malaysia to assist UNDP in preparing a project proposal for a study tour on family planning and social welfare for women's voluntary organization leaders from Malaysia to Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, financed by UNFPA. He also acted as a resource person at the Regional Training Workshop on the Development of Youth Programmes in Responsible Parenthood and at an interregional technical meeting on social welfare aspects of family planning, organized by United Nations Headquarters, both held at SWDCAP headquarters at Manila.

160. MTS, operating in the land-locked and least developed among the developing countries, continued to assist in the training of trainers of national cadres in the fields of social welfare, community development, local self-government, youth welfare, women's development and other areas at the front-line and supervisory levels of activity. As part of its input, MTS provides fellowships to several deserving participants to undergo further training in specialized fields in established institutions outside their own countries.

161. Post-MTS follow-up activities covering two and a half months have been undertaken in Nepal on the orientation of trainers and supervisory personnel in social work methods and approaches. The Home and Panchayat Ministry, as the MTS counterpart agency, in collaboration with the Social Services National Coordination Council, has selected 29 participants to join the course. In co-operation with ESCAP, the first phase of the women's programme on the training of rural women leaders in income-generating activities and labour-saving devices has been launched. Follow-up activities are also planned for Afghanistan and Bangladesh. A two-member MTS team left for Bangladesh in February 1979 for six months of follow-up work.

162. Depending on the continuous availability of funds from the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and donor countries and foundations, the MTS services will be extended to other developing countries in the region, as recommended by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session. Papua New Guinea and Thailand, in principle, already have significant interest in availing themselves of the services of the scheme.

163. A study on the role of young women in the development process, especially in industries, was started in 1977. Four case studies were completed, in Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand. A synthesized report on those studies will be prepared and published during 1979. Its aim will be to identify and assess existing policies, statutes and other provisions relating to the welfare and development of young women in industries and their implementation with a view to providing some directions for strengthening the role of young women in social progress and development within the emerging social and political situations in the region. The report will be circulated to ESCAP member countries for information and policy guidance.

164. The regional inventory of governmental and non-governmental agencies working for youth in development in the ESCAP region published in 1976 is being updated for publication in 1979. The inventory provides information on addresses, objectives and activities of governmental and non-governmental agencies engaged in youth development in the region. Technical and advisory assistance was given to Governments and non-governmental youth organizations in planning, developing and implementing youth development programmes and policies.

165. The country case study in India on the extension of social welfare services and their delivery system into the rural areas was completed. Similar studies have been initiated in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Country case studies on the involvement of women's organizations in relating social welfare to family planning objectives and programmes have been commissioned in Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

166. Two issues of the *Social Work Education and Development Newsletter* were published during the year, on social justice and development and on social work education in rural areas with emphasis on children; a third, on training for social work, is being processed.

Statistics

167. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Seminar on Statistics for Rural Development, New Delhi, April 1978

Seminar on Statistics of Small-scale and Household Industries, Bangkok, July 1978

168. The Seminar on Statistics for Rural Development, hosted under TCDC principles by the Government of India, considered the various types of statistical data required for planning, implementing and monitoring rural development programmes; it also took stock of current data availability and discussed appropriate courses of action for building an adequate data base. The Seminar recommended the formulation of guidelines on statistics for integrated rural development for use in the countries of the region; the guidelines would draw on the discussions and the country papers presented at the Seminar. Other recommendations concerned the undertaking of case studies of data needs for different types of rural development projects, the convening of country or subregional seminars, and the provision of advisory and consultative services.

169. The Seminar on Statistics of Small-scale and Household Industries dealt with a large number of topics, including the delimitation of those industrial activities, the types of information that might be collected and possible methods of collection, and problems of integrating such data with those for large-scale industries. Participants felt that it was premature to attempt to suggest recommendations or guidelines on statistics in that field for regional or international use. The Seminar considered that, given the wide variety of circumstances prevailing within the region, each country should take its own decisions on certain definitional matters. It agreed, however, on the particular relevance of data on small-scale and household industrial activities for small-area planning, rural development, and employment creation and dispersal, as well as for national accounts. Further action is scheduled in the context of a regional statistical workshop, around 1980, which would be an element in the preparations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics.

170. During the past year the *Handbook on Cereal and Fertilizer Statistics for Asia and the Pacific, 1977* was published and the tenth issue of the *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, for 1977*, was prepared and released, despite some printing delays. The manuscripts of the *Handbook on Agricultural Statistics for Asia and the Pacific, 1978* and of the eleventh issue of the *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, for 1978*, were prepared. Five issues of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific*, five issues of the quarterly *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*, four issues of the Division's Statistical Newsletter and the fourteenth report on *Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region* were also prepared and printed. During the same period, annual issues of *Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, Series A*, vol. XIV, and *Series B*, vol. IX were also released and the manuscript of *Series A*, vol. XV was prepared.

171. The printed version of the *Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses* was distributed among countries of the region for the use of census authorities. The publication was

also drawn to the attention of universities and other teaching and research institutions, as it was believed that its widespread use in the next round of census would ensure the collection of internationally comparable data.

172. Advisory services were rendered in the fields of national accounts, civil registration and vital statistics, population and housing census, and population and demographic statistics. Over the past 12 months regional advisers visited Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, the New Hebrides, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Tuvalu.

173. The secretariat continued to work closely with SIAP on statistical training matters, the importance of which was again stressed by the Committee on Statistics at its third session. Assistance is being provided in organizing the UNFPA-funded Training Workshop for Census Co-ordinators, to be held at Manila from June to August 1979. The *Statistical Newsletter* and other channels were used to disseminate information on training facilities and programmes within and outside the ESCAP region.

174. The principles of TCDC have been applied in selected statistical activities over the past year, notably in the arrangements for the Seminar on Statistics for Rural Development held at New Delhi. A TCDC element will be included in the forthcoming Seminar on Statistical Organization to be held at Wellington in April 1979. The secretariat is actively promoting TCDC by, *inter alia*, encouraging countries to exchange statistical publications, especially those containing technical and methodological material.

175. During the period under review the secretariat undertook a number of other activities designed to respond to those of the Commission's resolutions carrying statistical implications. Of the various instrumentalities that need to be developed to provide the data required for the economic and social development strategy for the 1980s, the National Household Survey Capability Programme is among the most important. The secretariat is currently collaborating with the United Nations Statistical Office on the preparatory work for this Programme, which includes the arrangement of consultancy visits to six countries of the ESCAP region.

176. On integrated rural development, in addition to the New Delhi Seminar, ESCAP collaborated with SIAP in organizing a panel discussion on statistics for rural development. Approaches to secure funds for further developmental work in this field, including the preparation of guidelines and the provision of advisory services, were initiated. Activities in the field of population and housing censuses, particularly through the media of publications, advisory services and the promotion of training, have continued and will help to provide a sound statistical basis for the secretariat's work on the population problems of the region. With regard to Commission

resolution 188 (XXXIV), close links were maintained with the statistical services of the Pacific island countries as well as with SPC; a number of Pacific countries were represented at the meetings organized during the year, and availed themselves of the regional advisory services provided by the secretariat.

177. The secretariat's requirements for the compilation, tabulation and analysis of statistical data continued to be met on both regular and ad hoc basis. Significant intrasecretariat activities were undertaken in the fields of international trade, energy and environment statistics. At the global level, co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office was maintained on a very wide range of topics; similarly, close relations continued with the specialized agencies as well as with a number of organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

Transport and communications

178. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Railway Research Co-ordination Group,
Bangkok, June 1978

Intergovernmental Railway Group Meeting,
Bangkok, June 1978

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Methods of
Training Engineers and Technical Personnel
and Scientific Research in the field of Railway
Transport, Leningrad, Riga and Moscow, July-
August 1978

ESCAP /DSE/ AIT Seminar on Urban
Transport Planning, Bangkok, December 1978

Third Regional Course on Transportation
Project Planning and Analysis, Dacca,
January-February 1979

Seminar for Senior Officials in the Transport
Sector, Kathmandu, February 1979

179. The Intergovernmental Railway Group Meeting recommended the main strategies for the 1980s for railway development in the region, which included: (a) the drawing up of a master plan for the Asian railways (phase I); (b) the promotion of urban and sub-urban railway transport; (c) the transfer of new railway technology and training; (d) the sharing of railway research experience; and (e) the development of multimodal transport in rural areas and in and around big cities.

180. The Meeting also endorsed the report of the Railway Research Co-ordination Group. The Group considered studies undertaken at the railway research centres of India, Japan, the USSR and UIC and by the secretariat, and noted the salient features of railway research and technological advances made in several railways, including (a) urban and suburban railway transport in large cities of the region; (b) corporate planning for railway development; (c) measures to improve the transport of agricultural goods; (d) methods to reduce capital

investment on railway construction and modernization; (e) measures to reduce bridge construction costs; (f) use of new welding techniques for repairs to railway components; (g) new concepts in mechanization of track maintenance; (h) roadbed stabilization (embankment); (i) signalling and telecommunication systems for improvement of single-line capacity; and G) phased introduction of computer systems to railways of the ESCAP region and change-of-bogie technology, with particular reference to its operational and economic aspects.

181. The Group also considered the reports of the ESCAP Joint Roving Team of Railway Experts, which had visited Iran in 1976 and Sri Lanka in 1977 to assist the railway administrations in solving various problems. The Team's recommendations included the following: (a) co-ordination and synchronization of development planning in the Iranian State Railway; (b) optimum utilization of existing facilities; (c) establishment of a design and standards office; (d) development of container transport; (e) commercial transport co-ordination and traffic costing; and (f) an accelerated programme of railway electrification.

182. The Group reviewed the programme of work and priorities in the field of railways for 1978-1979 and formulated a programme in the field of railways for 1980-1981 which includes the following: (a) regional seminars and study tours on: (i) railway signalling and telecommunication and (ii) technical innovations for increase of speeds on existing lines and their applicability to developing countries; (b) feasibility studies on electrification of the Bangkok/Chiang Mai main line of the State Railway of Thailand; (c) studies on modern anti-corrosion technology to prolong the life of railway rolling stock and equipment; (c) studies on the introduction of the micro-computer for the management and operation of the railways of the region; and (e) renovation, reconstruction and extension of existing railway systems in growing urban areas of developing countries with the aim of improving urban and suburban commuter transportation.

183. The Seminar-cum-Study Tour was conducted in co-operation with the Government of the USSR, with the long-range objective of providing assistance to the railway administrations in the ESCAP region in formulating long-term policies, programmes and mechanisms for railway staff training and research.

184. The Seminar-cum-Study Tour discussed, *inter alia*, methods of training railway personnel; methods of conducting scientific research, particularly in identifying further areas of research activities, directed towards optimum utilization of existing railway assets; scientific and technical information systems in the field of railways; the current status of railway staff training, research and information in the ESCAP developing countries in order to determine ways and means of improving them; and improved utilization of the existing railway equipment, particularly locomotives and rolling stock,

by railway administrations of the ESCAP developing countries.

185. At the ESCAP/DSE/AIT Seminar on Urban Transport Planning, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany through its Foundation for International Development, the opinion was expressed that, although traffic congestion was broadly seen as the main urban transport problem in the region, the causes of congestion and the possible solutions that could be considered varied from one city to another. Much interest was shown in total and partial closure of roads, discouragement of non-area-related traffic, car pricing and management of parking facilities as measures to restrain the use of private vehicles. Strong emphasis was given to the need to promote public transport, and discussion ranged over a variety of operational, traffic management and transport engineering methods for improving public transport services. Consideration was also given to some aspects of new technology, such as the guided intermediate urban transport system being developed in the Federal Republic of Germany. From discussion on the role of paratransit modes (such as minibuses, taxis and motor-rickshaws), it was concluded that, although those modes were of considerable importance in many of the cities in the region, they made relatively inefficient use of road space and should therefore be phased out, except where they could act as feeders to the main public transport system. In discussing the general objectives of urban transport plans, the difficulty of predicting future conditions with certainty was recognized and it was urged that transport plans should evaluate a range of alternatives, should be flexible and should be integrated with urban planning as a whole.

186. The Third Regional Course on Transportation Project Planning and Analysis was organized jointly by the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and ESCAP. The lectures covered a wide range of topics beginning with identification of projects and then their appraisal, in the financial, economic, commercial, managerial and organizational aspects. The Course was attended by 23 mid06senior-level participants from six countries of the region, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand, and laid adequate emphasis on project implementation/management and on the importance of network analysis for the purpose. About ten case studies taken from real life situations in the region were also appraised and discussed during the Course.

187. The Seminar for Senior Officials in the Transport Sector, the first of its kind in the region, was organized by the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank with active support from ESCAP. The Seminar was found very useful in refreshing the knowledge of senior officials in the transportation sector on the terminology, concepts and techniques used in the planning, preparation and implementation of transport projects, covering all modes of transport. The Seminar was attended by

27 very senior-level officials from five countries of the region, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Technical assistance

188. In the field of highways and highway transport, assistance was rendered to the Government of Bangladesh on a road development programme, construction of two bridges on the Dacca-Khulna road and improvement of ferry services on the Asian Highway network. Assistance was given to the Government of Fiji in connexion with the development of transport within the Greater Suva area. Advisory services were also rendered to the Government of Singapore on (a) the introduction of common service ducts in the main streets of Singapore and (b) a study on problems of pavement failure. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, assistance was given in the improvement of ferry services between Nong Khai and Tanaleng, in the development of transport within the country and in the preparation of a study on transit transport from the country to a sea port.

189. In the field of railways and railway transport, assistance was given to the Government of Afghanistan in evaluating the report of SOFRERAIL (Societe' franfaise d 'etudes et de realisations ferroviaires) and discussions were held with the consultants and government officials concerned on the economical mechanical and civil engineering, signalling and telecommunication aspects of introducing a railway system into that country. Advisory services were also rendered to the Government of Sri Lanka on the assessment of the condition of long-span wrought iron and steel bridges of the railways, their reconditioning and replacement. A survey mission was fielded to the Lao People's Democratic Republic to undertake reconnaissance surveys for a feasibility study for the construction of a railway line to provide an alternate exit to the sea via Viet Nam. A multinational mission (ESCAP/Belgium/India/USSR/ World Bank) was fielded to Viet Nam to undertake feasibility studies for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and modernization of the Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh City railway trunk line in that country. The result of these two missions will form the nucleus of the extension of the Trans-Asian Railway Network towards the east and the centre of the Asian continent. Other continuing major studies and advisory services are (a) commuter services for Bangkok and (b) the drawing up of a master plan for the Asian railways with an extended scope to include intermodal aspects. Training equipment, visual aids and other devices were donated by the USSR to the Mongolian Railway Training Centre at the request of ESCAP.

190. The secretariat, in co-operation with urban transportation experts from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), undertook a preliminary study aimed at providing general guidelines and methodologies to be employed in the planning and operation of public transport in large cities of the ESCAP region. Common

problems were identified and appropriate possible solutions recommended. The secretariat has continued to collect, analyse and disseminate technical information on transport and communications through its biannual *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*. So far it has published 52 issues of the Bulletin.

191. Transport research is a vital requirement for all efforts to obtain maximum efficiency from existing or planned transport systems. The secretariat has taken steps to identify appropriate ways and means of promoting transport research activities within the ESCAP region at both the national and the regional levels.

192. In the field of facilitation of international traffic, advisory services were rendered to the Government of Thailand on compulsory third-party-risk insurance legislation for motor vehicles and on the establishment and functioning of a trade facilitation body at the national level. Jointly with UNCTAD/FALPRO (Special Programme on Trade Facilitation), studies of Thai export documents were made with a view to simplifying and standardizing them. UNCTAD/ALPRO would be preparing a simpler version of such documents for the consideration of the Thai Government authorities concerned.

193. ESCAP participated actively in the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Conference and provided a resource person to its Workshop held at Manila in May 1978. Advisory services, through correspondence, were also rendered to other countries in various facilitation matters, such as the establishment and functioning of national facilitation bodies and national motor insurers' bureaux.

194. To ensure optimum utilization and maintenance of the completed portions of the Asian Highway, which was also emphasized by the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific held at New Delhi in August 1978, a number of ancillary issues will have to be settled and standardized or harmonized, besides customs documents and frontier formalities. In this context, work relating to standardization and harmonization of frontier formalities and documentary procedures for smooth and faster movement of international traffic is being continuously undertaken by the Transport and Communications Division, in collaboration with the International Trade Division so far as trade facilitation is concerned.

195. In the field of air transport, the secretariat undertook a study on economic aspects of air cargo transport with special reference to the ESCAP region, identifying a number of major common problems to be discussed and put forward for consideration to the member countries, in close co-operation with ICAO.

196. In the field of telecommunication, the regional experts of the ESCAP/ITU Unit provided technical assistance to the member countries in a number of areas in connexion with the implementation of the Asian telecommunication network. Missions were undertaken

to Iran, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam to assist their administrations in identifying technical assistance needs, preparing project proposals etc. in various areas.

197. In the field of postal services, the secretariat maintained close liaison with UPU regional activities and with those of the Asian-Oceanic Postal Union. Although there has been no definite commitment, the secretariat will contribute further to these activities on request.

198. In an effort to assist member countries in achieving self-sustained growth of tourism on a subregional basis, the secretariat has undertaken a study on the formulation of basic concepts and guidelines for planning the development of tourism in the ASEAN region. The study attempts to analyse the main issues facing the tourism development of this particular subregional grouping, and is being carried out in close co-operation with WTO.

199. Relying heavily on extrabudgetary resources, technical assistance in all the different fields of transport and communication for rendering advisory services and making field surveys and feasibility studies has been carried out quite successfully. However, reliance on such resources has created uncertainty as to the future ability of the secretariat to comply with urgent requests from the ESCAP member countries made at the second session of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications. Efforts are being made to obtain an increase in regular budgetary resources in order to implement the programmes concerned.

Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

200. Much of the work undertaken since the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries is referred to in the sections of the present chapter dealing with particular sectors. Apart from such sectoral activity, the secretariat has continued, within existing resource constraints, to expand its capability, and range of work of a multisectoral character to promote and support ECDC and TCDC. A focal point has been established in the Office of the Executive Secretary for this purpose, and the secretariat has been involved in the following range of activities.

201. *United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, August-September 1978.* The secretariat participated in the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference in May 1978, the sixth meeting of the Interagency Task Force on TCDC and a preparatory workshop convened by APCWD, as well as the Conference itself. The subject was also considered extensively at the meeting of executive secretaries in July. Apart from contributions made on behalf of ESCAP, a joint paper

prepared by the five regional commissions was circulated to Governments at the Conference. During the Conference, the opportunity was taken to make preliminary arrangements for a Latin American mission to participate in a forum in one ESCAP country in 1979 for the purpose of identifying specific opportunities for TCDC. Immediately after the Conference the secretariat fielded a mission to ECLA headquarters to explore further possibilities for interregional co-operation.

202. *Regional Working Group of Senior Officials Concerned with TCDC in Developing Asian and Pacific Countries, Bangkok, December 1978.* Following the global Conference at Buenos Aires, the secretariat convened and serviced a regional working group of 18 developing ESCAP countries. In addition to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the joint paper of the regional commissions, two papers were prepared to assist the Group's consideration of the role of ESCAP in promoting and implementing TCDC. The Group made various recommendations, including the development of a regional information system to facilitate TCDC, increased ESCAP involvement in assisting in the identification of opportunities and formulation of projects, and the channelling of supplementary external finance for TCDC through ESCAP. Most Governments participated in the Group at their own expense, while some were assisted by the Governments of Australia and the United Kingdom.

203. *ESCAP handbooks to promote and facilitate TCDC.* The series was continued with the preparation of (a) a third edition of *Training Courses Available in Developing ESCAP Countries*, (b) a supplement to *Experts of Developing ESCAP Countries*, (c) a new directory covering inter-country institutional arrangements for TCDC and ECDC in the region, (d) a directory of national standards institutes and (e) four sectoral rosters-cum -directories of Asian and Pacific experts and institutions in the fields of solar energy, leather, machine tools and the industrial utilization of agro-wastes. Those sectoral publications, being compiled in co-operation with RCTT, have been planned as pilot volumes for a multisectoral series of volumes to be prepared in co-operation with appropriate specialized institutions. The publications produced so far have been financed by the Government of the Netherlands. Apart from the Commission's own publications, the secretariat co-operated with UNDP in the second edition of its *Directory of Services for TCDC*, and commenced consultations on linking the global and regional information systems more closely.

204. *Supplementary external assistance for TCDC activities.* Two events, financed largely by the participating developing countries themselves, were allocated supplementary assistance from the pool available for this purpose, to which the Government of the Netherlands contributed. These were (a) a management training seminar for port training personnel hosted by the Port of Singapore Authority and (b) an international seminar

on transfer of technology and information services in the leather and leather products industry to be hosted by the Central Leather Research Institute at Madras. Apart from these, the secretariat organized or participated in various sectoral activities aimed at formulating projects to manifest TCDC. These included the Second Regional Training Institute for Development of Staff of Population Resource Centres in Asia and the Pacific ("Bangkok II"), held at Bangkok in November 1978. In addition, discussions have commenced with multilateral sources of funds such as UNDP and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, as well as with some developed countries, to explore possibilities for expanded financial assistance.

205. *Monitoring and evaluation of progress in TCD and ECDC.* Documents reviewing relevant ESCAP activities and regional developments were also prepared for (a) the Working Party on Trade Expansion and Regional Economic Integration among Developing Countries held at Geneva in April 1978, (b) interagency consultations with UNCTAD on joint activities at Bangkok in May 1978, and at Geneva in July 1978, (c) the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978*, (d) the UNDP progress report on TCDC for the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session and (e) the Commission at its thirty-fifth session. In addition, work commenced on developing methods for the more systematic monitoring of ESCAP activities and regional developments pertaining to co-operation among developing countries.

Environment

206. The following meeting was held during the period under review:

ESCAP/UNEP Intergovernmental Meeting on
Environmental Protection Legislation,
Bangkok, July 1978

The Intergovernmental Meeting discussed the following subjects: (a) constitutional and legislative provisions; (b) institutional framework; (c) environmental impact analysis; (d) specific areas of environmental legislation; and (e) legal co-operation and environmental law education.

207. The Meeting noted that constitutional provisions on the protection of the environment were a desirable but not a necessary element for achieving environmental objectives in the countries of the region. It further considered that the formulation and enactment of environmental protection legislation should be supported by adequate machinery for implementation but that the precise form of institutional arrangement should be left to individual Governments. As to environmental impact analysis, the Meeting suggested that while that was a desirable and necessary element of development planning, consideration should be given to simplicity, flexibility and the costs involved in the preparation of impact statements. There was agreement in principle

on the need for public participation in environmental decision making. The unresolved issue was, however, the extent of public involvement, its point of entry into the process and the way in which public opinion could be channelled.

208. The Meeting endorsed the general guidelines for the formulation of environmental protection legislation in various areas but emphasized the need to pay special attention to three areas: forestry, land-use planning and marine pollution. The Meeting recommended that the secretariat should continue to collect and disseminate information on environmental protection legislation and its implementation at the national level. The need for compiling a roster of experts on the subject and for training lawyers on environmental matters was also stressed by the Meeting.

209. As a follow-up of the project, "Task Force on the Human Environment", the secretariat joined the team of experts of the UNEP Regional Office in launching a mission to Bangladesh to assist that country on environmental matters. The report of the mission has now been submitted to the Government for comments and action. 210. As a regional follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, the secretariat has been undertaking preparatory work for organizing a technical workshop on desertification. The Government of India has agreed to provide host facilities for the workshop at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute at Jodhpur. Preparations are also under way to organize a study tour in Australia to exchange information on the protection and management of arid and semi-arid lands and to provide assistance to selected developing countries of the region in monitoring the desertification process through the application of remote sensing. The secretariat has also been undertaking preparatory work to convene a South Pacific conference on the human environment jointly with SPC and SPEC and with the financial assistance of UNEP. It has been agreed, however, that the primary responsibility for this activity should lie with SPC and SPEC. The matter was discussed with the representatives of SPC and SPEC at a technical meeting held at Noumea, New Caledonia, in June 1978 and subsequently in March 1979.

Information systems and documentation services

211. The programme for information systems and documentation services is a relatively new activity, endorsed at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, which stressed the need for the operation of an efficient information system within the secretariat as the basis for the regional transfer of development information.

212. Ongoing regional functions of the secretariat, such as the provision of advisory services in data processing, were continued during 1978 and strengthened where appropriate. Concurrently, emphasis was given to the necessary technical preparations within the secretariat

for the improved collection, maintenance and retrieval of the main types of information pertinent to the economic development of member States.

213. With the object of strengthening information systems within Governments, proposals were submitted for the holding of four technical meetings in 1979. A request was also submitted for the appointment of a regional adviser on government information systems, on a non-reimbursable basis, in 1979. It is intended that the adviser would provide support for the broad range of information system planning needed in government. The objective of such planning is the closer co-ordination and better management of data needed for decision making in economic development. The adviser's services would supplement those of the present regional adviser on data preparation and processing of censuses and surveys, funded by UNFPA, who has visited 10 member States during the period under review, mainly to assist with the processing of the forthcoming round of population censuses.

214. The documentation services of the secretariat were subjected to further analysis during 1978, with a view to finalizing the design of a data file on which bibliographic descriptions could be entered for the main ESCAP documents. To test the provisional design, the descriptions of about 1,300 serials currently received by the library, and of about 1,000 symbol-bearing documents issued by ESCAP, were entered onto magnetic tape. As the design proved satisfactory for serials, a publication entitled ESCAP Register of Serials was issued in December 1978. Tests were being made of the proposed check list of symbol-bearing documents and related listings. It is probable that the experience gained from the tests will permit the issue of a publication on such ESCAP documents late in 1979.

215. Steps are being taken to strengthen the secretariat's information systems. Provision is being made for tying in the ESCAP bibliographic system to the globally-oriented United Nations Bibliographic Information System, through special links with the Dag Hammarskjöld library at Headquarters. The need for a computer installation with information retrieval capability in the secretariat is being appraised and a decision on the subject is expected to be made in 1979. Meanwhile, planning is reaching an advanced stage, and an expert who combines librarian with computer expertise is being provided by the Federal Republic of Germany to assist in the further development of the system.

216. As part of its function of collecting, maintaining and analysing information from member States in machine-readable form, the secretariat has continued to maintain a tape library of trade statistics and population data. The demand for machine retrievals of data has risen substantially, especially for analyses on regional economic subgroupings and on commodity trade. As a result of the decisions taken at the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the

Pacific in August 1978, it is now proposed to expand the collection of trade statistics. Under the plan, copies of magnetic tapes would be made available to member States for trade promotion and trade liberalization studies.

Integrated programme on rural development

217. The Committees on Industry, Natural Resources, Population, Social Development, Shipping, and Transport and Communications, and Statistics as well as the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific reviewed, *inter alia*, activities under the integrated programme on rural development pertaining to their sectors. In the process, the relative priorities and the main thrust of the activities were critically reviewed by Governments and the programme refined accordingly. Another contribution came from the deliberations of the Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which met at Bangkok in July 1978 and examined issues connected with the development, adaptation and diffusion of technologies to meet the requirements of rural development.

218. The ESCAP Interdivisional Task Force on Rural Development continued to perform its co-ordinating and monitoring role for the programme as a whole on a multisectoral basis. A major task undertaken was a mid-year review of progress in the implementation of the programme for 1978-1979 and the identification, again on a multisectoral basis, of priority themes on which activities in the programme for 1980-1981 should focus, taking note of the requirements indicated by national officers at a meeting convened by the Inter-agency Committee on Rural Development in January 1978.

Technical co-operation and related activities

219. The total value of the 1978 regional technical co-operation programmes administered by ESCAP surpassed that of 1977 by 44 per cent to reach a record level of \$US 15,810,478. This expansion of the volume of technical co-operation programmes reflects the growing importance of the operational activities of ESCAP on behalf of the countries of the region, which is made possible by the increased resources received by the secretariat from all sources, particularly extrabudgetary assistance.

220. In 1978, a total of 71 missions were undertaken on request by a corps of 12 regional advisers and experts to almost all the developing member countries of the region in the fields of national accounts, statistics, trade promotion, public administration, raw materials and commodities, shipping, integrated development and planning, population and family planning, social welfare and community development. In rendering technical and advisory services, particular attention was given to the needs of the least developed and island member

countries of the region and to the priority areas indicated by the Commission.

221. The United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific enlarged its programme of rendering services to the developing island countries of the region. The two team members were aided in this by an ESCAP staff member during the second half of the year, and an additional expert, an economist, took up his duties at Suva in November 1978.

222. Progress has been achieved during the past year in implementing General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, specifically with regard to the decentralization to the regional commissions of operational activities heretofore undertaken by United Nations Headquarters. Representatives of the regional commissions met in New York in September with representatives of the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and UNDP and finalized plans for the transfer of management responsibilities for several regional and subregional projects to ESCAP as from 1 January 1979.

223. At the same meeting agreement was also reached on the modalities for decentralization of activities which would provide a sound basis for the expanded transfer of responsibilities to the regional commissions in the future.

224. Again, as in previous years, the extrabudgetary assistance received by the secretariat from Governments of developed and developing members in the form of funds-in-trust and non-reimbursable loans has made a substantial contribution towards the implementation of the secretariat's programme of activities. In this connexion, the secretariat is particularly grateful to those countries which have initiated annual programming exercises to determine the level of their support to the Commission's activities on a year-to-year basis, thereby ensuring that funds will be available for certain activities of the Commission in a given year.
Transnational corporations

225. The activities of the Joint CTC/ESCAP Unit on Transnational Corporations in the research, information and technical co-operation fields were considerably expanded during the period under review, the first full year of the Unit's existence.

226. In the area of research, the Joint Unit published five working papers: (a) "Transnational corporations in export-oriented primary commodities: a general conceptual framework for case studies"; (b) "A comparative analysis of the agreements for the Bougainville Copper Project in Papua New Guinea and the Asahan Aluminium Project in Indonesia"; (c) "Case studies on selected aspects of transnational corporations in the rubber industry of developing ESCAP countries"; (d) "The rubber industry in Asia: TNCs and the distribution of gains";

and (e) "Transnational corporations in the consumer electronics industry of selected ESCAP countries".

227. The study on the ocean liner industry in India, Malaysia and Thailand is currently being revised and processed in the light of additional data that have become available. Consultations with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (CTC) are continuing, to determine the exact scope and timing of further detailed research studies on the role of TNCs in the banking and food and beverages sectors in Thailand. Preliminary drafts on these two studies were completed. Furthermore, draft reports were completed for the following studies: (a) TNCs in the banking sector in Malaysia; (b) the tropical hardwoods sector in Indonesia; (c) contracts between TNCs and the Government of Indonesia; (d) TNCs in the pineapple canning industry in Thailand and the Philippines; (e) TNCs in the food and beverages sector in Sri Lanka; and (t) TNCs in the rubber industry of Malaysia. Draft research manuals were completed for the study of financial centres (using Singapore as an example) and for the role of TNCs in the tourism sector. Under the joint ESCAP/APDAC project on strengthening the negotiating capacity of host Governments through improvements in the administrative machinery, draft country studies on India, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea have been completed and an expert group meeting was convened at Kuala Lumpur to discuss the studies. A revised draft of these studies will be completed in April 1979. Preparatory work commenced for a study on a statistical analysis of joint ventures and other forms of TNC involvement in India.

228. In connexion with the regional contribution to the development of a global comprehensive information system on TNCs, work continued (in close collaboration with CTC) on the collection and subsequent analysis and dissemination of information on national legislation, policy instruments affecting TNCs, contracts and agreements, corporate profiles and bibliographical information on TNCs.

229. Considerable effort was devoted to establishing and strengthening links with Governments, chambers of commerce, research institutions and private researchers. Bibliographical material available in the Joint Unit was catalogued in the form of reading lists and acquisition lists. Work has commenced on maintaining corporate profiles of TNCs operating in the region. In addition, in close co-operation with CTC, a survey of research on TNCs in progress in the ESCAP region is being conducted, using standardized questionnaires and computerized input forms.

230. Technical co-operation activities have become a dynamic component of the work programme. With a view to identifying the training needs of Governments in the developing ESCAP region with regard to negotiating with TNCs, two meetings of the High-level Consultative

Governments in Their Dealings with Transnational Corporations were organized jointly with CTC in 1978. The two meetings, the first of which was held at Kuala Lumpur in June and the second at Pattaya, Thailand, in September 1978, brought together senior government officials, in their personal capacities, from 10 developing member countries, who had had extensive negotiating or monitoring experience, to discuss problems commonly faced in host government dealings with TNCs.

231. The meetings produced a number of highly useful recommendations. The discussions on experiences in negotiating with and monitoring of TNCs led to an explicit recognition of the importance of training programmes to enhance host country negotiating capacity and to improve monitoring capabilities. On the basis of the recommendations of the two meetings, preparatory work began for the holding of training workshops and seminars for 1979-1980, together with CTC. Meanwhile, CTC and the Unit, in collaboration with FAO, organized a workshop on joint ventures in fisheries at Manila in January 1979, for the countries of the South China Sea area and the Pacific.

232. During the past year, the Unit also organized two public lectures on TNCs, one entitled "Foreign investments and ASEAN: problems and prospects", and the other, "Negotiating with transnational corporations: transfer of technology, transfer pricing and other issues". The Unit also assisted APDI in organizing a training seminar on ASEAN co-operation in foreign investment and transnational corporations.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Regional training and research institutions

233. The Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions held two sessions during the period under review. A special session was held at Bangkok in March 1978 specifically to consider the question of the legal instruments of the regional institutions. The second session was held in January 1979, also at Bangkok. At that session, the Council considered the work of the institutions during 1978 and the work programmes, budgets and manning tables of the institutions for 1979. It reviewed their financial position and the progress made with regard to the formulation of legal instruments. The Council also considered the recommendations of the ESCAP/UNDP Task Force on Programme Support for Regional Institutions, which had been constituted to examine the work programmes of the institutions and their future organizational structure. The Task Force met in November-December 1978 and its report was considered by the Governing Council at its session in January 1979.

234. Pursuant to Commission resolution 183 (XXXIV), the secretariat examined the question of the establishment

of an endowment fund for the regional institutions and brought to the attention of United Nations Headquarters the request for the provision of institutional support to the regional institutions out of the regular budget of the United Nations. As requested by the Commission in that resolution, the question of the possible restructuring of the existing regional institutions was examined by the Task Force.

Asian and Pacific Development Institute

235. The 1978 work programme of APDI was so designed as to ensure that the training, research and advisory services activities of the Institute would mutually reinforce each other in every programme area. The work programme also continued to reflect the relatively stronger orientation to subregional and country-level activities.

236. The Advisory Committee of the Institute held its fourth session in August 1978, at which it considered the work programme of the Institute for 1979.

237. There were 348 participants in the Institute's 14 training activities in 1978. A further 133 development scholars and practitioners attended the six consultative meetings held during the year. Six research programmes were undertaken by the Institute during 1978.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

238. The eighth general course was held from October 1977 to March 1978. The ninth commenced in October 1978. Thirty-one participants attended each of the courses.

239. The Institute also conducted two advanced seminars for senior statisticians, attended by 14 and 15 participants respectively. The first seminar was on population census processing and the second on statistics of the distributive trades.

240. SIAP also conducted five country courses during the year, in Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

241. The Advisory Committee of the Institute held its second session in September 1978 and reviewed the work programme of the Institute, especially in the light of the report of the Director on the discussions that had taken place during the mission he had undertaken to member countries.

Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre

242. During the year under review, APDAC conducted 23 seminars, consultative meetings, expert group meetings, workshops and training courses at the regional, subregional and country levels. The work programme of the Centre for 1978 continued to focus on the four broad programme areas of management development, public enterprise management,

management of agriculture and rural development and regulatory administration. As part of its preparations for seminars and expert group meetings, the Centre also carried out several country studies and comparative studies.

243. During the year, APDAC issued 17 publications on different subjects under the broad programme areas mentioned, mainly designed to serve as training material to be used by national training institutions. Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific

244. During the period under review, 11 training courses, workshops and seminars were held in 6 countries with 298 participants. Fourteen case studies were conducted in various Asian countries. A number of preliminary measures were taken to extend the services of the Centre to the Pacific island countries.

245. SWDCAP activities were geared towards the accomplishment of the following operational objectives of the Centre: (a) to assist Governments in undertaking and encouraging programmes that would demonstrate (i) the developmental role of social welfare and (ii) the role of social welfare in the development of human resources, particularly children, women and youth; and (b) to combat mass poverty, through the use of social welfare strategies.

246. To achieve these major objectives SWDCAP co-operated with a number of United Nations specialized agencies, and governmental and non-governmental voluntary organizations. The staff of the Centre attended 16 major meetings related to the field of social work. Their contributions to the reports of the meetings were published by the Centre. Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development

247. During the year under review, APCWD conducted four training programmes, seminars and workshops. As part of its work in the area of dissemination of information, the Centre published the APCWD Women's Resource Book, 1978 and developed a directory of experts in fields relevant to women as well as directories of model projects for women and of funding sources. The Centre also provided advisory services to Governments and women's organizations and undertook the preparation of several case studies.

248. The Advisory Committee of the Centre held its second session in July 1978 particularly to consider a specific work programme for the Pacific island countries and the project proposal for UNDP assistance for the integration of women in development.

Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

249. As stated in the report of the Commission on its

thirty-fourth session, in January 1978 the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam agreed to set up the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (Interim Mekong Committee).

250. The Interim Mekong Committee held three sessions during the year under review. The first session was held at Hanoi in February 1978, during which the Committee approved its work programme for 1978.

251. The second session was held at Bangkok during the thirty-fourth session of the Commission in March 1978. During the Commission session, the establishment of the Interim Mekong Committee was welcomed and representatives of numerous countries, including Australia, France, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and the USSR, as well as the representative of EEC, expressed support.

252. The third session was held at Vientiane in August-September 1978. At that session, the Committee approved the text of a request to UNDP for continued institutional support for a further period of three years beginning 1 January 1979, after the end of the current phase of support to the Mekong Committee (phase N).

253. The cumulative total of resources contributed or pledged to the Mekong Committee and the Interim Mekong Committee or to projects sponsored by those bodies as at 31 December 1978 amounted to the equivalent of some \$US 375 million. This was made up of about \$US 100 million, or 27 per cent, for pre-investment work and about \$US 275 million, or 73 per cent, for construction work. Approximately 40 per cent has been contributed or pledged by the Governments of the riparian countries themselves and some 60 per cent by co-operating countries, United Nations agencies and other organizations.

254. The fourth session, at Hanoi in January 1979, was a plenary session to which representatives of co-operating countries and agencies were invited. The principal items on the agenda were the 1978 report on the activities of the Committee and its secretariat, and the work programme for 1979, both of which were approved at the session. The programme of project activities now being planned for 1979 shows a considerable increase over that approved for 1978 and the proposals include both pre-investment work (planning, data collection, surveys, feasibility studies etc.) and investment work (for dams, port and ferry facilities, irrigation works, training centres, agricultural installations etc.).

255. The 1978 work programme, as approved by the Interim Mekong Committee, conformed to the general framework of the indicative basin plan. The programme was composed of 30 projects which, in turn, were sub-divided into 78 separate activities. These 30 projects, which were operational or partly operational in 1978, have been executed on behalf of the Committee by agencies of the participating Governments and co-operating

countries and organizations, by consulting firms, by the Committee's secretariat, or by combinations of some of these bodies working in collaboration.

256. Economic and social statistics continued to be collected for inclusion in the tenth issue of the Committee's *Annual Statistical Bulletin*. Under the Committee's hydrology programme, all the available hydrologic and meteorologic data for the lower Mekong basin are compiled, processed and published. Both volumes of the 1976 *Hydrologic Yearbook*, containing hydrologic and meteorologic data respectively, were published in 1978, and the 1977 volumes are expected to be ready in early 1979.

257. By the end of 1978, the hydrometeorologic network maintained by the Interim Mekong Committee and government agencies of the riparian countries consisted of 223 hydrologic stations and 255 meteorologic stations. Hydrologic and meteorologic data for all operational stations in the network in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand were collected as a matter of routine by the national agencies concerned and sent to the Mekong secretariat. The secretariat staff checked, scrutinized and processed the data. The operation of the network in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand was satisfactory throughout 1978. Hydrologic data from Viet Nam are expected to become available in 1979. Nam Ngum hydroelectric project

258. Construction work on the \$44 million 80 MW phase II extension of the Nam Ngum project in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was completed in November 1978, bringing the total generating capacity to 110 MW, and the sale of additional power to Thailand, using a newly constructed transmission line, was initiated at the same time. Further construction work was completed under the \$1.2 million project in the Vientiane plain for the permanent resettlement of families from the Nam Ngum reservoir area in the Pak Cheng co-operative. Pa Mong optimization and downstream effects study

259. This study was completed, and the report in final form, representing the culmination of 20 years of studies relating to the Pa Mong project, was published. Delta development

260. Preparatory work has been undertaken by the Committee for a comprehensive programme of agricultural production projects in the delta area, including six projects, totalling some 535,000 hectares, to provide flood protection, drainage and irrigation for the purpose of growing two crops of rice per year. Similarly, four fisheries projects in the delta have been studied, as well as a planned research programme at the research station at Long Dinh.

Tributary projects

261. There are many completed dams on tributaries in the lower Mekong basin and, under Committee auspices, investigations have been carried to the feasibility stage for various other tributary projects. In addition, reconnaissance studies have been made relating to the irrigation potential of the Nam Mae Ing/ Nam Mae Lao basin in Thailand, irrigation in the Upper Sre Pok basin in Viet Nam, and over-all development of the Upper Se San basin in Viet Nam for power and irrigation, as well as for six irrigation projects in the Mun and Chi basins of north-east Thailand.

Economic planning activities

262. During 1978 attention has again been focused on resettlement, including the study of resettlement alternatives of the Pa Mong project. Socio-economic surveys of the Nam Pong basin were carried out for the Committee by Khon Kaen University, while the final report on field-work on the socio-economic aspects of changes in land use at Lam Pao, following irrigation, was received and studied.

Navigation and transport

263. Under a programme of channel marking for safer navigation on the Mekong, 20 new beacons were installed between Vientiane and Luang Prabang, while to ensure that safe navigation is possible throughout the year between Vientiane and Savannakhet (where the traffic is expected to increase considerably), a project for clearing shoals and sand-bars by dredging at several places along the river has been prepared. Meanwhile, the Mekong secretariat has continued its basic work relating to surveying, charting, marking and dredging in the Mekong to improve navigation conditions, including assistance for hydrographic surveys, channel marking, bank protection and the construction of port and ferry landings.

Flood forecasting

264. The experimental flood forecasting operation was continued on a regular basis in 1978. Forecasts were issued for nine key stations in the upper and middle reaches of the Mekong, namely, Chiang Saen, Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Nong Khai, Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Savannakhet, Mukdahan and Pakse, and two stations in the delta, Tan Chau and Chau Doc. The forecasts were disseminated to the national agencies concerned at 1130 hours each working day. Since the magnitude of the floods was exceptional, the usefulness of the flood forecasting programme was widely recognized, and the Governments of the riparian countries were able to utilize the forecasts in taking precautionary measures and to prepare in advance for flood relief activities in the ensuing emergency situations.

Agriculture

265. All the agricultural planning studies carried out with Mekong Committee participation and sponsorship in the past have been evaluated. This evaluation has been the basis of suggestions for guiding future agricultural development throughout the basin. A draft report on this subject was submitted to the Interim Committee at its third session and approved for publication.

266. In the mean time, work has continued on the agricultural development programme sponsored by the Committee, which includes agricultural planning studies (the Vientiane Plain, north-east Thailand, the Vietnamese part of the delta etc.), experimentation and demonstration farms, pioneer agriculture projects and other irrigation projects.

Fishery development studies

267. Fish production capabilities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic were improved during 1978 as a result of (a) successful induced breeding of superior varieties of newly imported Asian carp and production of a large number of their young for use in fish culture operations, and training of Lao technicians in these techniques, (b) construction of ponds for a 50-ha pilot fish farm at Tha Ngone for production, experimentation and demonstration purposes and (c) initiation of the Nam Ngum fishery development project.

Environmental studies

268. The environmental impact study of the Nam Pong multipurpose project, which began in September 1976, was completed in January 1978. The study provided valuable reviews and an annotated bibliography of all available information relating to the Nam Pong project, and a "post audit" of the environmental, social and economic situation in the basin as it exists today, some 12 years after the completion of the dam.

Social development and public health

269. In the field of public health the Committee endeavours to provide advice and assistance to the Governments of the riparian countries on the organization of preventive and control programmes, in relation to Mekong water resources development. Malaria and other vector-borne diseases, schistosomiasis and other water-borne diseases, and malnutrition are the main items covered. Improvement of environmental health facilities in the basin is promoted through studies on existing services and advice is given on the best use of available resources for the phased development of water supplies, sewerage and drainage, refuse disposal facilities and rural sanitation. In 1978, attention has been restricted to some entomological observations in Thailand.

Interpretation of satellite imagery

21.0. A study on land-forms in north-east Thailand

based on the interpretation of satellite imagery with ground checking which was completed early in 1978 has thrown new light on the development of the drainage pattern and distribution of soil types in that part of the Mekong basin. In addition, during 1978 the secretariat continued its work on the interpretation of satellite imagery, focusing on applications to aspects of geological, geomorphological and hydrological mapping. Studies of forest degradation by comparing old serial photographs with recent satellite imagery were also pursued.

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

271. The fifteenth session of CCOP was held in Singapore in October-November 1978. During the period under review the following meetings were organized under the auspices of the Committee:

CCOP-IOC Workshop on Studies of East Asia Tectonics and Resources, Bandung, October 1978

Northwest Quadrant Panel of the Circum-Pacific Map Project (fourth meeting), Singapore, October 1978

Joint Working Group with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) on the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IDOE) Programme for Studies of East Asia Tectonics and Resources (SEATAR) (fourth session), Singapore, October 1978

272. With the assumption of office of the new project manager on 9 May 1978, the CCOP Project Office continued its programme of activities to encourage and assist national and regional projects through TCDC, bilateral and multilateral assistance and international agencies to carry out surveys, research, scientific studies and relevant activities for the developing member countries of CCOP. For 1978, the total value of contributions and assistance in cash and in kind for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee reached the equivalent of over \$US 3.3 million.

273. A tripartite review of the UNDP-assisted project on technical support for regional off-shore prospecting in east Asia was held in Singapore in October 1978 concurrently with the fifteenth session of CCOP. The meeting reviewed the work programme of the project and its scope of activities; the member countries were of the opinion that great benefit was derived from their involvement in CCOP activities and that CCOP had been a most effective mechanism for implementing national projects.

Field and advisory services

274. Advisory services were rendered to CCOP countries in several fields, including (a) continuation of assistance to Malaysia in conducting its Quaternary geology

programme, (b) assistance to the Philippines and the Republic of Korea in the assessment of hydrocarbon potential in pre-Tertiary basins, (c) assistance to the Republic of Korea in techniques for obtaining sonobuoy data and modified techniques for acquiring continuous seismic reflection data, and in the interpretation of sonobuoy data and seismic profiles, (d) advisory services to Indonesia and Malaysia on shallow marine geophysical techniques in off-shore tin exploration, (e) continued advisory services to Thailand regarding plans for the forthcoming tin exploration programme in the Andaman Sea and (f) continuation of heat-flow measurements in the Philippines and Thailand.

Surveys

275. Professionally trained persons from CCOP member countries participated in cruises of the RV *Thomas Washington* of the United States in east Asian waters and of the RV *Sonne* of the Federal Republic of Germany in Australian and Papua New Guinea waters. Equipment

276. The Project Office took delivery in December 1978 of seven items of marine geophysical and navigation equipment. Plans had been formulated for the equipment to be used for the first time on a detailed marine geophysical survey in the Andaman Sea off the south-west coast of Thailand. The survey would constitute the first stage of, and a major input into, a UNDP-supported project for the exploration for detrital tin off the south-west coast of Thailand.

277. With the acquisition of the equipment, the Project Office is now in a position significantly to increase its assistance to the member countries in their off-shore exploration programme and in the training of technical experts from the member countries in advanced offshore survey and interpretation procedures.

Training

278. The new training course on terrestrial heat flow, financed by the Government of Japan, was conducted in January-February 1978 and was attended by eight participants from the member countries of CCOP.

279. Five participants from member countries of CCOP who attended the second Circum-Pacific Energy and Mineral Resources Conference at Honolulu were financed by CCOP; two of them attended a workshop on basin analysis and three a workshop on satellite remote sensing. These workshops, as well as another on recognition and reduction of landslide hazards, were held concurrently with the Conference.

280. The 1978 annual group training course on off-shore prospecting financed by the Government of Japan was held from May to December 1978. Five participants from CCOP member countries attended the course. The

senior marine geologist/geophysicist of the Project Office gave a one-day course of lectures and practical sessions on shallow marine geophysical techniques in detrital minerals and construction materials search and in coastal engineering investigations to all of the participants in the course. He also conducted a workshop course on shallow marine geophysical techniques for 9 participants at the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources at Seoul and for 12 participants at the Mineral Technology Development Centre at Bandung, Indonesia. That course covered both field and interpretation procedures, with particular emphasis on seismic reflection profiling and sonobuoy techniques.

281. One participant was being trained at the Geological Survey of Japan, including a month of shipboard training on board RV Hakurei Marn. Two participants joined the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's RV Thomas Washington in October 1978. One participant joined the cruises of RV Sonne of the Federal Republic of Germany in November 1978. One participant attended the International Symposium on Water in Mining and the International Congress of Engineering Geology, both held in Spain in September 1978. Two participants who had studied marine geophysical and geological techniques in the United Kingdom underwent some additional on-the-job training for about a week on a drilling ship for tin prospecting in Indonesia; they were joined by three other participants. Fourteen participants attended the joint CCOP-IOC workshop on IDOE/SEATAR financed by the Project Office. A fellowship was awarded to a participant to study petroleum chemistry in France for six months.

Technical studies and publications

282. CCOP Newsletter, vol. 5, Nos. 1,2,3 and 4 have been printed and circulated.

283. The proceedings of the thirteenth session of CCOP, which was held at Kuala Lumpur in November-December 1976, and of the Seminar on Generation and Maturation of Hydrocarbons in Sedimentary Basins, which was held at Manila in September 1977, are being printed. The proceedings of the fourteenth session of CCOP, which was held at Manila in September-October 1977, are in the editing stage.

284. Proof copies of Technical Bulletin No. 12 were distributed at the fifteenth session of CCOP and the printed volume was distributed in January 1979. The proceedings of the Seminar on Data Collection, Storage and Retrieval, with Particular Reference to Hydrocarbon Exploration and Development, held at Jakarta in 1976, which were edited at the Institute of Geological Sciences of the United Kingdom as a contribution by that country to CCOP, have been received at the Project Office.

Co-operation with international organizations

285. Co-operation was maintained with IOC, particularly in the implementation and further expansion of the

IDOE programme on SEATAR. The second joint CCOP/IOC workshop formulated general recommendations for short-term studies until the end of WOE on 31 December 1980, as well as for long-term studies during the coming decade.

286. Co-operation continued with the Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources in such areas as arranging workshops, seminars and other training programmes in the CCOP region.

287. Co-operation has been expanded with the International Union of Geological Sciences and its affiliated, related or subsidiary organizations, including the Commission for the Geological Map of the World, in the compilation of a sea-floor geologic map on the scale 1:5 million, and the Committee on Storage, Automatic Processing and Retrieval of Geological Data, in the execution of the CCOP programme of petroleum data collection, storage and retrieval.

288. Co-operation has also been maintained with other international, regional and subregional organizations and scientific bodies, including UNEP, UNESCO, the United Nations Ocean Economics and Technology Office, the International Programme for Ocean Drilling, the East-West Resources Systems Institute of the East-West Center, Hawaii, the ASEAN Council on Petroleum and the three regional bodies concerned with mineral resources which are sponsored by ESCAP and supported by UNDP, i.e., CCOP/SOP AC, RMRDC and SEATRADC.

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas

289. The seventh session of CCOP/SOPAC was held at Wellington in October 1978.

290. A UNDP technical review mission visited the region in June and July to review the work accomplished to date and to make recommendations for future funding. The mission visited almost all the member countries of CCOP/SOPAC and discussed the needs of the region. The mission report contained a recommendation on the implementation of a long-term project in the region.

291. At that session, a proposal for a three-year UNDP project starting on 1 January 1979 and involving a UNDP contribution of \$2.5 million drafted on the basis of the recommendations of the mission was considered and agreement was reached among the member countries. The project document was signed by the member countries and subsequently approved by UNDP.

292. During the past year, the Technical Secretariat conducted a bathymetric and side-scan survey of the Cook Islands in search of possible off-shore sand deposits, with New Zealand assistance. A field programme in Tonga was carried out using the New Zealand side-scan sonar and project bottom-sampling equipment to search for precious red coral. A similar programme in

Samoa resulted in the discovery of precious coral in water depths of 250 to 350 metres. While the deposit is not considered economic in terms of size and colour, the find confirms that precious coral species exist in the South Pacific.

293. The reconnaissance survey programme, using the charter vessel RV *Machias*, started in mid-October 1978 and carried out sampling for manganese nodules on the Lau Ridge, the waters of Tonga and the Cook Islands, where conflicting results of nodule concentration and chemical composition have been reported. During the same cruise, sampling was carried out for precious corals in Tongan and Cook Island waters.

294. The same vessel was chartered for the new project from early January 1979 to carry out seismic surveys in Fiji, the Gilbert Islands, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

295. On-the-job training was provided to the national technical personnel on all the cruises. Japan provided such training to a Tongan national aboard its research vessel in January-February 1979.

296. It is planned to hold a symposium on the petroleum potential in island arcs, small ocean basins, submerged margins and related areas in September 1979.

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

297. The first session of the Governing Council of RMRDC, whose members were elected during the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, was held at Bandung in September 1978.

298. The Council adopted the rules of procedure for its meetings. It also adopted the draft Statute of the Centre which had been agreed upon by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Organizational Aspects of the ESCAP Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre held at Bangkok in August 1977, including subsequent amendments proposed in the light of experience in ESCAP and advice from United Nations Headquarters.

299. The Council was advised of the following pledges of cash contributions by the developing countries toward the Centre's operating costs:

Bangladesh	\$ 1,000 per year
India	\$2,000 per year
Indonesia	\$5,000 per year (in addition to host facilities)
Iran	\$ 1,500
Malaysia	\$ 5,000
Philippines	\$ 2,000
Thailand	\$4,000 in 1978 and contributions in subsequent years to be determined

300. Subsequently, the Republic of Korea made a contribution of \$ 7,500 for 1978.

301. Japan informed the Council that contributions totalling \$ 200,000 had been made, including the expenses of a funds-in-trust specialist in addition to provision of specialist services, and that further co-operation was possible.

302. At the session, in addition to cash contributions, India offered to place three specialists, and the Republic of Korea one specialist, at the disposal of the Centre. Both countries also offered to provide training for geoscientists from the region. Services at age-determination facilities were offered by India, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.

303. The Co-ordinator is formulating plans for inter-country airborne geophysical surveys, for increasing age-determination capacity on a subregional scale in order to provide services to countries of the region, for implementation of training programmes and for expansion of the scope of advisory services by increasing the number of specialists. Potential donors have been approached for these plans.

304. Since March 1978, the RMRDC specialists have carried out 16 technical advisory missions on geochemistry, hydrogeology and economic geology to nine member countries. At the end of 1978, the centre comprised the Co-ordinator provided by UNDP, a geochemist provided by Japan and a hydrogeologist provided by the Federal Republic of Germany. It is expected that the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan will provide an economic geologist and a geophysicist respectively very soon.

305. The agreement between ESCAP and Indonesia concerning the transfer of the Centre to Bandung was signed on 9 March 1979. Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre

306. The following sessions of the Board of Management of the Centre were held during the period under review: the first and second sessions, at Kuala Lumpur, in April and December 1978 respectively, and a special session at Ipoh in November-December 1978.

307. A new administrative arrangement was agreed upon by the member countries and the United Nations at the first session of the Board and there has been rapid evolution of the administrative structure. The project is now operating under its own Board of Management, with a Director and five other professional staff provided and funded by the three participating Governments, and the internationally recruited staff funded by UNDP acting as technical advisers. The ESCAP secretariat will continue to provide support on request, and it is envisaged that this association will continue, if needed, after the phasing-out of UNDP support, which is expected to end in 1981.

308. With regard to internationally recruited personnel, the chief technical adviser assumed his duties in July 1978 and the mineral processing adviser in June 1978. Advisers on exploration geology and mining engineering are being recruited.

309. At the third session of the Board, which was held at Ipoh in February-March 1979, the member countries agreed on the new project revision, involving a UNDP contribution of approximately \$ 1.25 million, and the document was signed by the parties concerned.

Typhoon Committee

310. The eleventh session of the Typhoon Committee was held at Bangkok in October 1978.

311. A tripartite review of the technical support to the Typhoon Committee was also held at Bangkok in October 1978. The review team was composed of representatives of members of the Committee, ESCAP, UNDP and WMO.

312. ESCAP and WMO, in co-operation with UNDRO and LRCS and with financial support from the Government of Japan for the hydrologist and technical secretary and from the United States for the services of the meteorologist, organized a review mission as requested by the Typhoon Committee at its tenth session.

313. The mission visited Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. It also visited China to exchange views and information on matters expected to be of common concern to other members of the Committee. In its report, the mission recommended draft long- and short-term plans of action for the Committee as well as suggestions concerning country programmes for the mitigation of typhoon damage, in accordance with its terms of reference.

314. An LRCS consultant reviewed disaster plans in Malaysia and the Philippines and prepared a comprehensive report which provided information and recommendations of considerable value for the improvement of disaster prevention and preparedness plans in the two countries.

315. At its eleventh session, the Committee endorsed the general lines of the long-term programme proposed by the review mission as a suitable framework for the Committee's future activities. In the hydrological component, the Committee agreed to undertake preparation of comprehensive plans for flood-loss prevention and management in pilot areas vulnerable to heavy flood damage, on the understanding that implementation of only selected aspects of the comprehensive plan would be considered. It also decided to give increased attention to non-structural techniques for the mitigation of flood damage.

316. The Committee agreed that there should be

continuing endeavours to meet requirements from its own resources and, in spite of the difficulties involved, it affirmed the view that there should be no diminution in the scope and volume of the activities carried out.

317. The Committee also requested the ESCAP secretariat to use its best endeavours to obtain additional support, in order to meet the Committee's objective of enlarging its activities, as set out in its short- and long-term programmes. For instance, reference was made to the possible value of a revolving fund through which countries could obtain urgently needed items of equipment. This could supplement the fund operating under the WMO Voluntary Assistance Programme.

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

318. The fifth session of the Panel was held at Lahore in February 1978.

319. The chief technical adviser of the Technical Support Unit was recruited and assumed his post in February 1978. A consultant on hydrology was also recruited for three months in 1978, as well as a telecommunication/electronics expert, who started work on 1 December 1978.

320. The consultant on hydrology assisted some of the members by reviewing flood forecasting systems and forecast procedures and recommending improvements therefor, as well as giving advice on the siting of telemetering equipment and conducting training sessions.

321. A training seminar on modern methods of flood forecasting was conducted for member countries of the Panel at Lahore in November-December 1978. A notable feature of the seminar was its TCDC component, through which the Pakistan Government provided not only host facilities but also return air tickets for two participants from each of the member countries of the Panel, while WMO, with financial assistance from UNDP and the Government of the Netherlands, made available the services of some lecturers and contributed towards the subsistence expenses of two participants from each country.

322. Funds made available by UNEP were used to procure two tide gauges for Burma in order to strengthen the network of gauges at critical locations for the purpose of collecting data on storm surges in the Bay of Bengal.

323. The sixth session of the Panel was held at Rangoon in February-March 1979, after which a tripartite review of the technical support to the Panel would be held.

Regional Centre for Technology Transfer

324. RCTT commenced its work immediately after its inauguration in July 1977. It lost no time in establishing its linkages with national institutions through the focal points designated by the participating countries, which

is vital for its leadership role in the region, and with the relevant United Nations agencies and institutions of excellence in fields of technology in various parts of the world, to enable it to gain entry into the international community. In deciding upon its immediate work programme, RCTT adopted the approach of identifying the needs of the participating countries and of formulating programmes to fulfil those needs. A mission of experts, including a consultant specifically recruited for the purpose and representatives of ESCAP, UNCTAD and UNIDO, visited Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan from January to March 1978. The mission made an assessment of the technology infrastructure existing in those countries, and worked out a series of measures that could be taken to strengthen them; after discussions with national authorities, the mission indicated the nature of supportive activities that the Centre should undertake. This was followed by a workshop held at Bangalore in April 1978, which identified the programme of work for the Centre. With financial support from UNIDO, arrangements have been finalized for the holding of three workshops on a subnetwork basis. Agreement has been reached with WIPO to hold a workshop at the Centre in 1979 on patents, licensing agreements and the acquisition of technology, and also with UNCTAD and COSTED (Committee on Science and Technology for Development of the International Council of Scientific Unions), on the organization of a special training course.

325. A roster of experts and technical institutions of excellence in the ESCAP region, relating to solar energy, leather, agro-industries and the utilization of agro-wastes and machine tools, is under preparation. In the field of technological information, the Centre has been active in various ways, including the issuance of periodical newsletters. The Centre has taken steps to assist some member countries in strengthening their national infrastructure for the transfer and development of technology. It fielded a special mission to Tonga at the request of the Government to advise on the development of indigenous technologies. The Counterpart Administrator and expert of the Centre have already visited Bangladesh, Burma, Fiji, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand to render advisory assistance as well as a specific programme support.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

326. The main thrust of the project is to lay special emphasis on bringing national and regional capabilities into common focus and strengthening them into a workable network system. The objective of the project is to assist small farmers in achieving a high level of agricultural productivity through the use of appropriate agricultural machinery and tools. This is to be brought about by strengthening the R and D capabilities of the national institutions, establishing a regional clearing house, supplying prototypes, designs and drawings, providing training facilities to selected experts,

organizing workshops and enhancing local manufacturing capabilities.

327. In addition to the activities of the Network which have been described earlier in the report, the following training programme was undertaken: (a) five trainees from Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand were granted fellowships for training at the Institute of Agricultural Machinery, Orniya, Japan, for two months (b) three trainees from Indonesia were awarded fellow-ships for training at Kubota Ltd., Osaka, Japan, for a month; (c) three fellow- from India were sent on a study tour-cum-training programme for a month in Japan, the Philippines and Thailand. (d) one trainee from the Philippines was awarded a fellowship for three months' training with respect to the testing and evaluation of large tractors at the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering in Bedford, United Kingdom; and (e) one trainee from Pakistan was awarded a fellow-ship for the design and development of machine tools for three months at IRRI, Los Bmos.

C. RELATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Subsidiary bodies

328. In planning and implementing activities in the food and agriculture sector, the secretariat has received close co-operation and assistance from various United Nations specialized agencies and other organizations, such as UNIDO and FAO. *Inter alia*, the second ESCAP/ FAO joint annual review was held at Bangkok to discuss the ESCAP programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, in the food, agriculture and rural development sectors in areas of common interest in order to ascertain the availability of FAO inputs into the programme and to avoid duplication of work. Meetings on local-level planning for rural development were held in co-operation with APDI.

329. In the area of development planning, several joint projects continued during the year, after being initiated during 1977. These included an important, action-oriented programme jointly organized and implemented by the Development Planning Division of the secretariat and the FAO Regional Office, designed to promote the organization and training of rural women in income-raising group activities: this project has elicited a great deal of national and local support in selected rural areas in several countries in the region; by the end of March 1979, country workshops will have been completed in all nine participating countries and a final, general meeting will be held in April. A joint project with UNEP is under way dealing with alternative development strategies and life-styles in the Asia and the Pacific region; a seminar for experts contributing studies for this project is scheduled for July 1979. Several projects dealing with various aspects of

development strategies for the 1980s are being carried out in co-operation with other agencies and organizations. Among these, close co-operation is maintained with the United Nations Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies in implementation of both quantitative and qualitative projects. Quantitative work dealing with strategies for the 1980s is under way in co-operation with research groups in three Japanese universities: Kyoto, Soka and Tokyo. These separate but interrelated exercises concern long-term perspectives for economic development in the region. Yet another project related to long-term economic and social change is being carried out together with the International Development Centre of Japan, and concerns historical processes of development, structural change and the evolution of social equity in several developing countries in the ESCAP region. Finally, co-operation between the ESCAP secretariat and APDAC has been maintained in the area of public administration; co-operation with APDI has continued in various aspects of development planning.

330. In the field of industry, housing and technology, the secretariat continued to maintain close co-operation and co-ordination with UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), FAO and UNESCO. During the period under review, an increasing role was played by WIPO and ADB in the secretariat's work in that field.

331. UNIDO has provided strong financial and technical support in the organization of workshop and other technical activities connected with RCTT. UNCTAD has also assisted the Centre in country missions, training and other relevant activities.

332. UNIDO and FAO have participated in the activities of RNAM and have contributed substantially to the meetings of its Technical Advisory Committee and Governing Body.

333. UNIDO has collaborated closely with the secretariat in the implementation of the decisions of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry held in 1977, in the form of financial and other assistance to ESCAP, provision of documentation for meetings as well as participation in other activities.

334. UNIDO, UNESCO and WIPO have participated actively in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) and have contributed financial assistance for the publication of newsletters for the Conference.

335. During the period under review, three meetings of the ESCAP Interagency Task Force for UNCSTD, and two meetings of the ESCAP Interagency Task Force on Human Settlements were held with a view to taking concerted action and avoiding duplication of effort on the same subject.

336. UNEP and UNHHSF provided financial assistance to ESCAP in connexion with the Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlements Technology held in July 1978 and for a survey of the possibilities for the establishment of a regional information system on human settlements.

337. A close working relationship was maintained with UNCHS and the exchange of information continued. In that connexion, material on review of human settlements conditions in the ESCAP region was prepared and forwarded to UNCHS as the ESCAP contribution to the documentation for the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements, to be held at Nairobi in April 1979.

338. The secretariat exchanged information at the technical level on the improvement of slums, squatter and rural settlements with the two United Nations Regional Housing Centres at Bandung and New Delhi.

339. The secretariat collaborated with WIPO in organizing the Seminar on Technological Information Contained in Patent Documents which was held at ESCAP in January 1979, and also contributed a technical paper.

340. ADB has participated actively in ESCAP meetings connected with regional/subregional co-operation in the field of industries. ADB has also been actively associated with the formulation of the terms of reference of ESCAP/ADB/SPEC industrial survey of the South Pacific. The Bank has generously agreed to contribute \$80,000 towards the cost of the survey.

341. In carrying out its various activities in the field of international trade, the secretariat continued to maintain close working relations with various United Nations bodies and international agencies such as UNCTAD, UNDP, UNCITRAL, FAO, GATT, ITC, EEC, SPC, SPEC, the ASEAN secretariat, the Commonwealth Secretariat and ICC as well as with the Japan External Trade Organization. It also had close contacts with existing commodity communities, namely, ANRPC, APCC, PC and the Southeast Asian Lumber Producers' Association.

342. In the field of natural resources, co-operation continued with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in which there was common interest, particularly with UNDP on programming, UNEP on environmental matters, UNIDO on technology transfer, UNESCO on solar energy and rural demonstration centres and FAO on biogas and biomass. In addition, close contact was maintained with other regional organizations with common interests, the International Electrotechnical Commission, the International Energy Agency of OECD, the International Solar Energy Society, ADB, SPC and the East-West Resource Systems Institute of the East-West Center, Hawaii. The special liaison with the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, on information dissemination also continued.

343. UNESCO-IOC provided funds for on-the-job training of a technician from a CCOP/SOPAC member country, while UNESCO provided funds to assist participation in the Third Working Group Meeting on Stratigraphic Correlation between Sedimentary Basins of the ESCAP Region. The secretariat also co-operated with the International Geological Correlation Programme, the Commission for the Geological Map of the World, the Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources and other international bodies in the area of mineral resources development.

344. Matters pertaining to follow-up action to the United Nations Water Conference required a continuing dialogue between and among the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, the other regional commissions and other members of the ACC Sub-Committee on Water Resources Development. Likewise, technical and administrative support to the Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones called for collaboration with WMO, UNDRR and LRCS. The establishment of the inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific provides a continuing mechanism for liaison with specialized agencies and other bodies at the regional level on water matters.

345. In the field of population, the secretariat was represented at major national or country programme-related meetings of ESCAP member countries, including the Conference on Comparative Fertility Transition in Asia (Tokyo, March-April 1978); the ASEAN Technical Meeting on Concepts, Measurement and Methodologies for the Study of Population Development Relationships (Jakarta, May 1978); the Workshop on the Philippine Population Programme (Manila, May 1978); national conferences on the Nepal fertility survey (Kathmandu, June 1978) and on the Sri Lanka fertility survey (Colombo, July 1978); the Workshop on Demographic Estimates of Thailand (Pattaya, Thailand, June 1978), the Fourth Congress of Southeast Asian librarians (Bangkok, June 1978); the Twentieth Convocation of the International Institute for Population Studies (Bombay, July 1978); the SIAP/APDI/UNICEF Consultative Meeting on the Statistical Basis for Social Development Planning (Penang, July-August 1978); the Fourth National Seminar on the Population of Thailand (Bangkok, August 1978); the Regional Specialist Group Meeting on the Integration of Population Content into Mass Communication Curricula (Kuala Lumpur, August 1978); the International Seminar on Population and Development, organized by the Asian Environmental Society (Colombo, December 1978); and the East-West Population Institute Workshop on the Analysis of World Fertility Survey Data (Honolulu, January 1979).

346. The secretariat continued to collaborate with the International Institute for Population Studies at Bombay, India. It helped to award United Nations fellowships to 11 candidates from members and associate members of ESCAP: three from Bangladesh, two

each from the Philippines and Samoa and one each from Bhutan, Indonesia, Iran and Nepal.

347. There was close co-operation between ESCAP and UNCTAD with regard to the activities of both secretariats relating to shipping and ports. In matters of maritime training, the ESCAP and IMCO secretariats were in close consultation, particularly in the provision of advisory services to the ESCAP countries. In the implementation of the project on economic statistics of shipping (L.2 scheme), ESCAP was in close consultation with the United Nations Statistical Office in New York and with UNCTAD. The secretariat maintained close co-operation on matters of shipping and ports with such subregional groupings as ASEAN and SPEC and with commodity organizations.

348. The secretariat also maintained close co-operation on matters of shipping with the Council of European and Japanese Shipowners' Associations, the national shippers' councils of Europe and ICC.

349. In the field of social development, the secretariat provided assistance in connexion with the following activities: (a) the Conference of Policy-making Youth Executives for Asia and the Pacific on the Youth Role in National Development, organized by the Government of Thailand, in September 1978; (b) the Asian Youth Council Regional Seminar on Youth and Co-operatives (Kuala Lumpur, June 1978) and its Seminar on the New International Economic Order (Kuala Lumpur, November 1978); (c) the ESCAP/UNV/OISCA (Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement -International) Fourth Asian Youth Forum for Community Development (Sabah, March 1978); (d) the Seminar/Workshop on the Role of Youth Organizations in Cities and Their Contributions to Social Development, organized by the National Youth Leadership Training Institute of the People's Association of Singapore jointly with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and hosted by Singapore (February 1979). The latter was attended by 25 senior youth officers from six countries in the region, who were able to exchange ideas and experiences on the role and contributions of youth organizations in the cities. They identified and analysed problems faced by those organizations and recommended new areas of activities through which they could contribute to social development as well as related approaches and strategies.

350. The secretariat is actively pursuing inter-country exchange field study and attachment programmes for youth workers and leaders in community and rural development projects actively involving youth. Under this arrangement, six Nepalese youth leaders completed a field study in the Philippines in November 1978. Preparatory work for a similar programme between Malaysia and Thailand was initiated in the latter part of 1978; the actual exchange programme will take place during February-April 1979. The programme is aimed at strengthening technical co-operation among the participating developing countries. The Governments concerned will be providing the technical assistance,

training facilities and financial inputs of the training within the respective countries, while ESCAP will provide funds for inter-country travel. The secretariat has submitted a similar programme proposal to the Republic of Korea National Commission for UNESCO, for its consideration in connexion with the hosting and implementation of the programme in the Republic of Korea.

351. The twelfth Interagency Meeting on Social Development was held in May 1978, hosted by the ESCAP secretariat. The major items discussed were the International Year of the Child, including preparations for the Regional Consultation on the International Year of the Child for Asia and the Pacific held at Manila in November-December 1978, activities for the integration of women in the development process and a review of youth policy and programmes in the region.

352. In the field of statistics, close liaison was maintained between the secretariat and the specialized agencies and other organizations. Representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO and WHO participated in statistical meetings organized by the secretariat, which was in turn represented in those of their meetings with statistical content. Discussions were held with UNEP on environment statistics. Contacts were initiated or strengthened with a number of organizations outside the common system, including SPC and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The secretariat's active collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office continued in almost all aspects of statistics, through attendance at meetings, preparation of technical papers and joint country missions. A particularly close working relationship was maintained on two major global programmes, the National Household Survey Capability Programme and the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

353. In the field of transport and communications, the secretariat has maintained very close working relations with UNIDO, on small-scale industry for indigenous tools and equipment; ILO, on labour-intensive road construction methods; FAO/World Food Programme, on voluntary labour projects for rural road construction; ICAO, on air transport development; ITU, on telecommunication development; UPU and the Asian-Oceanic Postal Union, on postal development; and WTO, on tourism development.

354. The secretariat provided back-stopping support and other necessary inputs to UNCTAD/FALPRO on its trade facilitation activities in the ESCAP region.

355. Close co-operation was maintained with UIC, the Research, Design and Standards Organisation of the Indian Railways and the Japan Railway Technical Service, on railway research matters, the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, OECD, the South East Asian Agency for Regional Transport and Communications Development and the Asian Institute

Technology, on promotion of transport research, the International Automobile Federation and International Touring Alliance, on simplification of border-crossing formalities, and the Japan Automobile Federation, on the promotion of motorized traffic along the Asian Highway.

356. The secretariat worked closely with IBRD in missions to strengthen technical assistance programmes on the development of transport facilities in the developing countries of the region.

357. Five meetings of the Interagency Committee on Rural Development for the ESCAP Region and 20 meetings of the Interagency Task Force on Integrated Rural Development were held during the year under review. The participating agencies and organizations, besides ESCAP, were APDI, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO.

358. The meetings of the Committee, which were attended by regional heads/representatives of the participating agencies/organizations located at Bangkok, were devoted in the main to an assessment of the proposals for action arising from the meeting with national liaison officers in January 1978, decisions with regard to mobilization of extrabudgetary resources for implementing the interagency co-ordinated plan of action, and policy guidance to and review of the work of the Task Force.

359. The meetings of the Task Force were devoted mainly to the following: (a) examination of the suggestions and recommendations for the further implementation of the programme made by the national liaison officers; (b) preparation of a pilot atoll development project for Maldives in pursuance of the report of the interagency integrated rural development mission to that country in February 1978; (c) study of the issues relating to agrarian reform and rural development, and local-level planning for integrated rural development; (d) examination of the UNDP country programmes to consider to what extent proposals made by the national liaison officers could be incorporated in the ongoing programmes, and liaison with UNDP resident representatives for that purpose; (e) preliminary consideration of an outline of an integrated area development project in the Philippines; (f) liaison with the work of the ACC Interagency Task Force on Rural Development at the global level; (g) exchange of programme information relating to rural development among the participating agencies; and (h) preparation of a tentative calendar of activities for 1979 under the interagency programme.

360. The following were among the major activities undertaken with interagency sponsorship during the period under review:

Country-specific activities

361. The secretariat collaborated with the UNDP/

FAO consultancy mission to assist the Government of Thailand in respect of the proposal for comprehensive rural development based on the Saraphi model, and also participated in the UNDP programming mission for the Mahaweli development project in Sri Lanka in October-November 1978.

Inter-country activities

362. A Regional Expert Group Meeting on Agrarian

Reform and Rural Development was held in May 1978, with FAO as the lead agency.

363. An Expert Consultative Meeting on Alternative Strategies for Development Focusing on Local-level Planning and Development was held in October-November 1978, with APDI as the lead agency.

364. An Expert Group Meeting on Local-level Planning for Integrated Rural Development was held in November 1978, with ESCAP as the lead agency.

Chapter III

THIRTY -FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

365. The thirty-fifth session of the Commission was held at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila, Philippines, from 5 to 16 March 1979.

366. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Cook Islands, Hong Kong, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Tuvalu.

367. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Belgium, Cuba, Gabon, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Israel, Norway and Spain attended. A representative of Switzerland attended under Council resolution 860 (XXXII). A representative of the Holy See also attended under Council decision 244 (LXIII).

368. The session was also attended by officials from United Nations Headquarters, representing the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, and by representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

369. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Food Council.

370. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Finance Corporation,

International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

371. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian Development Bank, Asian-Oceanic Postal Union, Asian Productivity Organization, Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, Commission of the European Communities, Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration, Pepper Community, South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, South Pacific Commission and World Tourism Organization.

372. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations in category I were present: International Alliance of Women -Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Organization of Employers, International Planned Parenthood Federation, League of Red Cross Societies, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Confederation of Labour, World Federation of Democratic Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations and World Veterans Federation, as also the following in category II: Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration, and in the roster: International Council on Correspondence Education.

373. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(XXXV)JINF .1.

374. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission at its 533rd meeting elected the Hon. Gerardo P. Sicat, Minister for Economic Planning (Philippines), as Chairman.

375. In view of the heavy agenda, it was proposed that the part of rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission providing for the election of two Vice-Chairmen be held in abeyance, and eleven Vice-Chairmen were elected, namely: the Hon. Raymond J. Groom (Australia), H.E. Mr. M.N. Huda (Bangladesh), H.E. Mr. Chen Hsin-jen (China), H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ramzan (Fiji), H.E. Mr. Setsu Shiga (Japan), H.E. Mr. Singkapo Sikhotchounamaly (Lao People's Democratic Republic), H.E.

Mr. Pengiran Othman bin Haji Pengiran Rauf (Malaysia), Mr. Buyantyn Dashtseren (Mongolia), H.E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan (Pakistan), the Hon. John Kaputin (Papua New Guinea) and Mr. Chandra Monerawela (Sri Lanka).

376. The Commission appointed a Committee of the Whole to consider agenda items 6 and 7. The Committee elected H.E. Mr. Prok Amranand (Thailand) as Chairman and Mr. M. Tahir Zamini (Afghanistan) and Mr. Chura Bahadur Hamal (Nepal) as Vice-Chairmen.

377. The Commission also appointed a Technical and Drafting Committee. That Committee elected H.E. Mr. A.M.A. Muhith (Bangladesh) as Chairman and Mr. Ryoji Onodera (Japan) and Mr. Douglas M. Jayasekera (Sri Lanka) as Vice-Chairmen.

378. The Chairman announced at the Commission's 540th meeting that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, he and the Vice-Chairmen, constituting the credentials committee, had examined the credentials of the delegations. The Vice-Chairmen from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and from Mongolia had expressed their reservations with regard to the qualifications of one representative. Furthermore, the Vice-Chairmen from China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia had expressed their reservations with regard to the qualifications of another representative. With those reservations recorded, the committee had found the credentials of all the representatives to be in order.

379. During the session one closed meeting of heads of delegations was held in order to discuss restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and the over-all resource position of ESCAP.

B. AGENDA

380. At its 533rd meeting the Commission unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening addresses
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda (E/ESCAP/L.24/ Rev.I, E/ESCAP/L.25 and Corr.I-3)
4. Policies, programmes and perspectives for the development of the ESCAP region
 - (a) *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978*. Biennial review and appraisal at the regional level of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/ESCAP/L.26 (English only), E/ESCAP/L.26/Add1 (French only))
 - (b) Regional development strategies for the 1980s: views of member Governments on emerging themes and issues (E/ESCAP/103)

5. Technical co-operation and mobilization of resources (E/ESCAP/108 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/109)

- (a) Technical co-operation among developing countries (E/ESCAP/105)
- (b) Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources (E/ESCAP/106 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/107 and Corr.1)

6. Progress, proposals and issues in various fields of activity of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/98, E/ESCAP/99, E/ESCAP/101 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/102 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/104, E/ESCAP/110-113, E/ESCAP/114 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/115-126, E/ESCAP/127 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/128 and Add.1-20, E/ESCAP/128/Add.21 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/128/Add.22, E/ESCAP/129, E/ESCAP/140; ESCAP/188 and Add.1, ESCAP/189)

- (a) Review of the implementation of the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979
- (b) Programme changes, 1979
- (c) Programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981

7. Progress reports on special regional projects and regional institutions

- (a) Regional projects (E/ESCAP/L.27-29; E/ESCAP/100, E/ESCAP/132-134)
- (b) Regional institutions (E/ESCAP/130 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, E/ESCAP/131)

8. Findings and recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/135)

9. Revision of the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/136 and Corr.1)

10. Other matters (E/ESCAP/137-139, E/ESCAP/141)

11. Adoption of the annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/ESCAP/L.30)

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

381. The session was declared open by the Hon. Raymond J. Groom, Minister for Housing and Construction, Government of Australia, acting as Chairman at the opening meeting. His Excellency Mr. Carlos P. Romulo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, delivered an address of welcome. The Executive Secretary read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address. The President and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Philippines, His

Excellency Mr. Ferdinand E. Marcos, delivered the inaugural address.

Address of welcome by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

382. Mr. Romulo welcomed all delegations and said that the current session, being held at the threshold of a new development decade, was of particular significance. First, it involved the evaluation of the contribution of ESCAP to the economic and social development of the Asian and Pacific countries during the preceding few years; second, it entailed the consolidation of the gains already made that would constitute the under-pinning of a new era of economic and social co-operation in the region. Those twin tasks would be undertaken at a time when even the traditional rules and principles of global economic relations were under severe strain. The economic crisis that had engulfed the global economy for nearly a decade had further deepened and its attendant political and social difficulties had, within recent weeks, contributed to national and regional upheavals.

383. At least half the developing ESCAP countries had achieved rapid economic growth during the preceding decade. Some of those economies, in fact, had recorded the most dynamic performance compared with the rest of the world, achieving growth rates exceeding 10 per cent. That outstanding performance had in some way provided the stimulus for partial recovery in the world economy and indicated avenues of international economic co-operation.

384. Despite great efforts, performance had fallen way below the national, regional and international growth targets of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. That was regrettable because in the ESCAP region a quantum of development, in terms of a little more food and other basic needs, assured relief to a large segment of more than half of humanity.

385. At such a crucial and perilous juncture of history in Asia, it was to be hoped that the thirty-fifth session would mark a significant step in the quest for equality of opportunity in access to and utilization of world resources. Its results would be the Commission's contribution to the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to be held shortly, at which there would be a concrete proposal for increased regional co-operation within the context of ECDC, an area of high priority on the regional agenda and in the continuing work of the United Nations.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

386. In his message, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that ESCAP was a far more representative organization, both in membership and geographic scope, than when it had first met in the Philippines

for its second session in 1947. It had increasingly become engaged in development projects designed to be of direct benefit to its member States. ESCAP also represented an essential link between global, regional, subregional and national development efforts.

387. The session was being held at a time when the Second United Nations Development Decade was drawing to a close and when the strategy for the third decade was being formulated. In preparation for the new strategy, the General Assembly, like ESCAP itself, had laid particular emphasis on promoting national and collective self-reliance in the developing countries and had attached special importance to the regional experience which the commissions could bring to bear in preparing the strategy. It had assigned them, among many other important responsibilities, the delicate task of giving due weight to the different levels of development and different development situations in their respective regions. In the framework of the new international economic order and in order to achieve its objectives, ESCAP would no doubt give full consideration to ways in which its capabilities might be strengthened towards those ends.

388. The need for an appropriate strengthening of ESCAP arose from increased responsibilities recently entrusted to the regional commissions as part of the process of restructuring the United Nations system. The relevant decisions of the General Assembly went beyond a reaffirmation of the important role of the commissions in operational activities for development. They lent substance to the recognition that the regional commissions were the main general economic and social centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions. They envisaged a more systematic utilization of regional contributions in central policy making and in the planning and programming processes of the Organization as a whole. Conversely, they looked to full use by the regional commissions of global recommendations from central United Nations intergovernmental bodies as the framework for policy making at the regional level. Finally, they provided for a strengthening of the commissions' responsibility of ensuring co-ordination at the regional level and promoting effective interregional co-operation.

389. The challenge facing Asia and the Pacific and every region of the world was to bring about a better distribution of global economic opportunity. It was only in that way that success could be achieved in building a better life in an interdependent and peaceful world.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

390. The Executive Secretary welcomed all delegations to the session and thanked the President of the Philippines for agreeing to deliver the inaugural address.

391. The Commission was being held at a time when the international community was preoccupied with

preparations to formulate a strategy for the third United Nations development decade, aimed at the early establishment of the new international economic order. At its previous session, the Commission had emphasized that the new development strategy should aim at accelerated economic growth with social justice, taking into account the heterogeneity of the developing countries and the special needs and problems of the least developed, developing land-locked and developing island countries. The current session provided a unique opportunity to identify those areas in which innovative, concrete and new patterns of subregional, regional and international action would be feasible and beneficial for the peoples of the Asian and Pacific region. International efforts needed to be matched by equivalent measures to effect the necessary structural adjustments in both the developed and the developing countries, and further to strengthen collective self-reliance in the developing countries.

392. The relevant decisions of the General Assembly had accorded due recognition to the regional commissions as the main general economic and social centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions. Co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level were necessary to promote more effective regional and interregional co-operation. The current session therefore provided a timely opportunity for the Commission to be further strengthened to enable it to carry out effectively the increased responsibilities assigned to it to promote the well-being of the peoples of the region.

Inaugural address by the President and Prime Minister of the Philippines

393. President Marcos expressed the gratification of the Government and people of the Philippines in hosting the session since his country had been deeply involved in the development programmes of the United Nations from the Organization's inception. The Commission was meeting against a backdrop of political and economic crises. Yet the prosperity sought for the peoples of the region could not be had without peace. Asia had known too many wars. A larger war remained to be fought on the economic and social front and it was to be hoped that conflicts in the region could be settled amicably and quickly.

394. For over three decades ESCAP had provided a stable forum for important consultation on matters of regional concern. Its effectiveness derived from the willingness of its members to co-operate on collective projects, without which it could have no separate identity. It had initiated the establishment of ADB, which was serving the capital needs of developing countries. It had assisted regional institutions engaged in training, research and development activities. It had been instrumental in the co-ordinative planning of extensive transport and communication links across "

the region. The Trade Promotion Centre could help to improve the trading expertise of its members. Technical co-operation among developing countries could be implemented more extensively as a means to achieve greater collective self-reliance, and the extension of its advisory services could assist in development planning in agriculture, industry and the social sector. Success was hoped for in programmes such as weather moderation and off-shore oil prospecting. However, much more remained to be done. Training institutions had to be rationalized.

395. It was important for the Commission to take stock of its capabilities, and of any short-comings, in line with prevailing and changing realities. The energy crisis had remained for several years and although the balance of economic forces had been changing, the crisis was as real and potentially as difficult as in 1973. Recent events showed the vital interdependence among nations, especially in energy resources, and the important roles played by those countries endowed with that basic wealth. The Philippines was bracing itself for a larger number of economic measures to adjust to difficult realities, measures concerned not only with price adjustment for basic commodities dependent on energy products but with compensating adjustments to bring relief to the general public, labour and industry alike.

396. While it was recognized that the great issues of international development could be resolved in specialized bodies designed for that purpose, it was perhaps useful to mention those issues, which centred in the area of international trade, where immediate resolutions could be adopted, so that progress could be made towards a new international economic order. The developed countries should realize that in encouraging trade, developing countries could achieve greater self-reliance and dignity in their own development. The other area of interest in developing nations was the common fund. It was hoped that negotiations in that area would yield positive results so that at its fifth session the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development might solve the other numerous problems of international co-operation on its agenda.

397. In Asia and the Pacific, the conquest of mass poverty, ignorance and malnutrition made up the order of priorities in redressing the accumulated ills of thousands of years of under-development. Poverty and social injustice had made themselves so obvious that they could not be ignored. The task of ESCAP was therefore to compare strategies, learn from other's experience and develop common regional goals, institutions and programmes. Because of its vast geographical character, it was essential that subregional arrangements and programmes succeed first. ASEAN had developed into a well-knit grouping. With a strong ASEAN, the regional objectives of ESCAP could be furthered.

Policies, programmes and perspectives for the development of the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

398. In his policy statement introducing this item, the Executive Secretary said that the experience of the 1970s must provide the basis for the formulation of strategies for the coming decade. The fluctuations in the international economy during the 1970s had revealed the vulnerability of the ESCAP region to external market forces. The developing countries of the region had adjusted quite well to those circumstances and some of their economies had grown at rates which had been among the highest in the world in recent years. However, the unfavourable influences had continued to pose major problems of short-term economic management which had diverted attention from longer-term issues of development.

399. The early implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities was of special significance to the ESCAP region. In addition to greater co-operation among producer countries, international efforts were required to prevent the deterioration in the terms of trade of primary commodities from hampering development efforts. The export of manufactures from the developing ESCAP countries must also be expanded and diversified.

400. Those objectives required, in addition to domestic efforts to improve the competitiveness of exports, the extension and diversification of trade within the developing ESCAP region, the dismantling of trade barriers in the developed countries and major reform in the international institutional framework to give developing countries a more effective and equitable voice in international decision making.

401. A co-ordinated and enhanced programme of international resource transfer on more liberal terms was required for improved growth performance, particularly in the region's developing land-locked and island countries. Debt relief and donor commitments over extended periods were also required. Private international transfers of finance, technological and managerial skills, almost entirely through transnational corporations (TNCs), had assumed an important role, and developing host countries needed to improve their negotiating capacity to ensure that TNCs contributed to the realization of national socio-economic objectives.

402. During the 1980s greater attention would have to be paid to the environment, and development patterns based on renewable rather than non-renewable resources. Developing countries would also need equitable access to the non-renewable resources of the oceans.

403. The Commission, at its previous session, had affirmed the need for the early establishment of the new international economic order and noted the complementary nature of the external and internal dimensions in achieving that objective.

404. Measures would also need to be taken within developing countries to eradicate poverty and to promote fuller participation in development efforts. Greater attention needed to be paid to overcoming food deficiencies as the key to orienting development policy towards satisfying basic needs and to enabling the rural people to obtain an increased share of the fruits of development. The realignment of rural institutions, the decentralization of industry and the fuller and more integrated utilization of all available human and material resources were essential aspects of the strategy.

405. The new international development strategy would need to take account of the varied circumstances and needs of individual countries and avoid the lack of flexibility of the strategy for the 1970s. It should also contain clearly defined benefits for all participants. The developing countries should co-operate to achieve collective self-reliance to promote their social and economic development. Peace and stability were essential for the successful implementation of the new strategy.

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978: Biennial review and appraisal at the regional level of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade

406. The Commission considered the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978 (E/ESCAP/ L.26), containing four sections: (i) "An overview of the 1970s", (ii) "Growth performance and structural change", (iii) "Social development performance" and (iv) "Towards a new international development strategy". In order to provide a more appropriate perspective, the 1978 Survey/biennial review had departed from the format of previous such reviews by attempting to obtain an overview of the decade of the 1970s thus far and, wherever practicable, to relate performance in that period to that of the preceding decade. The Commission commended the secretariat for its work in the preparation of the document and took note of the appraisal of regional development performance.

407. The Commission commented with concern on the destabilizing movements in the world economy during the Second United Nations Development Decade, in particular the continuation and in some cases even intensification of protectionist measures, particularly non-tariff barriers, by some developed countries. There had been abrupt and large movements in raw materials and commodity prices; a rapid and multiple increase in the price of oil products; a pervasive slowing down in the rate of growth and a rise in the level of unemployment in the developed industrial economies; widespread and persistent inflation in the developed and developing economies; a serious slowing down in the rate of increase in world trade, with the volume of trade in one year actually declining; and a serious increase in the level of protection in the developed industrial economies. The impact of those disturbances on the development performance of the developing countries of the ESCAP region was in all cases to impede their rate of growth.

408. The Commission noted, however, the strongly divergent growth performances among the developing countries of the region. One group of countries in east and south-east Asia had succeeded in achieving the aggregate growth target of the Second United Nations Development Decade. In another group of countries, however, comprising primarily the low-income countries of the region in which the majority of the poor of the world resided, the growth in per capita income was negligible. The special problems of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries also gave continued cause for concern. In the region's socialist developing economies, development performance was satisfactory, except where political disturbances occurred.

409. One dominant factor which also affected the problems of most of the region's developing economies was the cyclical fluctuations in agricultural output. Where bad harvests coincided with the adverse effects of developments in the international community, the situation of the lower-income developing countries was particularly adversely affected. Poor harvests affected industrial performance by reducing aggregate demand and the supply of raw materials for processing; they aggravated the balance-of-payments situation by requiring increased food imports; and they adversely affected the situation of the poor by reducing employment opportunities and the supply of food.

410. The Commission noted that manufacturing performance had varied among the region's developing countries. Generally, those countries whose manufacturing sectors were most dependent on exports and that were able to sustain their export performance and levels of domestic aggregate demand were able to maintain satisfactory rates of manufacturing output. Other countries, in which manufacturing output was more dependent on the domestic level of aggregate demand and upon the supply of raw materials from their agricultural sectors, found difficulty in achieving satisfactory performance because of the low level of internal demand, frequent harvest failures and their inability to expand exports to the increasingly protected markets of developed industrial countries.

411. The trade position of the developing countries of the region had been adversely affected by the slowdown in growth in the world economy and in most instances their terms of trade had moved adversely in the middle and latter part of the decade, owing to the inflation induced rise in the price of industrial goods and the often steep decline in the price of raw materials. Some countries had been able to maintain their export performance by increasing productivity, by controlling inflation and by diversifying markets and products. The export performance of virtually all countries, however, and particularly of the low-income economies, had been seriously affected by the general increase in the incidence of protectionism in developed markets.

412. The balance-of-payments situation of ESCAP developing countries had been affected by a combination of factors, including insufficient capital flows and inability to increase exports. The inadequate performance of those countries in the agricultural sector had also contributed to their balance-of-payments problems. Generally, the high- and middle-income developing economies of the region had been able to obtain satisfactory access to commercial capital markets and to maintain export receipts. The lower-income countries had been seriously affected by their inability to obtain adequate access to commercial capital markets, by inadequate flows of foreign assistance and often by the coincidence of poor harvests owing to weather conditions. The Commission expressed its grave concern about the balance-of-payments and foreign debt situation and the general impact of adverse international developments upon their economies.

413. In its review of the 1970s, the Commission was disturbed by the continuing large number of people in the region living in absolute poverty and experiencing massive unemployment and underemployment. From that viewpoint, it appeared that the Second United Nations Development Decade had not helped. It was therefore evident that new efforts would be required if the relative and absolute incidence of widespread poverty was to be successfully reduced in the forthcoming development decade.

414. While acknowledging the impact on development performance of the situation in the international economy, the Commission was of the opinion that the failure to attain many of the objectives set for social and economic development at both the international and the national levels was due to a lack of political will and commitment to the Strategy.

415. It noted with satisfaction, however, a changing perception of development on the part of the developing countries. Internationally, that had manifested itself in the emergence of the concept of the new international economic order and, domestically, in the concern expressed by member Governments about the condition of poverty. The Commission was pleased to note that there were provisions in development plans indicating that increased attempts were being made to raise the productivity of the lower-income groups and to formulate policies to grapple directly with the problems of the poor by enhancing their ability to help themselves. It was pointed out that greater emphasis should be given to the social component of development if balanced economic and social development was to be achieved.

416. Finally, the Commission recognized the importance of the growing interdependence of the international economy. Fears were expressed about unfavourable international economic developments, such as the virtually ubiquitous spread of inflationary movements during the 1970s, the emerging threat of protectionism, deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries,

the crisis in the international monetary system and the instability in the world market economy: all gave strong implicit recognition to an important and increasing interdependence among the economies of the world, both developing and developed. That expanding interdependence required greater international co-operation among and between the developed and developing economies on the basis of equity in relationships and mutual respect.

Regional development strategies for the 1980s: views of member Governments on emerging themes and issues

417. The secretariat was requested, in its work on the regional contribution to the new international development strategy, to base itself on Commission resolution 180 (XXXIV), General Assembly resolution 33/193 and Commission resolution 199 (XXXV) on regional inputs into the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade, which was unanimously adopted during the current session of the Commission. In that connexion, the secretariat should work within the framework and broad principles of the new international economic order as agreed in the resolutions of the sixth special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

418. The Commission reaffirmed that the future aspirations of the world community could be realized only within the framework of the new international economic order. The events of the 1970s had clearly demonstrated that the existing international economic system was no longer capable of meeting the demands of rapidly changing circumstances, much less the needs and aspirations of the developing countries.

419. There was general agreement that care should be taken to rectify the major deficiencies of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Particular mention was made of the need to ensure that the development strategy for the 1980s remained flexible enough not only to cope with unforeseen or unexpected events and disturbances but also to cater for the heterogeneity of individual countries. However, one delegation cautioned that such flexibility could lead to a weakening of the commitment to the strategy, particularly in the case of the developed countries. Some delegations felt that adequate priority should be given to the setting of realistic targets and to the monitoring of performance.

420. The Commission expressed general concern about the continued instability in the international market economy, which remained characterized by high levels of unemployment, pervasive inflation, modest rates of economic growth in output and trade, deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries, turmoil in the international monetary sphere and instability in the prices of raw materials and primary commodities. Many of those features had a sharp impact on the countries which were not able to counter their effects. From

the viewpoint of ESCAP developing countries, steady growth in the world economy was of paramount importance. For a variety of reasons, it had become clear that such growth would require international co-operation in economic management to guide and control international capital flows; to effect more rapid and stabilizing adjustments to the balance-of-payments positions of deficit and surplus countries alike; and to provide for measures which would ensure tolerably full employment levels of aggregate demand in the international community. Those developments would bring about more stable price levels of industrial products, raw materials and primary commodities prices, including the prices of oil products. The Commission considered it essential that the interests and viewpoints of developing countries should be fully represented in the new organizational and institutional arrangements which would emerge in connexion with global financial and trade arrangements.

421. The Commission emphasized that the current instability in commodity trade was having adverse effects on the economies of developing countries, particularly those which were exporters of primary products. It viewed the launching of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the establishment of the common fund as instrumental in the solution of commodity problems. The plight of ESCAP developing countries would be much alleviated if the aims of the fourth session of UNCTAD were realized. It was hoped that the fifth session would succeed in preparing more action-oriented programmes which would accelerate the process of establishing the new international economic order. It was also felt that the current negotiations on the common fund, as well as on the long-standing Tokyo Round of trade negotiations, should be concluded expeditiously so as to establish common ground between developing and developed countries in advance of the fifth session of UNCTAD.

422. The Commission expressed concern about the progress of the current multilateral trade negotiations. It deprecated the proposal to introduce a code of practice which would allow countries to impose safeguard measures against imports on a selective basis. In the view of some delegations, any such breach of the most-favoured-nation principle could lead only to further unreasonable restrictions on trade; and even more ominous was the possible reinforcement of existing, already restrictive agreements that some developing members and associate members of the region had been forced to conclude to limit exports of textiles and clothing. For developed countries more or less unilaterally to make such agreements even more restrictive would be entirely contrary to the spirit of negotiations designed to liberalize world trade.

423. The emergence of protectionism among the developed market economies drew expressions of anxiety and condemnation from a large number of delegations from developing countries in the region and from some developed-economy representatives as well. Excessive

protection, whether in the form of tariff or non-tariff barriers, which seriously limited the access of developing countries' exports, especially but not exclusively of manufactured goods, to the market of the developed economies presented an increasing obstacle to the development efforts of many developing countries. It was repeatedly pointed out that protectionist measures were ultimately self-defeating. By reducing their foreign exchange earnings, protectionism reduced the capacity of developing countries to import the requisites for development from the industrial countries, compounding the effects of retardation of growth in developed economies; by reducing the volume of world trade, actual and potential, those combined effects would make more difficult the achievement of a dynamic recovery of the market economies from the persistent stagflation which had continued with little respite since the recession of the mid-1970s. Considered from the perspective of the needed restructuring of industrial economies, protectionism was seen as a measure which merely postponed the much-needed basic reforms.

424. The Commission expressed deep concern over the inadequate level of real resource transfers from the developed to the developing countries. It was unfortunate, but true, that the ESCAP developing countries had had to face the problems of diminished export earnings because of protectionism in the trade policies of the developed countries, and that had been compounded by inadequate real resource transfers.

425. The motives for real resource transfers to ESCAP developing countries should be more than merely altruistic. There was increasing recognition of the fact that the greater transfer of resources to the developing countries to achieve their national objectives could provide a major and important stimulus to the economies of the developed countries. Several countries also pointed out that such assistance, in order to be more consonant with national economic objectives, should not be tied to specific economic and political conditions, and sources of supply, should be on easier terms, and should be on a continuous and sustained basis.

426. The Commission viewed with alarm the growing outflows on account of servicing foreign debt, which had become a major burden on many developing countries and on most low-income developing countries, and had cut sharply into funds which would otherwise have been available for their development efforts. Some developed countries had taken the lead in canceling obligations due to them on account of official development assistance to developing countries, or in extending in principle new untied grant aid equivalent to annual debt service payments in the case of the least developed countries, and a part of annual interest payments in the case of the most seriously affected countries. The Commission hoped that those laudable initiatives would be the forerunners of action by all developed donor countries, and that the benefits thereof would be available to all low-income countries.

421. The strategies for the 1980s would also need to consider the problems and the practices inherent in the flow of private foreign capital through transnational corporations. In those developing countries in which economic policy designated a role to private foreign capital, there would be an increasing need to monitor and regulate the activities of transnational corporations to ensure that their operations were subordinate to the development objectives of the host countries.

428. The Commission strongly supported the concept of collective self-reliance among developing countries, especially as it related to matters concerning trade and technical co-operation.

429. Several delegations felt that the subregional co-operation among the ASEAN countries was an inspiring example of what an association of countries in the region could achieve. The private sector in ASEAN member countries was playing an active role in supplementing the efforts of the ASEAN Governments to achieve greater regional co-operation. The Mekong project was yet another example of regional co-operation among countries with different political, economic and social systems. Further, every effort should be made to implement the measures recommended by the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific held at New Delhi in 1978 as well as to promote other subregional co-operation in such areas as the South Pacific and south Asia.

430. It was also pointed out that TCDC could lead to the development of economic co-operation between regional sub groupings. Technical co-operation had in the past meant one-way assistance flows to developing countries, often overlooking the special needs and local conditions of the recipients. TCDC would allow them to specialize better in particular technical fields. The Commission felt that the declarations at Buenos Aires and the recommendations of the Regional Group which had met at Bangkok provided a firm basis for subsequent action within the region.

431. The Commission emphasized the need to give particular attention to the problems of the land-locked, least developed and island developing countries in the framing of a new strategy. It was felt that their special situation had not received the attention it deserved in the implementation of the Strategy for the Second Development Decade. Special measures needed to be undertaken to ascertain their needs and provide international assistance on the basis of firm commitments and within an agreed time frame.

432. The Commission expressed concern about environmental factors and the need to ensure that development strategies for the 1980s took full account of the environment in which generations to come would have to live. The growth in physical output that had characterized development over the previous three decades had been founded on the exploitation and rapid depletion of many of the non-renewable resources of the planet.

That was clearly a process which could not continue indefinitely and applied to any process of development which polluted the environment and left behind an unfortunate legacy which would affect all generations to come.

433. In the view of the Commission, while the external environment was of primary importance in formulating a suitable international development strategy, there was a need to emphasize also the important role of appropriate domestic policies. The Commission felt that the objectives of development and the policy measures to be used in attaining them were to be defined and decided upon by each country within the context of its own development plans and in accordance with its own priorities and its own social, political and economic system, but bearing in mind that the ultimate goal of development was to secure the well-being of all people and ensure their full participation in the process of and the benefits derived from development.

434. Bearing in mind that one of the major lessons of the 1970s was that the existing development strategies had failed to have a sufficient impact on poverty, the Commission attached great importance to increased popular participation in the process of both formulating and implementing policies and programmes in order to increase the productivity of the poor and their self-reliance.

435. Some delegations felt that in certain countries, development strategies for the next decade would require a distinct anti-poverty focus concentrating upon man and his basic needs: food, shelter, clothing and employment. It was important that production should be supported by equitable distribution, so that development would no longer aggravate disparities as it had in the past.

436. Several developing country delegations referred to measures under way to deal with problems through an integrated approach. Such measures stressed the widest possible mobilization of resources and effective popular participation in decentralized decision making. That was of particular importance in rural areas.

437. The Commission felt that one of the major constraints to growth was problems in the agricultural and energy sectors. Agriculture was extremely important because it would continue to provide the bulk of employment, the raw materials for industry, a major source of demand for industrial goods, a major source of export earnings or of import savings, as well as of vitally necessary food supplies. In the opinion of the Commission, food security and reasonable self-sufficiency were crucial elements of a strategy for the 1980s, especially in view of the large food deficits projected on the basis of current trends.

438. The importance of sound programmes for the development and management of natural resources was stressed. Special reference was made to the continuing

rising cost and difficulties in the supply of petroleum and its serious impact on development programmes, particularly in the petroleum-importing developing countries. In that context, the Commission stressed the need for vigorous programmes for the development of indigenous energy resources (renewable resources as well as coal and petroleum) for which increasing financial and technical support was required from such bodies as the World Bank. Attention should also be given to measures to promote efficiency and economy in the use of energy.

439. Increasing attention needed to be paid to water resource development and management, particularly as a major contributing factor in increasing the quantity and reliability of food production. Multipurpose development and use were important in order to make optimum use of that resource and, as in the case of energy, there was a need to emphasize efficiency and economy in the use of water. Having regard to the great potential latent in international rivers in the region, international co-operation for optimum use of those resources was needed.

Technical co-operation and mobilization of resources

Technical co-operation among developing countries

440. The Commission considered documents E/ ESCAP/105, E/ESCAP/108 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and E/ ESCAP/109.

441. Introducing the discussion on this item, the Executive Secretary reported on the action taken by the secretariat to bring the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the subsequent Regional Working Group of Senior Officials Concerned with TCDC in Developing Asian and Pacific Countries before the Commission. However, only at the next session could tangible results be reported on the basis of decisions which the Commission might take at its current session to encourage and guide the implementation of those recommendations. He highlighted several areas of interest which had been identified by the developing countries of the ESCAP region, and invited the Commission to support the various activities outlined in document E/ESCAP/105, as well as to ensure the availability of resources for their implementation. Activities of particular importance in which ESCAP could be involved to promote and support ECDC and TCDC concerned information, monitoring and evaluation, research and analysis, and identification of opportunities and preparatory assistance for implementation. Such assistance could include the channelling of supplementary financial resources for co-operative activities undertaken by developing countries.

442. The Commission reaffirmed that increased co-operation among the developing countries themselves should form a major dimension of the new international

development strategy. It noted that increased co-operation and collective self-reliance among the developing countries would contribute significantly to the establishment of the new international economic order. Several delegations emphasized that TCDC must be pursued as an instrument for that collective self-reliance, both directly and through its function in creating opportunities for ECDC. As well as strengthening the negotiating position of developing countries, increased co-operation in technical fields was necessary to enhance national capabilities and resilience as well as utilization and development of resources. The development of TCDC at the regional and subregional levels should correspond with the goals of strengthening regional and interregional co-operation, and not create closed groups which would divide various continents.

443. The representatives of developing countries generally reaffirmed their Governments' eagerness further to strengthen and expand economic, technical and other ties among themselves, as well as with developing countries of other regions, and called upon ESCAP to play a catalytic role as regional focal point for the promotion and support of such co-operation. The Commission accepted its responsibility to play that role, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies, including UNDP and UNCTAD as appropriate and decided that economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should be placed on the agenda of future sessions of each of its subsidiary organs as well as of its own annual sessions, in order to facilitate their review of progress and the joint development, by Governments, of inter-country activities. It was generally agreed that, while the promotion of regional and subregional co-operation had always been an important function of the Commission, the vigorous promotion of ECDC and TCDC, including at the inter-regional and, where required, bilateral levels, should constitute one of its major objectives. Appropriate changes would be needed in the functional responsibilities of its legislative committees as well as strengthening of the secretariat. Some delegations, however, were of the opinion that the necessary reorientation could occur largely within existing structures and with available resource levels.

444. The Commission noted with satisfaction its past achievements and continuing efforts in promoting regional co-operation in such fields as trade, reinsurance, shipping, industry and technology transfer, and commended the contributions being made by the special regional projects, the regional training and research institutions of ESCAP, ASEAN, RCD, the Indonesia Pakistan Economic Co-operation Council, the Bangkok Agreement and the South Pacific Forum to the development of their member countries.

445. The Commission expressed its support for the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC, and willingly acknowledged its responsibility to play a major role in implementing the Plan's

recommendations at the regional level. In that connexion, it endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Working Group of Senior Officials Concerned with TCDC in Developing Asian and Pacific Countries. It warmly commended the secretariat on its initiative in helping to maintain momentum in the enhancement of inter-country co-operation at the regional level, and congratulated it on convening the Regional Working Group expeditiously following the Buenos Aires Conference and on assisting the work of the Group. It also appreciated the preparation of document E/ESCAP/105, which had facilitated the Commission's own deliberations on the subject. Some delegations referred also to the Short Medium-term Action Plan for Global Priorities on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held at Arusha in February 1979, and expressed the hope that the United Nations regional commissions would also assist its speedy implementation.

446. While the Commission felt that all of the Regional Working Group's proposals merited adoption and implementation, it accorded particular attention to several of the issues which the Group had addressed in its report. In that connexion, it reaffirmed that the lack of information on developing countries' capabilities and needs and consequent attitudinal barriers were major obstacles to increased co-operation, and agreed that the regional information system for the promotion of co-operation among developing countries should draw on and help to strengthen existing sectoral and multisectoral information systems at the regional, subregional and national levels, and should be developed in co-operation with UNDP as the regional arm of the TCDC Information Referral System (INRES). The Commission, while noting that the primary responsibility for the efficient functioning of the regional information system rested with the developing countries of the region, called on its other member Governments, as well as relevant national, subregional, regional and international organizations and institutions, to support those efforts effectively. It also requested the secretariat to provide the necessary co-ordination and technical services to facilitate the development and operation of the system, which should ensure the speedy dissemination of relevant information in forms appropriate to the requirements of developing countries, and at reasonable cost.

447. The Commission noted that several countries had made good progress in establishing national mechanisms for the promotion and interdepartmental co-ordination of TCDC, but expressed concern that further action was needed to increase public and official awareness of the scope for co-operation with other developing countries in various sectors. Several delegations felt that, while strengthening of national institutions was a major long-term objective of technical co-operation among developing countries themselves, it should also be an immediate objective of the promotional and supportive efforts of

ESCAP and other United Nations organizations. As one activity to contribute to that aim, as well as to develop and launch concrete TCDC activities, the Commission endorsed the proposal to convene regional or subregional seminars of national focal points, and called on the secretariat and UNDP to assist the developing countries in that regard.

448. In the same connexion, the Commission reaffirmed its particular concern for the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and developing island economies, and decided to take early and effective action to facilitate their increased participation in TCDC. Emphasis was laid by several delegations on those countries' limited administrative capability with respect to the identification of opportunities, the establishment of the framework for bilateral action and the formulation of specific projects. To help to overcome those difficulties, the Commission called for the expeditious implementation of the work proposed in paragraphs 48 and 49 of document E/ESCAP/105, and urged developing countries generally to respond to the needs which would be identified thereby. It also called on other international organizations and agencies to collaborate in such efforts, and emphasized the need for developed countries to provide supplementary assistance for those efforts in addition to existing forms and levels of assistance.

449. As to the financing of TCDC, the developing members of the Commission reaffirmed their willingness to share their existing capabilities, to mount joint efforts to hasten the development process, and to finance activities to implement such co-operation. The Commission felt that that should not be used as an excuse for developed countries to reduce traditional forms of technical assistance. TCDC should, however, diversify the sources of external assistance available to individual countries and should result in lower costs in some cases through the use of terms and conditions appropriate to local circumstances. The Commission noted with satisfaction that some developing countries were earmarking a proportion of the UNDP indicative planning figures for their countries for TCDC, while others were making specific provisions for that purpose in their national budgets. It welcomed the offers announced by the delegations of some developing countries to provide training places and fellowships, to share their national research facilities, and to make experts and consultants available to other developing countries.

450. The Commission also welcomed the announcement by the delegations of several developed countries of their Governments' intentions to provide financial and other resources to supplement the inputs which developing countries participating in TCDC would contribute themselves. In that connexion, it endorsed the concept of tripartite technical co-operation arrangements and requested the secretariat to act as a catalyst for their implementation. It also called on potential sources to enable ESCAP to channel supplementary

financial assistance for collaborative research, fellowship programmes and other inter-country activities which would be largely financed by the participating countries. Several delegations were of the opinion that the Commission, as the main intergovernmental organization concerned with economic and social development in the region, should play a large role in the allocation of the UNDP regional indicative planning figure by helping to establish priorities and formulate inter-country projects.

451. The Commission welcomed the initial action taken by the Executive Secretary to implement recommendation 33 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action with respect to the internal organization of the secretariat and the programming of multisectoral work to complement and assist that of the Commission's subsidiary organs in various sectors. It generally endorsed the functions and activities proposed for ESCAP in document E/ESCAP/105, listed in paragraph 74 and annex III respectively, and anticipated that the focal point established in the Office of the Executive Secretary would facilitate their implementation.

452. In that connexion, several delegations emphasized the need for appropriate liaison with other organizations of the United Nations system; the development of interregional action programmes as well as support for co-operation within the region; and effective follow-up to help to remove obstacles and avoid delays in the implementation of inter-country activities. With respect to the monitoring and evaluation of progress in ECDC and TCDC, one delegation expressed the view that the Commission should monitor and review those inter-country arrangements with which it would be associated operationally. However, the need to evolve information on activities taking place outside the United Nations system was also recognized.

453. The Commission noted with satisfaction the increased proportion of developing country personnel and other resources that had been associated with the implementation of its programme of work and priorities over the previous year and expressed the hope that further efforts would be made by the secretariat to help in the implementation of recommendation 31 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. In that connexion, one delegation expressed the view that future reports on the utilization of such resources should include more details on the experts' countries of origin or their nationality as well as the way in which they were recruited.

454. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 194 (XXXV) on promotion of and support for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources

455. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/106 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and E/ESCAP/107 and Corr.1.

456. The Commission was informed that the practice

of the announcement of intended contributions being made at the annual sessions of the Commission was being continued as requested in resolution 182 (XXXIV). The Commission was also informed of the criteria for the selection of projects included in the documents prepared for submission to the Commission and potential donors.

457. The Commission was further informed of the problems faced by the secretariat in implementing projects owing to the fact that contributions from countries were received at different times during the year. The desirability of contributions being made early in the calendar year was emphasized. The Commission was requested to consider the possibility of having intended contributions announced for the following calendar year also, starting with the thirty-sixth session of the Commission. That would enable the secretariat to plan for the following calendar year in advance, as opposed to the existing situation, where intended contributions were announced after the calendar year had started.

458. A number of delegations announced their intended contributions for 1979 and beyond for the work programmes of ESCAP and the regional training and research institutions, subject to confirmation by their Governments. Some delegations expressed their full support for the work programme of the Commission and pledged to make their intended contributions known to the secretariat after their Governments had reached a decision in that regard.

459. The Commission recommended that the members, associate members and other donors should indicate, wherever practicable, the level of their intended contributions for the following calendar year. The Commission also approved the format of the documentation produced for the donor countries and suggested that in future an analysis of the financial situation with regard to extrabudgetary programmes of the Commission should be included in the documents prepared for submission to the donors.

460. The Commission, appreciating the need for additional resources owing to its expanding role in the region and its increasing membership, urged the Executive Secretary to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider an increase in the United Nations regular budget allocation for ESCAP. The Commission noted that the level of the allocation for ESCAP was proportionately much lower than that called for by the size and population of the region in comparison with other regional commissions. The Commission also urged UNDP to increase its level of assistance to ESCAP programmes and projects.

461. The Commission noted that the problems facing the region were numerous and varied, and that co-operation at the international, regional and subregional levels was required to solve them. Extrabudgetary resources constituted a major part of the budget of

the work programme of ESCAP and generous contributions of such resources by members, associate members, organizations, foundations and other donors were essential.

462. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 195 (XXXV) on mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Progress, proposals and issues in various fields of activity of ESCAP

- (a) Review of the implementation of the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979
- (b) Programme changes, 1979
- (c) Programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981

463. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/127 and Corr.1, and E/ESCAP/128 and Add.I-20, E/ESCAP/128/Add.21 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.22.

464. In his introductory statement, the Deputy Executive Secretary explained the background of the new format in which the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, was presented. The revised format had been worked out through intensive consultations with ACPR. A review had been carried out in pursuance of the recommendation of the Commission, particularly at its thirty-third session, that the work programme document should be presented in such a format as to make it more readily understandable, by making the annotations an integral part of the work programme document.

465. Before deliberating on the sectoral programmes, the Commission made some general observations relating to the work programme.

466. The Commission noted that efforts had been made to achieve an integrated approach to the development problems of the region, while maintaining closer consultation with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, with the aim of avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort. The work programme for the biennium 1980-1981 continued to recognize the six priority areas identified earlier by the Commission. In addition, it reflected concern for countries with special problems, particularly the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries. With regard to the last category, it was noted that the expanding membership of the Pacific island countries in ESCAP would be matched by an intensification of activities in that part of the region.

467. The Commission also noted the inclusion of an analytical account of major trends in the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, which marked a notable improvement in the presentation of the work programme.

468. The Commission commended the secretariat and ACPR on their efforts in improving the presentation of the work programme. It was observed that the new format was much clearer and easier to understand than the previous one.

469. Some delegations felt that the considerable increase in the resource requirements from both the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources was unrealistic and suggested that the work programme should be further streamlined to make it more pragmatic, thus facilitating implementation.

470. The Commission reiterated that the directives given in its resolution 170 (XXXII) on the programme of work and priorities, 1976-1977, and medium-term plan, 1978-1981, should be closely observed. In that resolution, the Commission had, *inter alia*, urged its legislative committees to be highly pragmatic and selective in considering the programme of work and priorities in their respective disciplines and, in particular, to avoid duplication of activities already under way in other international organizations, to give attention to the identification and implementation of a hard core of essential activities to be implemented, and to ensure that any additions to that hard core were matched by the corresponding deletion of activities, by according low priority to certain activities, or by securing to the extent feasible an increase in resources, and had further urged the legislative committees to be conscious of the activities of other international organizations, including regional and subregional organizations, in their disciplines with a view to avoiding duplication of effort.

471. Several delegations suggested that member countries should identify a hard core of essential activities to be implemented on a priority basis. It was pointed out that various methods had been attempted up to 1974, when the Commission had decided to establish priority areas instead of setting priorities on a programme basis. One delegation observed that the existing structure of ESCAP seemed to lack a permanent body with an adequate mandate to assess the relative weight of various ESCAP activities in relation to one another. Some delegations urged that action-oriented projects within programmes should be treated on a priority basis.

472. The Commission noted that the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, had been formulated carefully through consultation with member Governments at various forums which had met during the previous year and also through close consultation with ACPR, sector by sector. It felt that the proposed work programme for the next biennium would benefit the developing member countries of ESCAP.

473. The Commission then considered the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, sector by sector.

Food and agriculture

474. The Commission considered documents E/ ESCAP/ 113 and E/ESCAP/I28/Add.I.

475. The Commission noted that the field of food and agriculture had been given high priority by the countries of the region. In most developing countries, the majority of the population lived in rural areas and relied on agriculture to ensure food security and improve its living conditions. Agricultural development and industrial development were considered as mutually supportive. The Commission emphasized the importance of agrarian reforms and the development of rural co-operatives as well as appropriate institutions, in order to enable the rural masses to participate more effectively in rural development and raise their living standards. It was felt that the State had a role to play in facilitating socioeconomic reforms and setting up co-operative units and in matters of infrastructure, marketing and credit facilities in order to achieve the desired results. In that sense, rural development and agricultural production were considered as closely related. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 196 (XXXV) on the role of the co-operative movement in the social and economic development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific.

476. Most delegations welcomed the initiatives of ESCAP in the area of food and agriculture. A few thought that the secretariat could play a more active role in close co-operation with the other agencies concerned. Since food, agriculture and rural development had been accorded priority by the Commission, there was a need to provide more assistance for the implementation of the programme activities proposed in that sector. The recent practice of having an annual joint review of activities between ESCAP and FAO in areas of common interest in order to avoid duplication and achieve complementarity of efforts was commended. It was generally recognized that FAO had primary competence in the agro-technical aspects of agriculture whereas ESCAP had an important contribution to make in the socio-economic aspects.

477. The programme proposals for 1980-1981 as well as the programme changes proposed for 1979 were generally endorsed by the Commission. Some delegations felt, however, that the activities for 1980-1981 should be carefully reviewed by the Committee on Agricultural Development at its third session at Dacca, taking into account, on the one hand, the priorities of member countries and, on the other, the resources available to the secretariat. It was also noted that the Committee at that session would have an opportunity of recommending appropriate programme adjustments in the light of the major recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held at Rome in July 1979. It was felt that the secretariat, in close co-operation with FAO, should ensure that systematic surveys and analyses were made of the ESCAP countries' experiences in carrying out agrarian reforms and organizing co-operatives and report on that subject to the Committee on Agricultural Development and subsequently to the Commission.

478. The Commission strongly supported the activities proposed for the biennium 1980-1981 under the programme component "improvement in agricultural plans, programmes and information systems". Several delegations commended the fact that the "food" activities included in the programme were in keeping with national development goals and would strengthen national efforts in expanding food production and eradicating malnutrition in rural areas. The representative of Australia, while emphasizing that economic and social progress must rest on sound agricultural production, announced that his Government had decided to provide the necessary assistance to convene an expert group meeting on agricultural development and development policies.

479. The Commission welcomed the initiatives taken by the secretariat in strengthening linkages between agriculture and industry and requested the secretariat to make an in-depth study on the subject, taking into account the national and regional experiences, for submission to the Committee on Agricultural Development.

480. In the context of continuing food shortages in many developing countries, the Commission stressed the need for regional action to improve food security. It was also suggested that ESCAP should participate actively in the consultations being organized jointly by ADB and the World Food Council at the end of March 1979. Those consultations were aimed at removing administrative barriers that impeded the free flow of financial support to agricultural activities.

481. In discussing the problems of agricultural development in mountainous areas, it became clear that an urgent need was felt for systematic research in a wide range of high altitude crops and cultivation; it was therefore suggested that the secretariat should explore, in consultation with FAD and other related agencies, the feasibility of establishing a high-altitude agricultural research centre in a mountainous area, or of developing one of the existing centres into a regional centre for that purpose.

482. The Commission noted the satisfactory progress made in implementing the agricultural information development scheme, particularly the continued publication of the Agricultural Information Development Bulletin. The representative of Japan reaffirmed his Government's continued support of the scheme. Delegations offered their full co-operation to the secretariat in supplying relevant materials for the Bulletin.

483. The Commission endorsed the recommendations made by the Board of Directors of the Asian Rice Trade Fund at its third session. The secretariat was requested to continue to service the Board of Directors and assist in expanding its membership through the simplification of membership procedures as well as in renewing representation with international lending institutions for fund support.

484. In the programme framework of the agricultural

requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP). The delegations expressed explicit support for the continuing efforts of the secretariat to make the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) fully operational as from 1979. In that respect, the Commission noted the concrete support which was being provided to the Network by the Governments of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany.

485. It was generally appreciated that the Network would serve as an instrument of regional co-operation in the promotion of activities of a TCDC nature in the sector of chemical fertilizer, and as a means of monitoring the regional fertilizer situation, besides other development support functions.

486. Developing member countries which had not yet joined the Network were urged to do so, thereby following the example of the 10 ESCAP members which had already joined the Network officially in 1978, so as to provide it with the widest possible basis for the exchange of information and experience and regional co-operation on issues of common interest. The Commission called on collaborating United Nations agencies, in particular UNIDO and FAO, to make concrete inputs available to the Network. The FAO representative reaffirmed his organization's intended support in the form of short-term expertise, as required and agreed in joint consultation with the ESCAP secretariat.

487. The Commission also appreciated the recent progress that had been made in the implementation of the ARSAP programme on agro-pesticides.

488. In view of the already substantial over-all increase in the demand for regular budget staff in the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, it was felt that staff requirements for certain activities under ARSAP would also need to be reviewed. For FADINAP in particular, however, the Commission was anxious to see that the necessary regular budget staff would be made available in 1980-1981 to ensure the Network's continuity and viability in the future.

489. The Commission again strongly endorsed the need to strengthen national research and development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber (CGPRT) crops in the context of solving food problems, increasing employment, foreign exchange earnings and/or savings, ensuring better income distribution and a balanced diet as well as accelerating close linkages with livestock and other related industries. Work in that field would bring a significant improvement in the production, supply and utilization of CGPRT crops, together with greater availability of the facilities and trained personnel required, and would lead to the building and strengthening of productive capability within the developing countries of the region. It recalled the decisions and recommendations made at the previous two sessions of the commission on the necessary follow-up actions related to CGPRT crops, including the undertaking of

socio-economic studies/surveys and of preparatory work for the establishment of a regional co-ordination centre for research and development of CGPRT crops in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific as well as for a seminar on CGPRT crops.

490. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the nucleus staff on CGPRT crops in the secretariat had been strengthened and also noted the steps taken by the secretariat to conduct surveys and studies on CGPRT crops as the first stage in evolving a programme on those crops. The nucleus staff established within the secretariat might be further strengthened as and when the need arose. The Commission also underlined the important role to be played by the national research and extension staff in the research and development programmes and thus urged the inclusion of a training programme for such staff in the work programme.

491. The Commission reiterated its earlier endorsement of the proposal to establish a regional co-ordination centre on CGPRT crops, for which the Government of Indonesia had offered to provide host facilities at Bogor. In that connexion, the Commission recalled its resolution 174 (XXXIII) and the statement made by the UNDP representative at its thirty-fourth session to the effect that UNDP was prepared to provide funds to assist work on the project provided that ESCAP and FAO were able to agree on a joint work programme. The secretariat informed the Commission of the progress made on that specific activity, which had involved certain technical and administrative difficulties, including the outcome of joint action with UNDP and F AO. The Commission urged the secretariat to take urgent action to establish the regional co-ordination centre and for that purpose to expedite the preparation of a project document. It also called for the appointment of a director of the centre at the earliest possible date. The Commission appealed for the full co-operation of member countries and international organizations, particularly FAO and UNDP, in establishing and operating the centre.

492. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Australian delegation to provide \$US 33,600 for socio-economic studies on CGPRT crops. The representative of Indonesia reaffirmed the offer of host facilities for the centre. The Commission also noted that a seminar on CGPRT crops to be held in 1980-1981 in the USSR was under preparation jointly with FAO. The representative of the Republic of Korea expressed his Government's appreciation of the financial assistance that had been provided to assist the study on the socio-economic impact of expanded production of high-yielding maize hybrid on small farmers and rural development in the Republic of Korea.

493. While intending to make further comments on rural development activities under item 06, "Integrated programme on rural development", of the ESCAP work programme, the representative of the Republic of Korea

commended the activities of that type undertaken under programme 01, "Development of food and agriculture", in particular, the ESCAP/FAO Workshop on the Saemaul Undong Movement, the Expert Group Meeting on Local-level Planning for Integrated Rural Development and the ESCAP/F AO Village-level Workshops on Group Farming held in several countries of the region in 1978. It was felt that member countries could benefit greatly from a mutual exchange of experience of that nature. In the same spirit, the delegation of India indicated its interest in hosting a workshop on women's participation in daily co-operatives in 1979. Interest was also expressed in proposed activities for small farmers and fishermen.

Development planning

494. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/ 119 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.7.

495. It generally commended the secretariat for its ongoing work on the formulation of a regional contribution to the new international development strategy. Several delegations stressed the need for the work to continue to develop within the framework of the new international economic order and to take fully into account General Assembly resolution 33/193 as well as Commission resolution 180 (XXXIV). It was also essential that the secretariat maintain close liaison with United Nations Headquarters with respect to the timing of the formulation of the global strategy. In that connexion, it was pointed out that the Commission, at its thirty-sixth session, should be given an opportunity to examine the regional inputs which would have been reviewed by the intergovernmental meeting scheduled for August 1979 in conformity with resolution 199 (XXXV) on regional inputs into the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade, which the Commission adopted unanimously. It was considered essential that the views of member Governments as contained in their development plans should be reflected and that appropriate machinery for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the strategy should be included.

496. Developing countries expressed the view that the new international development strategy should include, as its essential elements, shifts in the prevailing pattern of trade and production which eliminated protectionism in manufacturing, agriculture and other sectors, promoted an equitable global distribution of productive capacity and accelerated the industrialization of developing countries; the restructuring and development of the primary commodity sector in the world economy with improved terms of trade and greater shares for developing countries in processing, marketing and distribution; an international framework conducive to the rapid growth of the technological capacity of developing countries; and an effective framework for international financial co-operation which ensured developing countries of vastly increased access to resources.

497. Some delegations cautioned the secretariat against over-emphasizing the domestic components of the international development strategy, which should, in their view, be a blueprint for international development co-operation and include measures to be taken at the international level to assist in the restructuring of the international economy with a view to establishing the new international economic order. They also cautioned against the "basic needs" approach, which, if adopted at the global level, could lead to distortion of priorities and external involvement in the sensitive internal political, economic, social and cultural processes within developing countries. Another delegation felt that in their national strategies countries were making progress towards satisfying basic needs. It was also felt by one delegation that in its work the secretariat had placed too much emphasis on environmental and ecological aspects of development since that could raise the well-known "limits to growth" argument, resulting in a reduction of inputs from developed to developing countries. The same delegation was opposed to the new strategy being flexible, in that such flexibility could lead to a weakening of the commitments to it, particularly in the case of the developed countries. It stated that since it had not been found possible to evolve acceptable social indicators, targeting in the social field might well prove impossible. The representatives of the developing countries felt that the failure of the Second Development Decade to achieve the objectives set was due not to any failures of design but mainly to a lack of political will on the part of developed countries.

498. Several delegations commented on the desirable format of future surveys. It was generally felt that biennial reviews of the international development strategy were too frequent and that mid-decade and end-of-decade reviews were all that were necessary. However, there was general support for the preparation of special topic surveys on an annual basis. It was felt that the special topics should reflect the contrasting experiences of individual member countries in specific fields.

499. With regard to the over-all programme of work for 1980-1981, delegations generally gave their endorsement and support. In particular, there was support for the subprogrammes associated with projection work, regional co-operation, improvement in public services in the rural areas and increased participation by people in the development process. In the latter case, importance was attached to investigating the potential for ECDC in the south Asia region.

500. Some delegations, however, felt that the programme of work was overly ambitious compared with the available resources, and advised a smaller programme. In one case, it was felt that implementation of the subprogramme dealing with economic and social development policies and strategies might be deferred until it was formulated in greater and more adequate

detail. Some delegations expressed the view that there should be expansion of work in the field of planning.

Industry, human Settlements and technology

501. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/99, E/ESCAP/116, E/ESCAP/128/Add.4, Add.5, Add.8 and Add.9 and E/ESCAP/140.

502. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology on its third session. It also approved the changes proposed in the programme for 1979 as well as the suggested programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981; it considered that those programmes reflected correct priorities and also the felt needs of the member countries.

503. In the field of industry, the Commission noted with interest the outcome of the recent Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers of Industry. It reiterated that the elements of reorientation of industrial policies urged by the Ministers should constitute the core of the strategy for industrialization in the 1980s. The Commission felt that the conclusions reached at the meetings of ministers and through the related studies undertaken by the ESCAP secretariat should constitute the regional contribution to the development strategy for the third United Nations development decade as well as to the Third General Conference of UNIOO, to be held in January-February 1980. The Commission took note of the publication issued by the secretariat containing studies undertaken for the Ad Hoc Group and felt that that would assist in disseminating their conclusions and stimulating further discussion in the countries on the main policy questions involved.

504. The Commission agreed that in the context of the developing ESCAP member countries the utmost importance had to be attached to linkage between industry and agriculture and to balanced intersectoral growth. The role of industry in the satisfaction of the basic needs of the poor and in over-all socio-economic development was stressed.

505. The Commission expressed the hope that the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers would continue to serve as a forum for exchange of experiences and for important dialogues for co-operation between the member countries in the field of industrialization. It called upon the secretariat to pursue vigorously the issues raised by the Group and, through its studies, to assist the member countries in narrowing the gap between objectives and implementation.

506. The Commission agreed with the emphasis attached by the meetings of ministers of industry, as well as by the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology, to the role of basic industries and the reforms in socio-economic structures needed for industrialization. The role of comprehensive planning in the public sector was emphasized. The Commission recalled

its resolution 181 (XXXIV) on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries and desired that expeditious action be taken to study the role of the public sector in the socio-economic development of the ESCAP countries. It noted the offer by the Government of the USSR to assist the secretariat in its endeavours in that regard. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 197 (XXXV) on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic and social development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific.

507. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers that a regional preparatory meeting for the Third General Conference of UNIDO should be held, at the ministerial level, in September 1979. That would be in lieu of the session of the Committee and would be open to all members and associate members. The Commission expressed the hope that the preparatory meeting would be able to formulate specific regional positions on the major issues that were expected to be discussed in the global forum.

508. The Commission appreciated the progress achieved under the ESCAP project on industrialization in non-metropolitan areas. In its first phase, success had been achieved in formulating pilot projects in selected areas of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Those pilot projects had been discussed with representatives of the Governments concerned. The Commission emphasized that it was now necessary to take steps for the early implementation of the projects. It endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers that the ESCAP secretariat should send a mission to the funding agencies and to potential donor countries in order to seek the external assistance needed for the implementation of the projects. The Commission urged that at the same time the Governments concerned should initiate implementation of those elements of the pilot projects which needed only domestic inputs. The Commission wished to place on record its gratitude to the Governments of India and Japan for having made substantial financial and other contributions to the project.

509. The Commission took note of the useful work done under the auspices of the ESCAP "club" in ascertaining the specific needs of Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea and in evoking the response of the other member countries for providing assistance in respect of those needs. It noted that the activity in respect of Afghanistan had since been merged with the initiative taken by UNIDO to convene a round-table ministerial meeting of selected developing countries at Kabul in May 1979 in order to obtain assistance for Afghanistan. The Commission suggested expansion of the activities of the club and pointed out its role as a clearing-house for catalyzing assistance to least developed countries. It took note of the desire of the Government of Bangladesh to be considered for assistance through the club. It appreciated the contribution of \$US 10,000 made

by the Government of India to enable the secretariat to undertake work in relation to the club.

510. The Commission considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Consultative Group Meeting among National Planning Bureaux with Participation of Development Banks on the Establishment of Regional Industries which had been held at Bangkok in November 1978. It endorsed the two-step approach urged at that Meeting, whereby (a) some promising possibilities for regional projects would be identified through desk studies to be organized by the ESCAP secretariat and (b) pre-investment studies would be carried out with the assistance of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific. It emphasized, however, that the Governments concerned should be fully involved in the identification of the candidate industries. It was pointed out that in the regional projects duplication of investments would have to be avoided and account taken of the reality of subregional groupings. The selection of the -projects should be based on well-defined criteria, with due regard to the development of basic industries. The Commission noted the statement by the representative of India that his Government would be prepared to undertake desk studies for the identification of candidate projects, if required to do so by the ESCAP secretariat. The Commission felt that the assistance of the World Bank and ADB could also be sought for the pre-investment studies.

511. The Commission noted with satisfaction that arrangements had been worked out with the Governments concerned and with UNDP and ADB for carrying out a South Pacific industrial survey and expressed the hope that it would commence in the near future. It was noted that the focus of the survey need not be on the identification of the factor endowment of the countries concerned but could be on exploring possibilities of industrial projects which could be implemented through co-operation between the countries. A major concern of the survey should be to consider packages of investment, technology, management, marketing etc. which would be needed for successful implementation of the projects. The Commission expressed the hope that the survey, carried out in consultation with the Governments concerned, would make a concrete contribution to the industrialization of the region.

512. The Commission heard the report of CMEA and UNESCO on fostering industrial co-operation between countries at different levels of economic development. Two delegations felt that the relevance of CMEA experience for the ESCAP member countries could be explored.

513. The Commission noted the progress made in the project on the establishment of prime-mover industries in Afghanistan and Nepal. The survey for the development of an industrial estate in west Nepal had been completed. The Commission felt that steps should be

taken without delay for the development of the estate through appropriate assistance arrangements. The Commission was also informed that preparatory work in Afghanistan had been initiated and that a joint ESCAP/ UNIDO mission would soon visit that country.

514. The Commission recognized the supplementary role of foreign investments in the industrial development of developing countries, provided that private foreign investments were appropriately regulated so that they served the national interests of the host countries. The Commission noted with approval the activities of the ESCAP secretariat aimed at improving the climate for foreign investments and the related regulatory mechanisms. It recognized the usefulness of the seminars and intergovernmental meetings that had been convened on the subject, the most recent of which, the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Investment, had been held at Tokyo in December 1978, and also of the loose-leaf document on tax systems which had been published with the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands. The Commission wanted the secretariat to continue providing assistance to the member countries in matters relating to foreign investments, including incentives and improvements in tax administration, and urged early action on the recommendation of the Tokyo Meeting concerning the establishment of a regional panel of experts for that purpose.

515. The Commission noted the new activity envisaged for 1979 in the field of standardization. The representative of Pakistan stated that his Government would be prepared to make available the facilities needed for the development of activities in that field.

516. It was suggested that the secretariat should take up programmes to promote trade-creating joint ventures. The experience of export-led industrial growth needed to be analysed to assist the developing countries in exploiting the potential for industrial growth based upon export markets.

517. In the field of technology, the Commission appreciated the approach adopted by the secretariat, which was aimed at strengthening the technological capabilities of the developing member countries. It felt that the activities carried out through RCTT, RNAM and various other programmes constituted a pragmatic response to the needs of the member countries.

518. The Commission noted with approval the activities of the secretariat in the promotion of appropriate technologies in specific fields such as post-harvest technologies, leather and edible oils. It pointed out, however, that there must be a matching emphasis on basic as well as sophisticated technologies essential for attempting quantum jumps in industrial development.

519. The Commission approved the activities in the field of technology proposed for 1980-1981. It suggested that a major concern in the pursuit of those activities should be to narrow the gap in the Rand D institutions and production organizations.

520. The Commission commended the useful work done by RNAM and recommended that it be continued beyond 1980. It recorded its appreciation of the financial and other contributions made by the various member countries and noted that they had indicated continuance of their support.

521. The Commission appreciated the activities undertaken by the secretariat in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The national papers had contained significant leads which should be followed up to develop appropriate programmes for supporting national action. The Commission expressed its earnest hope that the forthcoming Conference would result in a specific programme to eradicate inequities in the technological relations between developed and developing countries and enable the latter to harness science and technology for their development. The Commission recognized the useful role played by the ESCAP secretariat and RCTT in stimulating preparations for the Conference at the regional and national levels.

522. The publication of regional and national papers by RCTT had been useful in disseminating the valuable material contained therein and in stimulating informed public debate on the crucial issues. The Commission desired the ESCAP secretariat and RCTT to continue to play such a role, particularly for the follow-up of the decisions that would be taken at the Conference.

523. Keeping in view the important place of human settlements in socio-economic development, the Commission emphasized the need for considerably enlarged activities in that field. It felt that greater initiatives were needed to implement the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in 1976, and the Regional Conference on Human Settlements, held in 1977. The view was expressed that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/162 relating to the organization of human settlements activities at the regional level had not been adequately met under existing arrangements in Asia and the Pacific. It was requested that member countries seriously consider the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on human settlements. In that regard, the Commission unanimously adopted resolution 200 (XXXV) on an organization on human settlements at the regional level.

524. The Commission noted that the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), had now become operational. The Commission also noted the consultations that had been held between the ESCAP secretariat and the Centre, and the forthcoming meeting of the Executive Secretary with the Executive Director of the Centre. It urged the early implementation of the provisions of resolution 184 (XXXIV) relating to the regionalization of programmes and the corresponding redeployment of adequate

staff and resources from the global to the regional level..

525. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology that the main theme for discussion at the next session of the Committee should relate to human settlements. It called upon the secretariat to prepare adequate documentation to enable a thorough discussion of the theme to take place.

526. The Commission recognized the important role played by the two United Nations Regional Housing Centres located at Bandung and New Delhi in disseminating information, undertaking research and training personnel, and stressed the need for continued support and assistance to the Centres. It urged that, in the light of the recommendations of the three-man mission which had reviewed their functions, expeditious steps should be taken to strengthen the facilities of the Centres so as to enable them to perform their regional functions more effectively and also to enlarge their substantive scope. In that context, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology regarding the change of the designation of the existing Centre at Bandung from "Regional Housing Centre" to "Regional Centre for Research on Human Settlements".

527. It was pointed out that sound human settlement programmes would have to be based on comprehensive regional planning, providing for harmony between land management, location of production enterprises, availability of labour and human settlements. Benefit could be taken of the experience of the various countries in such comprehensive regional planning as well as in building technologies. The Commission took note of the offer by the USSR to hold training courses and seminars, to collaborate in research projects and to exchange information in the field of human settlements. The offer included provision of experts, audio-visual materials, literature relating to building standards and technical reports to the ESCAP secretariat.

528. While approving the programme of work and priorities proposed for 1980-1981 in the field of human settlements, the Commission pointed out the considerable requirement of extrabudgetary resources which had not yet been obtained. It called upon the donor countries to come forward with adequate contributions, which would reflect their concern for that particular sector. The Commission also advised the secretariat to identify the programmes which would have prior claim on the available resources. International trade, raw materials and commodities and special measures for the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries

529. The Commission considered documents E/ ESCAP/ 98, E/ESCAP/115, E/ESCAP/127 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/ 128/Add.3, Add.5 and Add.18 and E/ ESCAP/129.

530. The Commission expressed grave concern over the continuation and in some cases even intensification of protectionist measures, particularly non-tariff barriers, by some developed countries. Such measures had adverse effects on the exports of developing countries, particularly in the sectors based on their own raw materials and skills, where they had the comparative advantage. That was considered especially unfortunate when a number of developing countries had taken positive measures to diversify their economies and liberalize their imports. The developing countries urged developed countries to take early steps to bring about the required structural adjustments and desist from resorting to protectionist measures, which were against their own long-term interests.

531. Certain developed countries stated that they fully accepted the principle of the progressive adaptation of industrial structures as a necessary component of an equitable international system of trade, and confirmed that such restructuring was continuously taking place across a broad spectrum of industrial sectors. They reiterated their commitment to trade "liberalization in the interests of increased imports from the developing countries, save in exceptional cases where that would give rise to conditions incompatible with the achievement of the objectives of structural adaptation.

532. Representatives of developing countries expressed deep concern over the trends in MTN, which indicated that unless corrective measures were introduced, the outcome of the negotiations would fall short of the objectives of securing additional benefits for their trade as set forth in the Tokyo Declaration. The major problems facing the developing countries had not so far received the special and differential treatment envisaged in that Declaration. They were further concerned that in some sectors of special importance to them, including textiles, hardly any concessions might be extended. They also deplored attempts to formulate arbitrary concepts such as selectivity in the application of safeguard measures, access to supplies and graduation among developing countries. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the technical assistance and useful advisory services provided under the UNDP/UNCTAD/ESCAP project on MTN. In the view of certain developed countries, concepts of selectivity, graduation etc. were not arbitrary and those countries were hopeful that some international understanding might emerge on those issues. They reiterated their determination to do all in their power to ensure that MTN would fulfill the objectives of the Tokyo Declaration with regard to securing additional benefits for the trade of developing countries.

533. The Commission urged that the commitments made to the least developed and land-locked countries in the Tokyo Declaration should be fulfilled without further delay.

534. Representatives of developing countries expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by some preference-giving countries to improve their respective GSP schemes. They urged the developed countries to expand the coverage of their schemes to include all products of interest to the developing countries and to remove non-tariff barriers and administrative obstacles. They also urged that GSP be made a permanent feature of the international trading system. They stressed that the benefits of the GSP schemes should not be eroded by MTN without adequate compensation. They lamented that in many cases measures had been introduced to reduce the net benefit accruing to developing countries from GSP. For their part, certain developed countries which had generalized preference schemes recalled that, under the terms of the relevant UNCTAD decision, such schemes were based on the principles of autonomy and non-reciprocity. Those countries considered that neither the UNCTAD decision nor the Tokyo Declaration excluded the possibility of tariff reductions on the basis of the most-favoured-nation clause.

535. The Commission endorsed the report of the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific. It also endorsed the programme of action for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region approved by the Ministers. The Commission urged as many members of ESCAP as possible to join the Trade Co-operation Group and its subgroups in order to obtain the maximum benefits from regional trade co-operation.

536. The Commission noted with interest the progress made in subregional and regional economic co-operation in the ESCAP region and recognized that subregional arrangements could result in positive effects on the economies of the developing countries of the region. It further noted the progress being made under the Bangkok Agreement and the decision of the Standing Committee of the Agreement to hold its second round of negotiations in January 1980. Developing countries of the region which had not yet become members of the Agreement were urged to do so in order that self-reliant economic growth among the developing countries could be strengthened. The Commission also welcomed the proposed regional workshop on the harmonization of customs tariff nomenclatures and foreign trade statistics for the developing countries of the region, as that would facilitate the expansion of regional trade.

537. The Commission noted the progress made by the Asian Clearing Union. It urged other developing countries to join the Union to achieve greater monetary co-operation, which could facilitate trade expansion.

538. The Commission noted that nine countries had signed the Agreement Establishing the Asian Reinsurance Corporation and that the Government of Bhutan had also decided to sign it. The Commission urged the

secretariat to convene a consultative meeting of the signatories in order to expedite the early establishment of the Corporation. It also urged other developing countries of ESCAP to sign the Agreement in order to maximize the advantages for the benefit of all participants.

539. The secretariat was requested to explore the possibilities of establishing linkages among the various subregional arrangements in the region with a view to promoting the trade and economic development of the region as a whole.

540. Several countries emphasized the socio-economic importance of primary commodities to many developing countries in the region, especially the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries. In that connexion, a number of representatives expressed disappointment over the slow progress towards the conclusion of international commodity agreements under the Integrated Programme for Commodities and over the fact that the common fund, the central element of the Programme, had not yet come into existence, while the terms of trade of the developing countries continued to be adverse.

541. The Commission therefore urged all member countries concerned to adopt a more constructive approach at the resumed negotiating sessions, including the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, so that the negotiations could be successfully concluded, thus enabling the fifth session of UNCTAD to be held in a positive atmosphere and paving the way for more constructive and fruitful international co-operation in trade and development in the 1980s.

542. While realizing that global efforts should continue with greater vigour, the Commission noted that there were areas in the field of raw materials and commodities development in which regional action could be undertaken to provide regional inputs to the global efforts as well as to promote regional co-operation on commodities not covered by the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities.

543. The Commission urged the secretariat, in undertaking such activities, to take into account the interests of both producers and consumers. It called for close co-operation and co-ordination among the divisions within the secretariat, and between the secretariat and other United Nations agencies, such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC and FAO, so as to avoid duplication of effort.

544. Several countries suggested that the secretariat, in close co-operation with other United Nations agencies, should organize regional meetings of the jute-producing countries to discuss matters of mutual interest. It was also suggested that, prior to the convening of an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting of tropical timber-producing countries, the secretariat

should consult the Governments concerned regarding the proposed co-operative measures and the establishment of a tropical timber community for Asia and the Pacific.

545. Representatives of ANRPC, APCC and PC requested that adequate resources be made available by the secretariat for the early implementation of the technical assistance projects requested by the three commodity communities at the Commission's thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions. Those included the formulation of standard contracts and general conditions for pepper and coconut, identification of socio-economic measures to improve the production of pepper and productivity of pepper holdings, rationalization and provision of adequate shipping services for coconut products and natural rubber, development of agro-based industries for coconut by-products and improvement of commodity trade information and statistics. The Commission urged international organizations and member countries to provide further support for the implementation of the activities in that important sector.

546. The Commission commended the valuable work undertaken by the ESCAP Trade Promotion Centre (TPC) in providing assistance to the developing countries of the region, particularly the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries, through its four services, namely advisory, market/product development, professional development and trade information services. The Commission suggested that activities under those four services should be intensified as they were important in furthering subregional and regional trade co-operation efforts and in assisting member countries in their preparations for participation in broader international efforts.

547. As a follow-up of the decisions of the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, the Commission recommended that the Trade Information Service of TPC, particularly its regional advisory service, should be strengthened.

548. The Commission also recommended that various professional development programmes, such as seminars and workshops in specific and specialized fields to meet the particular needs of developing countries, should continue as a major part of TPC activities.

549. The Commission was gratified to note the existing working arrangements that had been entered into between ESCAP, TPC and ITC whereby in certain areas of activity TPC acted as the arm of ITC in the ESCAP region and in other areas TPC developed activities of its own which were complementary to those of ITC. It was also gratified to note that TPC worked in close cooperation with the other divisions of ESCAP, with other United Nations bodies which had programmes in the field of trade, and with ASEAN.

550. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the offers made by the Government of China, to organize, jointly with ESCAP and UNDP, a seminar on China's foreign trade management to be held at Canton and Shanghai in October-November 1979; the Government of Japan, to host a meeting of the subgroup of the Trade Co-operation Group on the network of trade promotion centres; and the USSR, to host seminars and make available specialists to prepare studies on trade co-operation and economic relations.

551. The Commission also expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden, as well as to UNDP and ITC and other international agencies, for providing financial and technical support to TPC. It urged that the assistance be continued and expanded so that the Centre's services and activities could be further strengthened.

552. The Commission noted with interest that the secretariat continued to provide increased attention to the special needs of the land-locked, least developed and developing island countries. The Commission urged developed countries, as well as developing countries in a position to do so, to consider granting concessions on a non-reciprocal basis on products of export interest to them.

553. It also urged that the secretariat's activities envisaged under the second phase of the UNDP-financed project on assistance to least developed land-locked countries be carried out expeditiously.

554. A number of representatives of developing countries expressed disappointment at the poor response of countries to the pledging sessions held in New York for the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries. All developed countries and those developing countries in a position to do so were urged to contribute generously to the Fund so that the landlocked countries could derive substantial benefits from it.

555. The Commission noted that a Workshop on Special Measures in favour of Least Developed Land-locked Countries had been organized at Kathmandu in November 1978, in co-operation with UNCTAD and UNDP. The Workshop had been attended by representatives of both the land-locked and transit countries. The participants recognized the importance of the Workshop in promoting mutual understanding between the land-locked countries and their transit neighbours and therefore recommended that such a forum should be organized on a regular basis.

556. Representatives of the least developed countries urged that early steps be taken to launch an expanded programme of action in favour of those countries. In that connexion, reference was made to the decision of the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held at Arusha in February 1979 to launch a crash programme

for 1979-1981 and a substantial new programme of action for the 1980s. They urged the secretariat to expand its activities in order to supplement those measures at the regional level.

557. Taking into account the above suggestions and recommendations, the Commission approved the programme changes for 1979 and the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, in the areas of international trade, raw materials and commodities, and special measures for the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries.

Natural resources

558. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/ 102 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/114 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/ 127 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.2, Add.15, Add.16 and Add.17.

559. A number of countries regarded the work in the field of natural resources as a priority area to which they attached considerable importance. The availability and supply of energy, minerals and water of appropriate quality were key factors indispensable for the over-all economic and social development of any country. It noted the necessity of developing the State sector involved in the planning for exploration and use of energy, mineral and water resources as an important condition for solving national development problems. The Commission therefore endorsed the report and recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fifth session and the programme of work for 1980-1981 set out in the report. It also endorsed the proposed changes in the programme of work on that sector for 1979.

560. The Commission welcomed the emphasis being given to improvements in conservation and efficiency in the production and use of conventional energy resources. At the same time, in view of the increasing need to identify and develop non-conventional energy resources, particularly to supply energy to rural areas, the Commission was pleased to note that that objective was an important component of the programme of work. It welcomed and encouraged the continued efforts in promoting the development and use of non-conventional energy resources.

561. The Commission stressed the importance and usefulness of improved communications and exchange of information on energy matters as a means of stimulating energy development and commended the efforts being made by the secretariat in that regard.

562. The Commission called on the secretariat to formulate projects in the field of energy resources development on a priority basis and urged UNDP to provide increased assistance to implement those projects. In that connexion, Japan expressed its willingness and readiness to extend its co-operation with the secretariat in that field upon the submission of specific projects.

563. Against the background of the oil crisis, energy constraints and rising energy requirements for economic development, the Commission considered it necessary that new strategies be devised taking into account the various sources of energy, including hydropower and solar and nuclear energy. It was suggested that a study should be prepared on possible alternative sources of energy. There also appeared to be scope for more intensive regional and subregional consultations and exchange of information among members on such matters as: (a) energy developments in the region in the light of the world energy situation; (b) energy resources exploration and development; (c) energy conservation, particularly in intensive energy areas; and (d) energy research and development and the adoption of appropriate energy technologies, which should include the possibility of joint R and D projects.

564. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the small-scale application of geothermal technology, particularly for non-electrical uses such as copra-drying and timber treatment. New Zealand expressed its readiness to organize a seminar on geothermal energy provided there was sufficient interest among members. The Commission therefore urged interested members to respond promptly to the secretariat's notification concerning the seminar .

565. Noting that the programme of work and priorities in the energy resources field for 1980-1981 reflected the updating of priority needs of the members, as indicated by the Working Group Meeting on Energy Planning and Programming, the Commission urged the secretariat to proceed rapidly with the implementation of the programme, including those items which could be commenced in 1979.

566. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance provided by Switzerland for the in-depth study, "Peak-load coverage with particular reference to gas turbines and hydroelectric plants", and that provided by Australia and the Netherlands for the Expert Group Meeting on Biogas Development. It also thanked UNDP for financing and the USSR for hosting the Seminar and Study Tour on Rural Electrification held at Tashkent.

567. The Commission welcomed the initiative of UNDP in fielding a mission on energy resources development and expressed the hope that UNDP would arrange for the participation of the ESCAP secretariat in the proposed mission.

568. The Commission noted that good progress had been made in the field of mineral resources development. It expressed support for the work programme in that field and was pleased with the activities designed to strengthen the capabilities of the national agencies.

569. Members were urged to provide the information required for the compilation work on mineral exploration and development as requested by the secretariat, in

accordance with proposals endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-third session.

570. The Commission commended the progress made in stratigraphic correlation between sedimentary basins of the ESCAP region and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Australia for providing the services of a senior stratigrapher on a non-reimbursable basis to assume the duties of co-ordinator of the project from September 1976 to the end of 1979. It also expressed gratitude to UNESCO for financing the participation of some participants in the Third Working Group Meeting of the project in November 1978.

571. Noting that the compilation of the third edition of the Oil and Natural Gas Map of Asia had started, the Commission expressed its appreciation to India for providing the regional co-ordinator of the project.

572. The Commission was pleased to note that the three founding members of SEATRADC had assumed responsibility for the management of the Centre and commended the Governments on the progress made. It expressed great interest in the Centre's activities and support for its future development. It also thanked UNDP for the assistance provided to the Centre.

573. It welcomed the offer of the USSR to organize a seminar/study tour on modern mineral prospecting methods in 1980 at Tashkent, using its rouble contribution to UNDP.

574. The Commission welcomed the plans of the secretariat to initiate work on problems related to the mitigation of the possible effects of geological hazards.

575. The Commission was pleased to note that considerable attention had been given to various aspects concerning follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference and matters arising from relevant Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions. However, several representatives expressed disappointment at the poor response to the secretariat's proposal to convene during 1979 an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on water, which had been approved in principle by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session.

576. It was pleased to note that under the auspices of ESCAP an Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific had been established and had held two sessions. It was hoped that the Task Force would play an effective role in assisting co-operation and, as appropriate, joint action among participating bodies, in support of national programmes for investigation, development and management of water resources. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the United Nations specialized agencies of their full support of and participation in the Task Force.

577. In approving the 1980-1981 programme of work on water resources development, some representatives

noted with regret the lack of interest among members in the development of international river basins, notwithstanding the fact that a number of international rivers in the region could provide substantial benefits to several countries, as in the Mekong project.

578. The Commission urged that increased attention be given to the development of ground-water resources, particularly to supply the water requirements of areas which were too remote from rivers to be irrigated or where health conditions were poor owing to lack of water. It therefore welcomed plans to organize a roving seminar on the development and management of ground water, with special emphasis on the conjunctive use of surface and ground water.

579. The Commission was pleased to note the inclusion of new projects pertaining to national water policies, institutions and legislation and to project planning and management. In that connexion, the USSR was prepared to provide advisory services on water management problems and on improvement of irrigation management. The Commission noted with appreciation that the USSR planned to organize a seminar on measures to improve irrigation efficiency at the farm level at Tashkent during 1979.

580. The Commission was also pleased to note the increased emphasis recently given to non-structural measures to reduce damage from typhoons and floods in the region. It urged that all relevant activities of the secretariat be well co-ordinated with those of the Typhoon Committee.

581. The Commission noted the information contained in document \,E/ESCAP/114/Add.1 concerning the proposal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish an Interagency Water Resources Board, to ensure international co-operation at the global level in the field of water resources development and management among various United Nations agencies with water-related programmes.

582. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the proposed Board, provided it was clearly stated that the regional commissions would form one of the mainstays on which the Board would have to rely and that the regional commissions would play a central and active role in the promotion of intergovernmental and inter-agency co-operation at the regional level with respect to water resources activities.

583. One delegation, however, expressed the view that the terms of reference of the Board might be as follows: (a) to help to monitor progress being made in the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Water Conference; (b) to carry out co-operative and joint planning and implementation of the water-related programmes of the United Nations system; and (c) to assist in the better co-ordination of the water-related activities of the United Nations system at the

584. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance provided by Australia in financing the Expert Working Group Meeting on Water Resources Data Systems. It also thanked UNDP for financing and China for organizing the Workshop on Efficient Use and Maintenance of Irrigation Systems at the Farm Level in China.

585. The Commission expressed the view that, although very sophisticated, remote sensing was indeed a valuable tool for the assessment of natural resources. It was pleased to note that activities in the area of remote sensing had increased, but it hoped that more could be done.

586. It noted with appreciation the assistance provided by UNDP for convening the Meeting on Remote Sensing Activities in the ESCAP Region. Support was expressed for the recommendations of the Meeting and for the proposal that funds be sought from UNDP for a three-year multidisciplinary regional remote sensing project for training, research and development, technical assistance, and information exchange and management. It was also hoped that UNDP would involve the secretariat in the proposed mission on remote sensing and provide corresponding resources for such participation.

587. The Commission was pleased to note that close contact had been maintained by the secretariat with the Asian Institute of Technology and the United States in the development of plans for the establishment of a regional remote sensing training centre at Rangsit, Thailand, and with other national and international bodies for the planning of remote sensing activities in the region.

588. In the use of satellite data, there was a definite need for regional co-operation, especially in the establishment of ground stations for receiving satellite data. There also appeared to be an urgent need for training in the reading and interpretation of satellite data. The Commission was pleased to note that the Government of Japan would arrange to hold the third annual group training course on remote sensing techniques from June to August 1979 and that the Government of the USSR would organize a seminar on remote sensing for investigation of natural resources in 1980 at Baku. Both Governments welcomed the participation of ESCAP members in those courses.

589. The Commission was informed of the interest expressed by 12 countries in holding a working group meeting to discuss regional activities in thematic mapping and compilation of national and regional atlases, and the preparation of a paper for consideration at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific to be held in New Zealand early in 1980. It hoped that funds to support the meeting could be made available by donor countries and from other extrabudgetary sources.

Population

590. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/III, E/ESCAP/124 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.20. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Population on its second session and the recommendations contained therein. It expressed satisfaction over the increasing recognition by countries of the region of the importance of considering the impact of population growth on developmental efforts and welcomed the emphasis given by the Committee to the need to integrate population programmes with socio-economic development.

591. In commending the activities of the secretariat in population and family planning, particularly the organization of expert group meetings and seminars and the conduct of research, and noting their relevance to the issues and needs of countries in the field of population and socio-economic development, the Commission stressed the need for the secretariat to generate and use more current data in its work and the need to strengthen interagency co-ordination at the country level. It welcomed the forthcoming completion of an ESCAP publication comprising an inventory of local experience, experts and institutions in the fields of population and family planning.

592. The Commission endorsed the work programme of the secretariat for 1980-1981 in the field of population, to be changed or improved following the comments and recommendations of the Committee on Population. It accorded high priority to the study of population, food and nutritional requirements; the study of international migration and of the problems associated with migration, urbanization and sub-national development; the collection and analysis of demographic data, including the improvement of vital registration systems; family-oriented studies in relation to fertility behaviour; the training of personnel working in population and family planning; and the exchange of experiences, knowledge and information among countries of the region. It urged the organization of more training courses and greater regional support to country workshops, particularly those related to World Fertility Survey activities; the concentration of inter-country research and studies on micro-level analysis, the findings of which could be readily utilized in actual programmes for implementing national population policies; and the development of a uniform methodology to standardize the estimation of demographic indices. It urged the secretariat to ensure that the programme was pragmatic and capable of implementation within the resources available, concentrating scarce secretariat resources on priority areas and taking into account the need for an appropriate inter-country balance in regional projects. It stressed the need for ESCAP to assist and participate in the development and implementation of the population activities of the countries. It suggested that the secretariat should review its programme in terms of the role of the regional commission as set forth in the recommendations made at the twentieth session of the United Nations Population

Commission to accelerate the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action. It noted with satisfaction that ESCAP was working closely with the UNFP A regional liaison officer in improving the cost-effectiveness and country-responsiveness of the ESCAP programme for the 1980s and expressed the hope that the expanding budget of UNFP A would continue to reflect the needs of the countries of the region in the field of population.

593. The Commission took note of the assistance being given by the Government of France to the ESCAP programme on the translation of population materials. It also took note of the reiteration of the statement made during the second session of the Committee on Population by the delegation of the United Kingdom indicating its Government's willingness to discuss with Governments in the region measures within its aid programme to improve data gathering and to put into effect family planning policies. It likewise took note of the reiteration of the offer made during the same session by the USSR delegation to provide 10 scholarships in higher educational institutions for the ESCAP developing countries, *inter alia*, in the field of demography. It took note of another offer made by the USSR delegation, to send to the ESCAP secretariat materials prepared by the USSR Central Statistical Office reflecting that country's experience in undertaking population censuses, and of its invitation to ESCAP member countries to make the fullest possible use of the United Nations training courses on population and development problems at the University of Moscow.

594. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous contribution of the Government of Japan to ESCAP population activities and to UNFPA.

595. The Commission endorsed the proposed strategy of ESCAP for the 1980s for United Nations assistance in the solution of population and related problems in the region. It took note of the request made by the representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation to provide measures in the strategy through which non-governmental organizations would be able to work more closely with Governments in the region in developmental activities at all levels and in all possible areas of development.

596. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Population that the Asian Population Conference should be continued as a statutory organ of the Commission, renamed the "Asian and Pacific Population Conference" and convened in 1982 or 1983, in lieu of the corresponding session of the Committee on Population. It took note of the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka during the Committee's second session to host the Conference in 1982. The attention of the Commission was called to the need to reflect the financial requirements of and preparatory activities for the Conference in the programme of work for the 1980-1981 biennium as well as

in that for 1982-1983. It decided that the level of participation in the Conference, whether of a ministerial or of a general intergovernmental nature, could best be determined after the proposed preparatory committee for the Conference had considered the theme and programme of the Conference itself.

597. The Commission took note of the fact that UNFP A was prepared to help to ensure the participation in the Conference of the developing countries of the region, particularly those in the Pacific.

598. It also took note of the recommendation of the Committee on Population, which was strongly reiterated by some delegations, that population should be included among the priority areas of the Commission's activities.

Shipping, ports and inland waterways

599. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/104, E/ESCAP/121 and E/ESCAP/128/Add. II.

600. The Commission commended the secretariat on the effective implementation of its activities on shipping, ports and inland waterways during 1978-1979. It also endorsed the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1980-1981, which was considered well conceived and responsive to the needs of the countries in the region. It urged the secretariat to continue to give priority attention to the development of manpower capability, shippers' co-operation, maritime policy and institutions, shipping and port information systems, development of merchant marine and shipping services, port management and inland water transport.

601. The Commission agreed that the role of shipping, ports and inland waterways had increased in importance greatly during the previous decade and had become a fundamental element in development strategies in the region. It noted that, while the developing ESCAP region was the largest consumer of cargo shipping services among the developing regions of the world, the merchant fleets of developing ESCAP countries constituted less than 4 per cent of world ship tonnage. It regretted that the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978 had not devoted any space at all to those important maritime developments and urged the secretariat to give adequate coverage of maritime development and strategies in future surveys.

602. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications in respect of the activities related to shipping, ports and inland waterways. It also noted that the secretariat had been able to implement its activities effectively, including those related to TCDC, as a result of the extrabudgetary resources received from UNDP and the Governments of India, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the USSR, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia, and urged them to continue to channel resources

through the ESCAP secretariat for the implementation of its activities on shipping, ports and inland waterways.

603. While expressing its gratitude to UNDP and those donor countries for their generous and valuable assistance to the secretariat, the Commission agreed that the secretariat should be given increased regular budgetary resources in order to bring stability and continuity to the secretariat's activities in the field of shipping, ports and inland waterways.

604. One delegation noted the heavy workload of the Staff Service for Shipping and Ports as reflected in the tentative calendar of meetings for 1979/80. The Service would cover 29 activities for the whole year, or an average of 2.4 activities per month. Those numerous activities reflected the urgent need felt by many developing countries in the region.

605. The Commission urged the Executive Secretary to take decisive and positive steps to strengthen shipping, ports and inland waterways.

606. The Commission considered that the strategy for the 1980s should include a new international order on shipping.

607. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 198 (XXXV) on technical and economic co-operation among developing countries of the region in shipping matters.

Manpower development

608. In recognizing the importance of manpower development in the field of shipping, ports and inland waterways, the Commission congratulated the secretariat on its efforts in the training of maritime management personnel as well as the upgrading of courses and syllabi of maritime training centres through the organization of training courses, seminars and workshops and the provision of expert services. As those activities had brought considerable benefits to the ESCAP countries, the Commission urged the secretariat to continue with its manpower development programme on an intensive scale, and to undertake a feasibility study on establishing a regional shipping and port management centre.

609. The Commission noted the request of some developing countries to consider holding country-level workshops more frequently. In that respect, it attached much significance to the country-level programme. In the field of ports and inland waterways, the Commission noted the high priority attached to manpower development in specific management training programmes, especially in the light of changing requirements of new ships and shipping technology. The Commission was pleased to learn of UNDP support for inland waterways seminars but noted the need for further assistance in that field.

610. The Commission was informed that the secretariat had completed a survey to review the manpower requirements

of maritime personnel and upgrading of the courses and syllabi of the national training centres for seagoing personnel. The report would be made available to the countries in the region shortly.

611. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Norway for its generous financial support to the secretariat's training programme on shippers' co-operation at both the regional and the country levels. It appreciated the assistance rendered by the Government of Japan in sponsoring the Ship Management Seminar at Tokyo in October 1978 and the offer by the Government of Australia to host a workshop on shippers' co-operation at Sydney in 1979. The Commission also welcomed the offer by the Government of the USSR to host a training course on freight booking and ship chartering during 1979 and to provide fellowships in maritime training to the developing countries on a continuing basis.

Development of maritime policy and institutions

612. In view of the urgent need to strengthen the policy-making institutions in the developing countries of the region, the Commission supported the concept of freight study units as an aid to the development of national shipping policy. It urged the secretariat to continue to provide advisory services in that area.

613. The Commission recognized that the availability of shipping data was essential for the formulation of sound shipping policies. In that connexion, it endorsed the work undertaken by the secretariat in assisting the developing member countries in implementing the scheme on economic statistics of shipping (L-2 scheme). It urged the secretariat to intensify the implementation of the scheme on a region-wide basis on the understanding that that would not entail undue delays in cargo and vessel movements.

614. The Commission strongly supported the continuation of the services of the regional adviser on economic statistics of shipping in the secretariat, and called upon UNDP to provide further financial support to that very important project.

Merchant marine and shipping services

615. The Commission commended the secretariat on its efforts in relation to the development of merchant marines and shipping services. It noted that the study on the regional shipping network in the south-east Asian region had been completed and that the report would be distributed to member countries shortly. It urged the secretariat to make the methodology of the study available for use in other subregional groupings. The financial support for the study that had been received from the Netherlands Government was gratefully acknowledged.

616. The Commission noted with interest the secretariat's initiative in organizing activities on co-operation among regional shipowners. It expressed concern that the region's share of the world's merchant fleet tonnage was marginal when compared with the cargo volume generated and the long distances which characterized the region's shipping. The problem of inadequate participation in the seaborne trade by the developing countries was pointed out and it was suggested that that situation should be improved in favour of the developing countries on a bilateral or multilateral basis.

617. The Commission appreciated the secretariat's initiative in developing a long-term programme in the field of merchant shipping aimed at helping developing countries to expand their merchant marines and keeping pace with rapid technological changes in sea transportation. It expressed concern that little progress had been made in the area of shipping under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

618. The Commission noted the positive results achieved by a developed member country in establishing joint ventures in shipping with some developing member countries in the region, which had resulted in more competitive export prices, employment creation and foreign exchange earnings. It also noted the financial and technical support provided to the South Pacific region.

Development of ports and port management

619. The ports of the region continued to be faced with the need to adapt to new shipping technology involving larger and more sophisticated ships. Some developing countries stressed the urgent need for assistance to carry out studies of the impact of new shipping technology, particularly containerization. The Commission was pleased to note the continuing efforts made by the secretariat to meet the needs of port management personnel for higher levels of skills through the series of port management training seminars. It also noted with appreciation the offers of some developed countries to continue support for that programme, as well as for the programme of country-level workshops, and to assist in the organization of, and participate in, studies of containerization and new systems, such as barge-carrying systems.

620. The change-over to new shipping systems involving large ships required deeper, wider and unobstructed approach channels and deeper ports. The Commission noted in that respect the request of developing countries in the region for assistance in dredging and the need for greater resources to carry out an effective programme of dredging assistance in the region.

621. An important element in effective port management, and in the efficiency of port operations, was the

streamlined flow of adequate information. The Commission was pleased to learn of the continuing efforts of the secretariat to upgrade port information systems in the region's ports and of the continuing support of one of the developed countries. It also noted the necessity for adequate dissemination of information and exchange of ideas and in that respect appreciated the moves taken to convene a regional meeting of national port organizations in 1979. It further noted the request for information and studies on comparative port charges in the region's ports.

622. The Commission expressed appreciation to donor Governments, particularly the Government of Norway, for their active and continuing support of port training programmes and to the Governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and UNDP, for their financial and technical assistance; it hoped that that support would continue.

Inland waterways

623. The dominant importance of inland waterways in plans for regional and national development in several developing countries in the region was noted by the Commission. In that respect, the Commission noted that the long-term integrated plan of action outlined by the secretariat reflected the needs and priorities of the developing countries but that additional resources were needed in that important field. The offers of the Governments of the Netherlands and the USSR to assist on a long-term basis through the provision of fellowships, study tours, seminars and workshops were appreciated.

624. The Commission learned with satisfaction that a pre-feasibility study by the secretariat's expert team on inland waterways, coastal shipping, ports and dredging had been completed in Viet Nam in early 1979 and noted that country's request for continuing assistance in formulating and implementing suitable projects.

625. The Commission was pleased to learn that a preliminary investigation of the feasibility of establishing a regional centre for inland waterways in Bangladesh had been completed in 1978 and that follow-up action was being taken. It also welcomed the offers by the Governments of the Netherlands and the USSR to sponsor studies of river, river/sea and barge-carrying systems, which might be suitable under specific conditions in some of the developing countries, and to share the results of studies already undertaken.

Shippers' organization and co-operation

626. The Commission commended the secretariat on its continuing efforts to implement the valuable work programme in the field of shippers' organization and co-operation. It urged that workshops on the shippers' co-operation project should be continued in view of their positive benefits. It recognized that shippers were

now better organized and equipped with tools to analyse effectively the economics and suitability of shipping services and to negotiate more effectively with shipping lines and conferences. It also noted that organized shippers and charterers were essential in protecting and preserving national interests.

627. The Commission expressed its concern that frequent and often unilateral freight rate increases were continuing in the region; in the Pacific island countries in particular, the freight rates for some commodities were extremely high in relation to their f.o.b. values and compared unfavourably with similar exports from other parts of the region. The Commission further urged the secretariat to undertake a study on liner freight rates in the region.

628. The Commission recognized the desirability of promoting co-operation among shippers as well as close co-operation between shippers and shipowners in solving problems and disputes. It stressed the importance of promoting further understanding and co-operation between shippers and shipowners servicing the region.

629. In that connexion, the Commission felt that an appropriate association of the national shippers' councils of the region needed to be established as early as possible. It further considered that the organization of meetings of the chief executives of the regional shipowners' associations and chief executives of national shippers' organizations, as well as bringing the executives together at joint meetings, had served a very useful purpose and that the continuance of those activities would go a long way towards bringing about improved shipping services in the region.

630. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the pragmatic approach of the Staff Service for Shipping and Ports in rendering assistance to such regional groupings as ANRPC, APCC and the Federation of ASEAN Shippers' Councils, and urged the secretariat to continue to provide assistance to them.

631. The Commission recognized that the secretariat had been able to undertake successfully all the activities in the work programme related to shippers' co-operation as a result of the generous financial assistance provided by the Government of Norway. It therefore expressed its warm gratitude to that Government.

Social development

632. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/110, E/ESCAP/123 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.19. It endorsed and commended the activities of the secretariat in the field of social development, as well as the report and recommendations of the Committee on Social Development. It particularly approved the recommendations of the Committee concerning strategies for the

third development decade, which emphasized, *inter alia*, greater and more effective participation by all segments of society, particularly the poor; development of services for children, women and youth; agrarian reforms and development of grass-roots institutions; unified development planning; and TCDC.

633. In that connexion, some delegations related their countries' experiences and also informed the members of the Commission of the progress made in their respective countries in the field of women and children. Many countries reported the establishment of women's bureaux or divisions and the formulation of national policies, and comprehensive plans of action for children and women. One delegation suggested that case studies should be prepared of successful country experiences in attaining socio-economic progress.

634. The Commission expressed concern at the unequal development in meeting social objectives during the Second Development Decade, which had led to widespread poverty, malnutrition and unemployment. It reiterated that the social objectives of the third development decade should be to achieve economic growth with social justice, equitable distribution of income and wealth, development of all branches of the economy and full involvement of all segments of society, including women and youth. An integrated and unified approach to development aimed at balanced development, which would include agrarian reforms and industrialization, should be adopted. The maximum use should be made of a country's resources, while activities of the private sector and the transnational corporations should be subordinated to a country's objectives and goals.

635. A number of delegations were of the opinion that without peace in the world, a climate conducive to the attainment of social development objectives could not be created.

636. The Commission endorsed the holding of the Second Asian Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Development (including social welfare) in 1980 as a forum in which to discuss policies and issues for the third development decade and the convening of the preparatory expert group meeting in 1979. Some delegations stated that, besides strategies for the 1980s, the Conference should discuss matters relating to women and children, with a view to formulating concrete proposals for long-term policies and programmes. One representative stated that if there were technical difficulties in the way of holding the Conference in 1980, it could be held in 1981, in lieu of the third session of the Committee on Social Development.

637. The Commission endorsed the holding of the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in October 1979 and expressed gratitude to the Government of India for offering host facilities. It was felt that the Conference would assist in focusing attention

on the integration of women in the development process and supporting activities aimed at the well-being of women, and that concrete suggestions and plans of action would emerge from the deliberations.

638. The Commission also endorsed the major recommendations made by the Regional Consultation on the International Year of the Child for Asia and the Pacific. It stressed the need for ESCAP to continue providing a forum for deliberations on IYC and financial and technical assistance. It also expressed its appreciation of the host facilities provided by the Government of the Philippines. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 201 (XXXV) on regional activities on the International Year of the Child, 1979.

639. The activities and programmes in the field of popular participation and institution building were commended and endorsed, particularly the accomplishments of the mobile training scheme (MTS) for the land-locked and least developed countries. Some delegations requested that the services of MTS be extended to their countries. Concern was expressed that sufficient funds would not be forthcoming for that project in the future through the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. The Commission urged the secretariat to seek additional funds for continuing the activities of MTS and appealed to donor countries and concerned agencies to provide such funds.

640. The Commission endorsed the work of the secretariat on the integration of women in the development process, and urged the continuation of activities in that field in order that that major sector of the population of each country would be more fully involved in the development process. It endorsed the summary of the Five-year Regional Action Programme included in the report of the Committee on Social Development, which could be used as the broad base of legal authority for future programmes of the secretariat in the field of integration of women in the development process. While commending the work of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, the Commission urged that the Committee be requested further to enhance its assistance to projects benefiting member countries in the region. It was suggested that increasing attention should be given to the plight of working women through Voluntary Fund activities. The work of the Interagency Sub-Committee on Women was appreciated and the continuation of the publication of the *Interagency Information Bulletin* relating to women and development was urged.

641. The Commission commended and endorsed the programme of work in the field of youth. It requested ESCAP to give greater attention to the involvement of youth, particularly rural youth, in the development process.

642. The Commission endorsed the TCDC components of the social development work programme of ESCAP

and commended the emphasis given to least developed, land-locked and island countries. It also noted the useful contribution of non-governmental organizations to the social development activities of ESCAP.

Statistics

643. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/101 and Con.1, E/ESCAP/125 and E/ESCAP/128/ Add.21 and Corr.1.

644. It generally commended the secretariat on its activities in the statistical field. It recognized that the development of statistics was a continuing long-term process where results were achieved by sustained rather than sporadic efforts and were generally gradual improvements rather than spectacular advances. It also commended the secretariat on its statistical publications containing regional data and suggested that they might be more timely and give wider coverage to statistics in emerging fields of interest. They should also contain information and articles on statistical methodologies used in various countries. The Commission recalled that the secretariat was not a primary producer of statistics and hence urged member States to supply ESCAP with statistical information as quickly and as comprehensively as possible.

645. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session. It also approved the changes proposed in the programme for 1979 and the programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981. It considered that those programmes rightly focused attention on priority areas such as statistics for integrated rural development, energy statistics, improvement and harmonization of trade statistics, promotion of household sample survey capabilities in countries, and social statistics, including statistics on children and youth and women. With respect to the last item, the Commission emphasized that the Working Group of Statistical Experts to be held in 1979 should concentrate on sources and methods of compiling data thereon.

646. The view was expressed that, in the longer run, consideration might be given to the possibility of integrating the Regional Programme for Organizing the 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing, the National Household Survey Capability Programme, the programme for the preparation and management of documents and data files for rural development, and statistical training into a long-term phased programme. Such an integrated programme would help to conserve the secretariat's limited financial and manpower resources.

647. The Commission reiterated that timely and reliable data in sufficient detail and free from any political bias were a prerequisite for administrative, policy and planning purposes. Indeed, the development planning and decision-making processes were often hampered by a lack of appropriate statistical data. In spite of that

fact, statistical efforts were not always supported by adequate resources in most countries. It was therefore highly prudent that budgets for development plans and projects should contain a component specifically earmarked for statistical activities, thereby facilitating the compilation of factual information needed for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects.

648. The Commission noted with appreciation that most countries of the region were well advanced in their preparations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses. It commended the secretariat for the timely release of its publication *Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses* and noted that other methodological publications on population censuses were available from a developed country. Some countries had introduced innovative approaches in their census schedules and had plans to tabulate census data by families as well as households. One country planned to make a complete enumeration of all physically handicapped persons.

649. In the field of social statistics, the Commission stressed the formulation and development of uniform concepts and definitions and the promotion of their use among countries of the region. Social indicators would thus be rendered more comparable. The need for statistical series on children and youth and women was particularly emphasized in the context of the International Year of the Child and the United Nations Decade for Women. The Commission also observed that data series on various aspects of the environment were becoming increasingly relevant in view of growing industrialization and exploitation of natural resources.

650. The Commission welcomed the National Household Survey Capability Programme of the United Nations and its priority status in the programme of work of the secretariat. The fact that the programme was designed to build a permanent and effective national infrastructure for the undertaking of continuing multipurpose sample surveys was recognized by the Commission as particularly important for the gathering of inter-censal data in a wide range of social and economic fields. The Commission felt that the secretariat should have the key role in implementing the Programme in the ESCAP region, and urged the developed countries and donor agencies to support it with adequate financial and technical resources and expertise. The developing countries of the region could also support the Programme through their active participation and contributions in kind. The Programme's supportive role for the development strategies for the 1980s and for rural development projects was also recognized.

651. The Commission noted with satisfaction that matters relating to the development and collection of statistics for integrated rural development had been receiving due attention during 1978 and 1979 and that they would be accorded high priority during 1980-1981. It noted the secretariat's statistical activities in support

of the ESCAP integrated programme on rural development and looked forward to the development of guidelines for the preparation of data files on statistics for rural development and to the provision of regional advisory services for that purpose. The Commission hoped that the necessary resources for those activities would be forthcoming.

652. Many countries in the region were planning to participate in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and accordingly welcomed the emphasis on that topic in the secretariat's work programme. It was hoped that the necessary technical assistance would be forthcoming to permit countries to improve the methodology and expand the coverage of industrial statistics. The work on revising the International Standard Industrial Classification was welcomed, but it was felt that developing countries should be more closely involved in that task.

653. The Commission stressed the importance of adequate statistical information in the increasingly critical field of energy, particularly relating to non-conventional sources on which production and use data needed to be compiled. The proposed ESCAP seminar on energy statistics would be most useful in that regard and the Commission requested the secretariat to explore possible funding arrangements. Statistical information on energy had vital implications for other branches of the economy and thus needed to be related to other types of economic statistics.

654. The secretariat's plans to expand and accelerate its activities in the improvement and harmonization of international trade statistics and tariff nomenclatures were welcomed. Trade was important for all countries of the region and comparable, sufficiently detailed foreign trade statistics were needed in order to formulate trade policies. In other fields of economic statistics, the view was expressed that the ADB-sponsored commodity balance sheets project should be continued. With regard to distributive trade statistics, it was felt that the next session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts should examine carefully whether existing international guidelines in that field were wholly suitable for countries with less developed statistical systems. A number of countries reported continuing progress towards the adoption of the revised System of National Accounts recommended by the United Nations, while several were preparing to take part in the forthcoming round of agricultural censuses. In those and many other areas of economic statistics, however, considerable scope for improvement existed.

655. The Commission noted with satisfaction that in the spirit of TCDC, India had provided host facilities for the Seminar on Statistics for Rural Development, and that ESCAP developing countries had sent participants to technical meetings at their own expense. The Commission observed that other areas where TCDC could be applied in the field of statistics had been

elaborated in the documentation before it, and in that connexion the exchange of methodological materials between countries was felt to be particularly useful.

656. The Commission reiterated the importance of statistical training and endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Statistics on that subject. There was a consequent need to expand training facilities. The Commission also recognized the importance of country courses as a means of providing training to a large number of persons in a short time. In that connexion, the Commission commended the role played by SIAP and urged member countries and donor agencies to support the Institute in order to enable it to fulfill the training requirements of the region. The secretariat's supportive role in promoting statistical training in the region was also commended. The Commission noted with gratitude the support in the form of guest lecturers to SIAP being provided by the Governments of France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. It also welcomed the offer of France to support a training course for French-speaking participants from the Pacific islands, and the arrangements being made by the Government of the Philippines to host the training workshop for census co-ordinators at Manila from 5 June to 14 August 1979.

657. Electronic data processing played a vital role in the accurate and timely processing of statistical data and the Commission observed that the development of data-processing capabilities would go a long way towards improving statistical information systems within individual countries as well as in the context of the secretariat's over-all information system. Several countries expressed the need for the continuing services of a regional adviser on processing statistical data. Software packages were important in that regard, and the Commission suggested that the secretariat should explore the possibility of obtaining versions of such packages suitable for smaller computer systems. The secretariat could also act as a clearing-house for application programmes for the editing of statistical information as well as tabulation. The Commission recognized the value of integrated data bases and suggested the promotion of such systems in the countries of the region.

658. The Commission noted with satisfaction that two technical seminars had been held during the past year, one on statistics for integrated rural development and the other on statistics of small-scale and household industries. It was felt that both those seminars had been useful. In general, technical meetings should continue to be a major vehicle for implementing the secretariat's work programme in statistics development within the region. The Commission expressed concern at the secretariat's continuing difficulties in securing funds for technical meetings, and strongly urged donor countries and agencies to give adequate and timely support to those activities, utilizing TCDC principles wherever appropriate. Because of the distances involved, funding for the attendance of Pacific countries was particularly

problematic; the secretariat was urged to give special attention to that question and to the possibility of organizing, in close co-operation with SPC and SPEC, subregional seminars in the Pacific. The Commission noted with great appreciation the arrangements being made by the Government of New Zealand to host the Seminar on Statistical Organization in April 1979, with that country, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and UNDP contributing towards the expenses of developing country participants. The Commission also warmly welcomed the offer of the Government of the USSR to host two statistical seminars, one in 1981 on labour productivity statistics and the other in 1982 on the organization of regional statistics.

659. The Commission noted the need for expert advisory services in various fields of statistics in the countries and commended the secretariat's efforts in providing them within the resources at its disposal. Some countries preferred short-term consultants. While there was therefore a need for reassessment of the type of advisory services needed and for redeployment as necessary, there were other emerging fields of importance calling for the appointment of new advisers. Notable among those were household surveys, statistics for rural development, industrial statistics, environmental statistics, transport statistics, socio-economic statistics and social indicators, data processing and evaluation of country data. The Commission urged UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies and donor countries to provide financial and manpower resources for such regional advisory services. It also impressed on the countries the need to provide feedback to the secretariat on the usefulness of regional advisers working in the field.

Transport and communications

660. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/104, E/ESCAP/122 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.12, Add.13 and Add.14, and endorsed the report of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications and its work programme.

General transport

661. The Commission recognized that the importance of transport and communications to national and regional development had increased with the growth of rural and urban population, agriculture, industry, trade and technology and the opening of new areas for human settlements and development. As more than half of the population of the world lived in Asia and the Pacific in countries of diverse geographic natures, stretching over a vast area at various levels of development, it was necessary to provide efficient linkages by land, sea and air transport and telecommunication within and between countries in order to spur their integrated economic and social development. It recommended that transport and communications infrastructure should be included in the draft strategies for the 1980s and, where appropriate,

in future economic and social surveys of Asia and the Pacific.

662. The Commission endorsed the secretariat's efforts to identify complex approaches to and propose remedial solutions for national, subregional and regional transport problems. It was felt that the investment criteria for developing the different modes of transport should be governed by considerations of the optimum use of the available resources. Increased emphasis should also be placed on dissemination of information and clearing-house activities in all fields of transport. Training activities should be further intensified.

663. The Commission endorsed the activities relating to promotion of transport research and their dissemination to the countries of the region. It felt that full use should be made of the existing work being done on research such as by the International Road Federation's World Register of Current Transport Research, the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia, the permanent International Association of Road Congresses and the Round Table of Transport Research Centers, the United Kingdom Transport and Road Research laboratory and OECD under its international road research documentation scheme.

664. Multimodal transport should be promoted when its economic and operational viability could be established as being more advantageous. In view of the possibility of the completion of the western segment of the Trans-Asian Railway from Iran to Bangladesh in the 1980s, studies should be initiated to determine the economic viability and competitiveness of an alternative multimodal route for the transport of goods from Europe to south-east Asian countries. The USSR expressed its readiness to share its experience and to offer technical criteria, hosting a seminar-cum-study tour on public transport in the USSR in 1981.

665. The Commission welcomed the initiative of the secretariat in its proposed work to promote an integrated transport system in countries of the region and to correlate the activities on all modes of land transport.

666. In the context of the integrated transport system, the secretariat was requested to collect and disseminate accurate transport statistics within the region. In doing so, use should be made of data already available from various sources for dissemination to the developing countries of the region and appropriate transport information originating within and outside the region. The convening of a regional workshop on transport statistics was a step in the right direction.

667. The Commission noted with great interest the increasing attention being given to problems of urban transport and the need for a systems approach to solve problems in that area. It supported a comparative study on urban passenger transport systems. It felt that in developing training programmes in the field of urban transport planning and traffic engineering, transport

systems management should be included. It also endorsed the undertaking of studies on the planning and operation of public transport, taking note of activities in that area being conducted elsewhere.

Facilitation of international traffic

668. The Commission recognized the increasing importance of developing appropriate facilitation measures and felt that the secretariat should concentrate on harmonization of national regulations and practices that impeded international trade and co-operation in the region.

669. It was noted that the work in that field included simplification of documentation and frontier formalities, adoption in the region of a Green Card-type international insurance for motor vehicles and adoption of the TIR carnet system for the international transportation of goods by road.

670. The Asia-Pacific draft agreement concerning compulsory insurance against civil liability in respect of motor vehicles, when finalized and approved, could make a major contribution to the development of international traffic of such vehicles. It was felt, however, that studies on that issue should be further intensified, to include an exchange of information on the relevant existing legislation in the countries of the region in order to identify the further legislative measures to be adopted.

Highways and highway transport

671. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in continuing the field surveys of the Asian Highway network and updating guide-book maps and its efforts to prepare a schematic map of the international highway network to show the road linkages of Asia with those of the Middle East and African and European networks. It urged the secretariat to take the necessary steps to promote early completion of the Asian Highway project and to assist in developing road transport for optimizing the use of the completed road links.

672. It stressed the importance of developing rural roads and road transport within the framework of integrated rural development programmes in the countries of the region. It expressed its gratitude to the Japanese Government for its offer to train road construction experts in the region and to extend consultancy services in that field.

673. It noted with appreciation the readiness of the USSR to participate in highway construction feasibility studies, the offer of the United Kingdom to share the experience of the Overseas Unit of the Transport and Road Research Laboratory in its training activities and that of the United States to assist in the promotion of highway transport in providing materials on highway-related conventions and maintenance techniques.

674. The Commission noted that agreements would be promoted on uniform weights, dimensions and safety devices of vehicles in relation to specifications of roads and bridges of the region. It appreciated the work on low-cost road construction in arid, marshy and wet areas and on the development of design standards for labour-intensive road construction and maintenance and improvement of indigenous construction equipment.

Railways

675. The Commission endorsed the preparation of the master plan for the Asian railways within the context of the Trans-Asian Railway network and reiterated that the rehabilitation and modernization of railways of the region within the framework of that project should be given high priority. It also expressed its gratitude to the Japanese National Railways for convening in 1979, in co-operation with ESCAP, a meeting of top Asian railway executives to exchange information on common administrative problems and experiences. The need to undertake techno-economic studies of the feeder rail links was emphasized. It was also recommended that the operational and commercial aspects of railways should receive greater attention.

676. The Commission requested the secretariat to promote the sharing of the railway experiences of the countries of the region, particularly on transfer of technology and research.

677. It endorsed the continuance of the Joint Roving Team of Railway Experts, which had visited a number of countries in the region. In that context, it was noted that in 1978 a secretariat reconnaissance survey mission had been undertaken to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, while a feasibility study had been undertaken in 1979 by a multinational ESCAP mission, including IBRD, Belgium, India and the USSR, for the rehabilitation of the Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh City railway line in Viet Nam. It endorsed the request of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam for follow-up assistance in the planning and construction of the railway link between those two countries.

678. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government of Japan for its continued co-operation in providing expert services to the secretariat and sending specialists to the various study teams to assist the countries of the region in the modernization and improvement of the existing railway networks. It also expressed its gratitude to the Governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the USSR for funding and hosting seminars-cum-study tours in the field of railways, to the Government of the USSR for donating audio-visual equipment to the railways of Mongolia and to the Government of Australia for its offer to assist in the study of breaks of gauge.

679. The Commission endorsed the requests of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for technical

assistance with regard to their railway problems, which were already covered in the work programme.

Air transport

680. The Commission noted with satisfaction the increasing co-operation between ESCAP and ICAO and the mutual understanding between them to avoid duplication of effort. It was noted that, following the previous study of the development of international air passenger travel and air freight, a second study under the regular programme of ICAO for the ESCAP region would be completed in 1980/81. It endorsed the postponement of the seminar being convened by the secretariat, in co-operation with ICAO, on economic aspects of air cargo transport so as to use the inputs of the above study.

681. It noted that the secretariat would assist in the promotion of air cargo transport and co-operate with ICAO in its three subregional studies on air transport for economic development in the South Pacific, the south-east Asian and the southern and western sub-regions under the technical assistance programme.

682. The Commission noted the view expressed by one delegation regarding protectionism in new fields of economic activity, such as civil aviation. That delegation cited a case of a protectionist policy whereby traffic between two countries should be carried only by the national carriers of those countries, thus crippling all other airlines which had over the years contributed significantly to the development of such traffic between the two countries; that could radically alter the existing system of international aviation, which had been widely accepted for the previous 30 years.

Telecommunication

683. The Commission noted with satisfaction a significant increase in the volume of technical assistance and advisory services being rendered to the countries of the region in the field of telecommunication. That, it felt, should lead not only to completion of the terrestrial Asian telecommunication network by 1980, but also to telecommunication development in its total perspective, account being taken of the emergence of complementary transmission systems, such as submarine cable systems and satellite systems catering for increasing traffic and circuit requirements for a variety of end uses. *Inter alia*, it endorsed the need for additional assistance activities in respect of planning of networks, services and applications of telecommunication, including broadcasting and television, maritime and rural telecommunication and others involving injection of advanced hardware systems, or system-organizing technology and modern methods of management. It also stressed the importance of training in the field and urged that high priority be given to training development to improve the quality and level of training in all areas of specialization, including maintenance and

management. It expressed its gratitude to India for its offer of advance-level training facilities to the telecommunication personnel of the region and also consultancy services in various areas of telecommunication.

684. The Commission felt that the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in May 1979 would make a major contribution to the solution of many problems and lead to improved management of telecommunication services and facilities. It hoped that a suitable mechanism would be evolved for co-ordinating the activities of the Telecommunity with those of ESCAP, ITU and other United Nations specialized agencies and regional organizations concerned. In noting that 15 members and 1 associate member had ratified the Constitution of the Telecommunity, it urged all the other members and associate members of ESCAP to join the Telecommunity at a very early date.

Postal development

685. The Commission noted that UNDP assistance to ESCAP in the field of postal development had been suspended and hoped that it would soon be reactivated. It noted with satisfaction the increasing co-operation between ESCAP and the Asian-Oceanic Postal Union (AOPU), which had provided assistance for the continuance of training activities at the Asian and Oceanic Postal Training School (AOPTS) at Bangkok. It requested UNDP to reactivate its assistance to the School. AOPU had adopted special postal rates among its members; it was fielding expert missions to assist in postal development, operations and training and arranging consultations and co-operation and exchange of officials between its member countries. The Commission noted that AOPU currently had a membership of 14 countries, and it urged other UPU members of ESCAP to consider joining that "restricted union" at an early date in order truly to reflect its regional character and to enable it to serve the entire ESCAP region. It was hoped that AOPU would extend its invitation to the non-AOPU members of ESCAP to the working party it would convene in 1979, to which ESCAP, UNDP and UPU were also to be invited.

686. The Commission requested the working party to consider providing regional inputs, after ascertaining the regional needs in the field of postal development for the following years, in preparation for the quinquennial UPU congress to be convened later in 1979.

687. It requested the secretariat to continue to provide assistance to UPU, AOPU and the countries of the region for improvement and further development of their postal services.

Tourism

688. The Commission placed great emphasis on the development of tourism as a major invisible earner of foreign exchange for the developing countries of the

region. It noted with satisfaction the close co-operation of the secretariat with WTO. It endorsed the convening of a workshop in Thailand in 1979-1980 on investment in tourist facilities and infrastructure as soon as resources became available.

689. It requested the secretariat to undertake in-depth studies/surveys on specific aspects of tourism also in the south Asian region so that the countries involved could be assisted in their tourism development plans.

690. The Commission urged the early implementation of the Lumbini project. It noted that a master plan had already been approved by the Government of Nepal and expressed its gratitude to the donor Governments, UNDP and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development for their assistance to that project. It also felt that, in pursuance of the resolutions with respect to the development of the project, funds should be raised in the 1980s for the construction of Lumbini Garden. It further noted that the project had not yet been decentralized to ESCAP. It requested UNESCO to extend assistance, financial and otherwise, to the secretariat to ensure the early implementation of the project.

691. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Bangladesh, Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, Pakistan, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, and to the specialized agencies, particularly ILO, FAO, ICAO, IBRD, UPU and ITU as well as ADB, WTO and other interested international organizations, for the co-operation and assistance they had rendered to the secretariat in implementing its work programme in the field of transport and communications in general, and in particular for providing funds and experts, fielding survey missions, hosting seminars, workshops and study tours and offering assistance to the countries of the region through the secretariat.

Environment

692. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/99, E/ESCAP/120 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.10.6

93. The Commission commended the decision to establish the Environmental Co-ordinating Unit (ECU) in the Office of the Executive Secretary and considered that to be an essential initiative in the fulfillment of the environmental objectives of ESCAP. It recommended that efforts should be made to sustain the Unit so that environmental considerations could be taken into account in the activities of the Commission on a continuous basis.

694. It was stressed that the ESCAP programme of work on the environment should reinforce, at the regional level, the efforts of UNEP in fulfilling the aspirations and objectives of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972. In that context it was suggested that, in addition to

strengthening the environmental dimensions of ESCAP activities, efforts should be made to strengthen the national capabilities to incorporate environmental considerations in the planning and implementation of development projects.

695. The Commission generally endorsed the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, and the programme changes, 1979. It suggested, however, that in view of the constraints of resources and manpower, it should try to concentrate on a number of priority areas. With reference to the ongoing and planned activities for the biennium 1980-1981, the Commission noted the following four priority areas within the programme: (a) creation of environmental awareness within the region; (b) development and/or strengthening of the institutional and legal framework for environmental protection and management at the national level; (c) environmental management of land ecosystems, particularly of arid and semi-arid lands; and (d) protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems.

696. The Commission welcomed the work performed by the secretariat in developing and/or strengthening the institutional and legal framework for environmental protection and management at the national level and suggested that efforts should be made to continue that activity, particularly in the area of dissemination and exchange of information between countries.

697. With regard to environmental management of land ecosystems, emphasis was laid on follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Desertification and land management from the environmental and socio-economic standpoints. While the Commission endorsed the idea of convening a regional workshop on desertification, it was suggested that an attempt should be made to implement specific programmes to combat desertification processes at the national level.

698. With regard to protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems, the Commission noted with interest the secretariat's plan to organize a series of national and regional seminars and a study tour. It commended the proposal to develop a comprehensive environmental management programme for the South Pacific and for a South Pacific conference on the human environment, to be convened jointly by ESCAP, SPC, SPEC and UNEP. The Commission agreed, however, that the primary responsibility for that activity should lie with SPC and SPEC.

699. The Commission stressed the importance of avoiding duplication, through co-ordination of the programme of work of ESCAP with those of other relevant agencies, such as UNEP, UNESCO, WHO and IMCO, at the regional level.

700. Finally, the Commission noted with appreciation in the financial and technical assistance provided so far by UNEP and various donor countries such as Australia, India, the Netherlands and Sweden towards implementing the environment programme of ESCAP.

Information systems and documentation services

701. The Commission had before it documents E/pSCAP/126 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.22.

702. The Commission took note of the various steps taken by ESCAP to correct earlier omissions in its information programme, following the over-all review of ESCAP activities made in 1973 by the Policy Assessment Group. That Group had stressed, and the Commission at its thirtieth session had agreed on, the need for ESCAP to act as a clearing-house for information in the region.

703. The Commission re-emphasized the importance of the role of ESCAP in the collection, analysis and dissemination of economic, technical and statistical information. It took note of the actions taken by the secretariat since the thirty-fourth session with regard to the improved organization of information, the adoption of standards that would be used in the co-ordination of information and the conduct of feasibility studies for its equipment requirements. However, it felt that yet more positive measures were needed to make ESCAP responsive to the requirements of member States for information during the next development decade, to strengthen the activities of the regional commissions as urged in General Assembly resolutions and to support economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries.

704. The Commission was therefore gratified to note the generous offer of the Japanese Government, subject to legislative approval, to co-operate with the secretariat in the establishment of a computing system within the secretariat, since a modern computing facility was deemed indispensable for carrying out its information activities.

705. The Commission recognized that the installation of such a system would permit the secretariat to proceed with the development of its bibliographic data base, and that that system, along with others of a statistical or scientific nature, would serve as the nucleus of a future regional information system. In that connexion, the Commission noted with appreciation the support received by ESCAP from United Nations Headquarters, which 'was resulting in a systems design that would permit close co-ordination of bibliographic information, through the sharing of a common thesaurus and other standards, and also the transfer of data between different offices of the United Nations system as well as between sectoral information systems within ESCAP.

706. The Commission noted with interest the plan to convene within the next few months a study group on the co-ordination of government information systems, in conjunction with the Data for Development Association. It was noted that, in some countries, a multiplicity of information systems for the transfer of bibliographic information was being established. Furthermore, within the administrative agencies, some degree of over-lapping

was occurring in the collection of data. The Commission therefore recognized the need for studies on the co-ordination of the separate information systems within government, especially as certain common data elements tended to be found in each. Moreover, the wider adoption of common definitions and standards would permit the harmonization of coding of data, and prepare the way for computerized data banks and government computer networks, designed to yield concise and relevant information for decision making and planning.

707. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of France to fund the study group and consider the provision of a regional adviser who would assist Governments in the improvement of their computer-based administrative information systems.

708. The Commission was informed of the continuing support provided to Governments through the services of a regional adviser in data processing, generously funded by UNFPA, and through the convening of technical meetings in data processing, for which consulting services would be provided by the Government of the United States. In endorsing those activities, the Commission stressed the need for the secretariat to facilitate the dissemination of statistical packages and related computer systems suited to the needs and types of computers used in member States, and to provide for training in their use.

709. The Commission recognized the need for strengthening the links between the information systems and documentation services of the secretariat through the wider application of computer technology, and greater harmonization of concepts, definitions, codes and indexing terms. That would improve the access of users to information within the secretariat, and would form the basis for a future extension of the services to member countries. The suggestion was made that three or four pilot projects could be established to obtain experience with country requirements for documentation on development problems, especially that of a conceptual nature. The decision of the secretariat to adhere closely to the documentation and microfiche standards of United Nations Headquarters was commended. The generosity of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in providing a librarian with computer expertise to assist in the development and implementation of the secretariat's bibliographic system was greatly appreciated.

710. The Commission endorsed the proposal to investigate further the needs of member countries for development information. It noted that countries differed in the degrees of sophistication they had attained in their indexing of bibliographic records. It further noted that two contact points in each country might need to be identified for (a) statistical and numeric data and (b) scientific, technical and socio-economic data.

711. The publication of two volumes containing the resolutions of the Commission from 1947 to 1978, indexed by subject and number, was welcomed by the Commission. It noted that preliminary discussions between ACPR and the secretariat on the proposed contents of a guide to ESCAP had also been held, and that the secretariat planned to prepare the guide during the coming year.

Integrated programme on rural development

712. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/118 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.6.

713. The Commission was informed that since the submission of the documents, the number of projects completed so far under the integrated programme on rural development, 1978.1979, had increased to 11. The Commission was further informed that under the regional interagency programme on integrated rural development, the "on-the-job training" project in Mindoro in the Philippines had commenced and that the earlier proposal to field an interagency mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands had been dropped, in consultation with the Government.

714. Several delegations referred to the importance attached to rural development in their respective national development policies and programmes. The Commission noted that integrated rural development was gradually being transformed from a concept to a reality and from theory into practice. In that connexion, the point was made that the approach to the alleviation of rural poverty needed to be pragmatic and action-oriented. In some cases, immediate action to close critical gaps that constrained growth and equity could have a valuable impact on the living conditions of the rural population. In such cases, however, it was important not to lose sight of the need to fit such discrete action within a long-term framework of integrated multisectoral development. The Commission emphasized the importance of involving rural women and youth in the process of development and welcomed the activities that had been undertaken and those that were being planned with that end in view. The Commission further underlined the relevance and importance of integrated rural development in the formulation of the international development strategy for the third development decade.

715. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the integrated programme on rural development for the biennium 1978.1979. It expressed concern that it had not yet proved possible to execute a large number of approved projects and activities, for want of the necessary resources. While noting with appreciation the support already extended by the Governments of Australia, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as well as international agencies, for implementing various projects, the Commission appealed to donors and

international funding agencies to contribute generously so as to facilitate effective and timely implementation of the priority programme on integrated rural development. It also emphasized the need to make adequate provision for the proposed activities in the regular budget of ESCAP.

716. The Commission approved the major objectives and priorities set for the proposed programme for the biennium 1980-1981, but stressed the need for inter-sectoral co-ordination within the secretariat. They related to provision of assistance to Governments, in partnership with the specialized agencies and international organizations, in promoting increased productivity, employment and incomes among the landless and other low-income groups in rural society, fulfillment of basic needs, reorganization of the institutional framework, including agrarian reforms and co-operatives, so as to promote growth with social justice and decentralization of the planning process in order to ensure popular participation. It was felt that country-specific area development projects should receive priority in the provision of assistance. Activities should also be designed to promote interchange of experience and expertise among the developing countries themselves. The Commission endorsed the proposed programme of work on the integrated programme on rural development for 1980-1981. It also felt that as a large number of activities in the current programme could not be implemented, special care should be taken in assigning priorities in the 1980-1981 programme. The need to bring scattered activities related to that programme to a common focus and to implement them in an integrated fashion was stressed in that connexion. It was also observed that the specific inputs provided by ESCAP into activities undertaken jointly with the specialized agencies should be bought out concretely in submitting progress reports on the implementation of the programme.

717. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the sustained co-operation extended by the specialized agencies and other international organizations and noted with satisfaction the work of the Interagency Committee on Rural Development for the ESCAP Region and of its Task Force in promoting co-ordinated action. It expressed the hope that those institutional mechanisms would be further strengthened in the years to come so that national requirements could be met through provision of co-ordinated assistance. In that connexion, the Commission was informed that the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, sponsored by FAO, was being established at Comma, Bangladesh, and that it was expected to become operational soon. The Commission emphasized the need for close co-ordination between the work of that Centre and that of the ongoing regional interagency programme. It was informed that provision was being made for a representative of the Interagency Committee to serve on the Technical Committee of

the Centre, to facilitate harmonization of the respective work programmes.

718. The Commission took note of the preparations for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled to be held at Rome in July 1979 and felt that its outcome would be of considerable significance to future efforts in that critical area of development, nationally and internationally.

719. The need to evolve a suitable legislative arrangement for the priority programme on integrated rural development was stressed by several delegations. It was noted that the question would be examined in depth as part of the exercise of revising the conference structure of ESCAP as a whole.

720. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Executive Secretary to convene, in partnership with the specialized agencies and relevant international organizations, an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting during 1979 to review the progress and impact of the programme to date, as well as to provide guidance on its future shape and thrust. It was further agreed that that meeting would also serve as a high-level forum in which to consider the recommendations of the World Conference and to identify the broad lines of follow-up action that would be necessary and appropriate in the ESCAP region.

The Commission's activities in the Pacific

721. The Commission noted the information presented in document E/ESCAP/112, together with supplementary information obtained since the document had been prepared.

722. The Commission noted the work undertaken to strengthen involvement in the promotion of development in the Pacific subregion, and was pleased to note the increasing involvement of Pacific island countries in the work of the Commission. There were now 12 members and associate members of ESCAP among the Pacific island countries. The Commission was also pleased to note the strengthening of liaison between ESCAP and subregional bodies, particularly SPC and SPEC. It urged that care be exercised to ensure that adequate liaison was maintained both with those organizations and with the countries of the South Pacific in relation to all development activities.

723. The Commission noted with satisfaction the success of the UNDP/ESCAP joint programming mission for the South Pacific, the meeting of senior planning officials held at Suva in February 1979 to consider the report and recommendations of the mission and the agreement reached at that meeting on the activities to be carried out in a subregional programme to be funded by UNDP during the period 1979-1981.

724. With regard to that programme, the Commission urged that the activities be implemented as speedily as

possible and based within the countries concerned, wherever possible using local expertise, and that the allocation of funds be as flexible as possible. The Commission noted with appreciation the statement by the representative of Japan that his Government wished, where appropriate, to strengthen its co-operative ties with the countries of the subregion, and would consider the possibility of supporting new projects, including some of those identified by the UNDP/ESCAP mission, and endorsed at the meeting of country representatives.

725. The Commission also noted with satisfaction the appointment of a Team Leader for the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific (UNDAT), since that organization had proved of real value to the countries in view of its flexibility and speed in responding to requests for advisory services. It noted with appreciation the offers by donor countries to provide support for UNDAT, in particular the intention of Australia to provide up to \$300,000 per year to ensure continuity of the service, in the hope that substantial support would be forthcoming from other sources, and the offer of £40,000 in 1979 by the United Kingdom, with the expectation of at least a similar amount in 1980. The Commission urged other countries to support the UNDAT project, which had been widely commended by the recipient countries, and also urged that contributions be made as early as possible in order to avoid liquidity problems in funding activities early in the year.

726. The Commission also noted with interest the intention of the United Kingdom Government to establish a subregional outpost of the Ministry of Overseas Development at Suva later in 1979 with the expectation that that would lead to active co-operation in the area.

727. The Commission was pleased to note that the Team Leader of UNDAT would also act as liaison officer for ESCAP in the Pacific on an interim basis. It strongly recommended that the Executive Secretary make every effort to appoint a full-time liaison officer.

728. While the Commission was pleased to note that the first officer from a Pacific island country had been recruited for in-service training in ESCAP, it stressed the need for more consultations between the secretariat and the countries to ensure that the training programme reflected adequately the needs and capabilities of the countries.

729. The Commission urged further investigation into the ways and means of enabling representatives of developing Pacific island countries to attend Commission sessions and to increase the representation of nationals of developing Pacific island member countries on the Commission's professional staff.

730. The Commission was pleased to note that there had been an increasing emphasis in the programme of the regional training and research institutions on the needs of the Pacific island countries. Those institutions

were providing a useful component in meeting the training requirements of the subregion.

731. The Commission agreed that while some progress had been made, much still remained to be done to fully implement Commission resolutions 173 (XXXIII) and 188 (XXXIV). Accordingly, the Commission agreed that an item on its activities in the Pacific should be inscribed in the provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session.

Transnational corporations

732. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/117 and E/ESCAP/128/Add.5.

733. The Commission agreed that effective ways must be devised to monitor and regulate the activities of the transnational corporations in accordance with the development objectives of the host country. The Commission also agreed on the need for a collective effort to devise ways and means by which host developing countries could strengthen their negotiating capacity with the transnational corporations.

734. The Commission supported the over-all objectives and the ongoing work of the Joint CTC/ESCAP Unit on Transnational Corporations and its work programme for 1980-1981. The Commission noted with appreciation the financial assistance offered by the Government of Australia for a study on the copper industry and the contribution of £100,000 annually in 1978 and 1979 by the Government of the United Kingdom to the technical co-operation programme of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (CTC), which was carried out in the ESCAP region in collaboration with the Joint Unit. It also noted the offer of the Government of the United Kingdom to assist countries on a bilateral basis in improving their negotiating capacity in dealing with transnational corporations.

735. Several delegations expressed concern at the slow progress being made in the negotiations on a code of conduct on transnational corporations. The Commission was informed that the intergovernmental group on the code of conduct was holding its seventh session in New York in March 1979 and expressed the hope that work on the code would be completed in 1980. It was felt that duplication of activities related to the formulation of the code should be avoided.

736. The Commission noted the arrangements which had been worked out between CTC and the Joint Unit in ESCAP whereby they worked together in developing and implementing a common programme of technical co-operation.

737. The Commission noted that the high-level consultative meetings held in Malaysia and Thailand during 1978 had provided an opportunity for senior government officials to share their experiences and problems in dealing with transnational corporations and in identifying

the felt needs of Governments for training, technical assistance and information. The Commission further noted that a training workshop on negotiating joint venture contracts in the fisheries sector had been held in collaboration with CTC and FAO in January 1978 for trainees from the South China Sea and Pacific countries, and that it was proposed to hold a similar workshop in Sri Lanka for trainees from the Indian Ocean countries.

738. The Commission felt that the following types of information were important with regard to transnational corporations: (a) information on government policies, laws and regulations; (b) in-depth corporate information, including the nature and effects of activities of transnational corporations; and (c) contracts and agreements.

739. Without duplicating the efforts of CTC, which was establishing a comprehensive information system in New York, the Joint Unit should concentrate on collecting and disseminating information specific to the region.

740. The Commission welcomed the undertaking of research projects at the case-study level by the Joint Unit. Several delegations made particular mention of the importance of the interregional project on primary export commodities which was being undertaken by ECA, ECLA and ESCAP, as it would provide a comparative picture of relations between host countries and transnational corporations in various parts of the world.

741. It was felt that research projects should endeavour to use the most recent data and, in the case of research on primary commodities, the views of small holder cultivators, Governments and transnational corporations should be obtained so that a balanced view could be reached. The Commission drew attention to the conceptual problems involved in defining transnational corporations and it was suggested that greater care should be exercised in dealing with those issues. The opinion was also expressed that the Joint Unit should disseminate the results of its research programme more widely.

Progress reports on special regional projects and regional institutions

Special regional projects

Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

742. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/L.27 and noted with satisfaction that much had been achieved during 1978, including completion of the 80-MW extension of the Nam Ngum hydroelectric power plant, which had become a major foreign-exchange earner, expansion of the Mekong hydrologic

network, completion of the studies relating to the 4,800-MW Pa Mong project, and preparations for agricultural development in the Vientiane Plain and in the Mekong Delta (the latter requiring \$130 million in foreign exchange), as well as environmental studies, fisheries development, flood forecasting and navigation improvement.

743. In that connexion, the Commission welcomed the support being given, for the first time, by the OPEC Special Fund and EEC to projects sponsored by the Interim Mekong Committee and the approval by UNDP of a grant of \$ 4.5 million to the Committee to cover most of the needs for institutional support over the next three years.

744. The Commission was informed that the level of support from various co-operating countries and organizations had continued to be adequate in relation to the requirements, but that with the identification, formulation and approval of many new projects, the absorptive capacity of the riparian countries was rising progressively, so that additional funds would have to be mobilized rapidly.

745. The Commission welcomed the numerous declarations of support voiced by representatives of countries and organizations present at the session, including the following: Australia, France, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Mongolia, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNDP, UNEP and CMEA.

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

746. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/L.28, which included a summary of the activities of the Project Office since the fourteenth session, and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee and of its Technical Advisory Group at their fourteenth session as well as of the special advisers and related meetings held in conjunction with the fifteenth session, including the fourth session of the Joint Working Group with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) on the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IDOE) Programme for Studies of East Asia Tectonics and Resources (SEATAR); SEATAR had held its second workshop at Bandung, Indonesia, in October 1978.

747. The Commission was pleased to note that in 1978, the first year of the expanded funds support to the project made available by UNDP, CCOP had made significant achievements, including the implementation of important recommendations made during the fourteenth session of the Committee, expansion of the training programme and consultancy services, technical co-operation among developing member countries and with co-operating developed countries, regional investigations and surveys, the purchase of shallow marine geophysical and navigation equipment, co-operation

and co-ordination with national, regional and international organizations, and acting as catalyst for bilateral and multilateral assistance. During the tripartite review of the project at Singapore on 3 November 1978, the work programme of the project and its activities had been reviewed and the member countries had been of the opinion that great benefit had been derived from their involvement in CCOP activities and that CCOP had been a very effective instrument in the implementation of national and regional projects.

748. The Commission was informed that advisory and field services had been provided through CCOP to Malaysia from the Netherlands in conducting its Quarternary geology programme, to the Philippines and the Republic of Korea from France in the assessment of hydrocarbon potential in pre-Tertiary basins and to the Philippines and Thailand from Japan in the continuation of heat-flow measurements. In addition, the Project Office had provided assistance to the Republic of Korea in techniques for obtaining sonobuoy data, modified techniques for acquiring continuous seismic reflection data and the interpretation of sonobuoy data and seismic profiles, as well as to Indonesia and Malaysia in shallow marine geophysical techniques in an off-shore tin exploration programme.

749. The Commission was further informed that in the area of co-ordinated surveys, cruises had been conducted by RV Thomas Washington of the United States in east Asian and Indonesian waters and by RV Sonne of the Federal Republic of Germany in Papua New Guinea waters.

750. The Commission was pleased to learn that a direct result of the expanded UNDP support had been the acquisition of equipment for shallow marine geophysical surveys, of which the Project Office had taken delivery in December 1978. The implementation of the programme for its use had been started, as had been reported to and recorded by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, for a detailed marine geophysical survey in the Andaman Sea off the south-west coast of Thailand. That survey would constitute the first stage of and a major input into a UNDP-supported national project for the exploration of detrital tin in that off-shore area. With the acquisition of the equipment, the Project Office would also be in a much better position to assist member countries in their off-shore exploration programmes and in the training of their technical staff in advanced off-shore survey techniques and interpretation procedures. The Commission was pleased to note that there would be a continuing programme on such activities in member countries of CCOP starting with Thailand and subsequently in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and other member countries of CCOP.

751. The Commission noted that, with regard to training courses, seminars and transfer of science and technology, the annual group training course in off-shore

prospecting had been continued in Japan. A new training course on terrestrial heat flow had also been conducted in that country. The senior marine geologist/geophysicist of the Project Office had conducted a workshop course on shallow marine geophysical techniques at the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources at Seoul and at the Mineral Technology Development Centre at Bandung. Participants from CCOP member countries had attended CCOP-sponsored conferences, seminars and workshops, among others the second Circum-Pacific Energy and Mineral Resources Conference at Honolulu and the workshops on basin analysis, satellite remote sensing and recognition and reduction of landslide hazards held concurrently with the Conference, all within the CCOP group-training programme. Participants had also attended the Joint CCOP-IOC Workshop on IDOE/SEATAR at Bandung and a workshop on basin analysis and resource appraisal at Manila. Besides participation of member countries' professionals in the previously mentioned cruises of RV Thomas Washington and RV Sonne, training had also been carried out on board RV Hakurei Maru of Japan. Fellowships had also been awarded to participants to be trained for a period of two to six months in France and the United Kingdom.

752. The Commission was informed of the relevant publication activities that had been undertaken, including the publication and distribution of volume 12 of the CCOP Technical Bulletin and volume 5, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the CCOP Newsletter, for September and December 1978 respectively; the printing of the proceedings of the Seminar on Generation and Maturation of Hydrocarbons in Sedimentary Basins and of the thirteenth session of CCOP was currently in progress; the editing and printing of the proceedings of the Seminar on Data Collection, Storage and Retrieval, with Particular Reference to Hydrocarbon Exploration and Development, and of the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of CCOP were under way; an *ad hoc* publication on off-shore exploration for detrital tin and other heavy minerals was being prepared.

753. The Commission was pleased to learn that future programmes of CCOP would include convening a workshop on the methodology of assessment of hydrocarbon resources; convening an *ad hoc* working group meeting of SEATAR on the geology and tectonics of eastern Indonesia; continuing assistance for petroleum data collection, storage and retrieval; continuing investigations of the geology and petroleum potential of the pre-Tertiary sequences; compiling off-shore geological maps of east Asia on the scale 1:5 million; conducting complementary surveys in co-operation with national entities within the framework of national programmes utilizing the CCOP equipment from the Project Office; and continuing advisory services to the member countries in activities on or related to off-shore tin and other detrital heavy minerals, construction minerals,

coastal engineering investigations and on studies on Quarternary geology, including the organization of a fact-finding mission to study the feasibility of establishing a regional Quarternary geology centre in the CCOP region. The Commission noted the statement of the USSR delegation that its scientific expeditions cruising in the area of the CCOP region would welcome the participation of scientists of member countries of CCOP.

754. The Commission was informed that co-operation would continue to be maintained with IOC, particularly in the implementation and further expansion of the IDOE programme on SEATAR, for which a joint CCOP. IOC Workshop had been convened at Bandung in October 1978. The Workshop had formulated general recommendations for short-term studies (until the end of the IDOE decade on 31 December 1980) and for long-term studies during the coming decade. The report and general recommendations of the Workshop had been considered by the Joint CCOP-IOC Working Group on mOE/SEATAR, which had in turn recommended that the working period of the Joint Working Group be extended beyond the end of IDOE, that the mandate thereof be revised accordingly and that the revision should take into account that the Joint Working Group was the competent body to act as the joint mechanism between CCOP and the newly established IOC Working Group for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). Those recommendations had been endorsed by the Committee at its fifteenth session. The WESTPAC Working Group, during its first session, held at Tokyo in February 1979, had recognized the work being carried out by CCOP, in view of which it would itself not be proposing any new projects relevant to CCOP activities in the CCOP region and would, instead, continue to accept the co-ordinating functions that had so far been carried out by IOC within the framework of the Joint CCOP. IOC Working Group.

755. The Commission noted that co-operation had been continued with the Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources, the International Union of Geological Sciences and its affiliated, related or subsidiary organizations such as the Commission for the Geological Map of the World and the Committee on Storage, Automatic Processing and Retrieval of Geological Data. Co-operation had also been maintained with other international, regional and scientific bodies such as UNESCO, the Ocean Economics and Technology Office of United Nations Headquarters, UNEP, the international Programme for Ocean Drilling, the East-West Resources Systems Institute of the East-West Center, the ASEAN Council on Petroleum and the three regional bodies concerned with mineral resources sponsored by ESCAP and supported by UNDP, i.e., CCOP/ SOPAC, RMRDC and SEATRADC.

756. The Commission noted with appreciation the effective support provided by UNDP and the OPEC Special Fund, which had contributed substantially to the

accomplishments of the project in 1978 and the successful co-operation of IOC/UNESCO with CCOP in the IDOE/SEATAR programme, which had attracted much international recognition. It also noted with appreciation the support given in the past and promised in the future by the co-operating countries, Australia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as by the co-operating regional and international organizations.

757. The Commission further noted the wish of the Committee that its working relationship with ESCAP be clarified in the light of the views expressed by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs on the proposed revised terms of reference of CCOP and those of the Committee as documented in its report, and expressed the view that, pending further clarification of the current situation, CCOP would continue its activities under the current arrangement.

758. The Commission was informed that the sixteenth session of CCOP and associated meetings of SEATAR and the Circum-Pacific map project would be held at Bandung from 7 to 18 September 1979.

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas

759. The Commission considered document E/ ESCAP/L.29.

760. It noted with interest the activities of the Committee as described in the report on the seventh session, held at Wellington in October 1978, and the subsequent activities reported by the secretariat. Of particular interest were the off-shore mineral surveys conducted by the project in the waters of the Committee's member countries and the scientific reports published.

761. The Commission welcomed the admission of the New Hebrides as a new member of the Committee and looked forward to its active participation in the programme.

762. It noted with appreciation the continuing success of the intergovernmental co-operative programme carried out under the direction of the Technical Secretariat.

763. The Commission noted that a UNDP technical review of the project's activities had been carried out in June 1978 and was pleased that that review had subsequently resulted in the approval of a \$ 2,500,000 UNDP project designed to carry out the major part of the work programme of the Committee from 1979 through 1981.

764. The Commission noted the intention of UNDP to designate ESCAP as the executing agency for the project and expressed confidence that that action, together with the subsequent delegation of authority to the Project Office as appropriate, would result in more effective implementation of the project.

765. It was requested that biographical data on the experts in the project be provided to the ESCAP members so that they might be aware of the expertise available in the region.

766. The Commission expressed appreciation to Australia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States, IOC/UNESCO and the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics for the assistance provided to the project during the previous year and particularly thanked UNDP for the provision of funds for a major exploration programme during 1979-1981.

767. It urged other supporting bodies and countries to continue their support in the future in order to implement those portions of the Committee's work programme not funded by the project.

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

768. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/100.

769. The Commission noted with satisfaction the inauguration of the Governing Council and generally endorsed its findings as set out in the document, including its plans for strengthening its programme.

770. It noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Centre for the establishment of regional age-dating centres and for inter-country airborne geophysical surveys, and hoped that multilateral funding for those endeavours could be secured.

771. It noted with appreciation the offers of services to the Centre made to the Council by India and the Republic of Korea; the fact that the Centre had been able to function since the thirty-fourth session of the Commission with the provision of specialists at no cost by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan; the offer by the United Kingdom to provide the Centre with an expert on geo-data editing; the offer by the United States to consider requests for short-term specialists to undertake specific assignments in connexion with the work of the Centre; the offer by the USSR to assist the member States in age-determinations; the offer by France to provide the Centre with two short-term specialists in metallogeny; and the offer by the Republic of Korea to host the Governing Council session in 1980.

772. It urged developing member countries to provide increased financial contributions towards the operational costs of the Centre.

773. It also urged supporting countries and other bodies to give favourable consideration to requests for support in order that RMRDC might provide the desired services.

774. It expressed the hope that UNDP would continue its support for the Centre by providing funds for the Co-ordinator for an additional two-year period.

775. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 192 (XXXV) containing the Statute of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre.

776. The view was expressed that all members and associate members of ESCAP should be allowed to participate in the sessions of the Governing Council.

777. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Agreement between ESCAP and Indonesia concerning host facilities had been signed on 9 March 1979. It thanked Indonesia for providing the host facilities.

Typhoon Committee

778. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/132 and was pleased to note the progress in the activities of the Typhoon Committee.

779. It noted with appreciation that, in response to a recommendation by the Committee, ESCAP and WMO, in co-operation with UNDR0 and LRCS and with financial and technical support from Japan and the United States, had organized a review mission which had drafted a long-term plan of action as well as suggestions concerning country programmes for the mitigation of typhoon damage which had been generally endorsed by the Committee at its eleventh session.

780. It was noted that the Committee had agreed to undertake the preparation of comprehensive plans for flood-loss prevention and management in pilot areas vulnerable to flood damage and that increased emphasis would be given to non-structural measures to mitigate flood damage.

781. The Commission noted that the programme under the hydrological component included the organization of regional training seminars in the field of flood-loss prevention and management as well as other subjects. In expressing support for the Committee's programme, the Commission hoped that the necessary resources could be found to enable ESCAP to organize the seminars in co-operation with WMO.

782. UNDP was commended for its support, which had contributed significantly to the accomplishments of the Typhoon Committee. Appreciation was also expressed to UNDP for its indication of continued support to selected activities of the Committee's programme and it was hoped that such support would be available to implement both short- and long-term programmes of the Committee.

783. The Commission welcomed the intention of the members to increase their support for the Committee's programme. It supported the request of the Committee that ESCAP and WMO seek additional support for its programme, including the possible establishment of a revolving fund for urgently needed items of equipment, and expressed the hope that some contributions would be forthcoming.

784. The Commission also welcomed the participation of China in the eleventh session of the Committee, following its acceptance of the mission which had visited it in June 1978. The Commission looked forward to China's active involvement in the Committee's programme.

785. Next to the Philippines, Viet Nam was one of the countries most seriously affected by typhoons. For that reason, although it was not a member of the Committee, it had expressed interest in the work of the Committee and had sent an observer to its eleventh session.

786. It was noted that a number of countries would organize meetings on subjects relevant to the activities of the Committee within the next two years. Those included a workshop on the use of meteorology in agriculture in 1979 and a symposium on typhoon forecasting in 1980, both in China.

787. The Commission welcomed the information provided by the WMO representative that WMO had taken up the proposal by the Committee at its eleventh session that a typhoon experiment be organized in the western Pacific and that the Government of Japan had agreed to host a preparatory meeting at Tokyo from 3 to 6 July 1979, at which the purposes and scope of the experiment and the tentative schedule of operations would be discussed by the members of the Committee. In that connexion, the suggestion was made that the Commission might wish to consider establishing the centre for the typhoon experiment at Manila in view of its favourable location with respect to the spawning grounds for typhoons.

788. The Commission expressed appreciation to the various countries and agencies for their past support and assistance to the activities of the Committee and their readiness to continue such support to and co-operation with the Committee.

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

789. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/ 133 and noted with interest the information provided concerning the activities of the Panel. .

790. Appreciation was expressed for the establishment of the Panel, which had been providing assistance to countries in the establishment or improvement of cyclone and flood forecasting and warning services.

791. The Commission was pleased to note that the chief technical adviser, a consultant on hydrology and an electronics telecommunication expert had been recruited for the Technical Support Unit to assist and advise the Panel members in the implementation of their technical plan.

792. It noted with interest the TCDC component in the training seminar on modern methods of flood forecasting conducted for Panel members at Lahore. The innovative

feature of that component consisted of the provision by the Government of Pakistan of return air tickets for seminar participants on its national airline. The Commission urged that that novel approach to TCDC be studied and emulated by other developing countries.

793. The Commission noted that the Panel had urged the concerned members to finalize technical details for the additional point-to-point circuits required to facilitate exchange of data within the region. It encouraged the Panel members to intensify their co-operative efforts, particularly in relation to the establishment of facilities for the international exchange of data on cyclones and related events and in relation to the improvement of procedures for storm surge forecasting.

794. Some developed countries expressed interest in the activities of the Panel and described the assistance they were rendering or could render to the Panel members. Australia would organize an international conference on tropical cyclones at Perth in November 1979. The United States had installed an APT (automatic picture transmission) ground station in Bangladesh to enable it to receive Tiros-N satellite data. In addition, consideration was being given to new project proposals which would complement various projects and increase the capability of Bangladesh to forecast floods and provide timely warnings.

795. The USSR stated its readiness to assist Panel members through training in meteorology and meteorological equipment through the WMO Voluntary Assistance Programme as well as through the provision of relevant information which might be useful to the Panel members.

796. The Commission welcomed the information that at its sixth session, held at Rangoon in February-March 1979, the Panel had decided that it would assume, in four to five years time, the management and co-ordination functions of the project currently carried out by the Technical Support Unit.

797. The Commission urged UNDP and other interested bodies to provide support for the various components of the Panel's programme.

798. It noted with appreciation that proposals had been submitted to the WMO Eighth Congress for a substantial increase in tropical cyclone project activities for the period 1980-1983 and that the developing countries of the ESCAP region would be among the principal beneficiaries.

Regional Centre for Technology Transfer

799. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/ 134.

800. It reiterated its strong support for the Centre, which was intended to be the premier regional institution to assist in strengthening the technological capabilities of the member countries. It complimented the Centre on the commendable progress that it had made

and expressed the hope that RCTT would maintain its emphasis on minimizing expenditure on its own institutional infrastructure and on spending the bulk of its resources on activities involving the member countries.

801. The Commission reiterated the validity of the network concept underlying the Centre, which had not only enabled it to avoid unnecessary bureaucratic growth and expenditure but had also prompted it to reach out to the institutions in the countries, whose strengthening formed one of its basic objectives.

802. The Commission also noted with appreciation that the Centre had received active co-operation from all the relevant United Nations bodies, particularly UNIDO and UNCTAD. It called upon such bodies further to increase their financial and technical support to the Centre. It also cautioned them against establishing any competing institutions, which could only be wasteful and counterproductive. The Commission noted with appreciation the indication of additional support from UNDP through the provision of a programme adviser, consultants and fellowships. It expressed the hope that UNDP would extend further financial support to assist in specific programme activities of RCTT.

803. One representative stressed the important role of the State in building up the technological capabilities of the countries and called upon RCTT to assist member Governments in that endeavour.

804. The Commission was informed of the very successful workshop that had been held at Peshawar, Pakistan, in January 1979 on utilization of agro-wastes for the manufacture of cement-like materials. It noted that the workshop had resulted in establishing contacts between the leading research workers in the field, yielded an up-to-date review of the available technology and led to several network activities. The Commission also noted the usefulness of the workshop held by RCTT at Dacca in February-March 1979 to train senior officials in matters relating to development and transfer of technology. It appreciated the financial and technical support provided by UNIDO for organizing those two workshops.

805. It noted the further workshops contemplated for Kathmandu on mini-hydroplants, Bangkok on machine tools and Bangalore on co-operation with WIPO on licensing of technology protected by industrial property. The Commission commended the publication of the Centre's two newsletters and suggested that they be issued regularly and utilized as a medium to reflect the activities of RCTT. The Commission noted the publication of the compendium of regional and national papers prepared for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. It noted the progress that had been made in the preparation of rosters of experts and institutions of excellence in selected fields of technology .

806. The Commission underlined the importance of a technological information system which would respond

to the specific needs of the member countries. It noted the steps being taken by RCTT to evolve such a system. It expressed its appreciation to the Government of the USSR for having provided an expert to assist in the conceptualization of the system. It also noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the United States to provide an information specialist for the same purpose.

807. The Commission noted with appreciation the host facilities and financial support being provided by the Government of Australia for the UNIDO/RCTT workshop to be held at Sydney in March 1979 on prospectives for transfer of technology among ESCAP member countries. It also noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to hold an RCTT seminar on a selected aspect of transfer of technology. The representative of Japan agreed to hold further consultations with the secretariat to finalize the subject of the seminar and its other details.

808. The Commission expressed the desire that, keeping in view the special needs of the island countries in the South Pacific, RCTT should launch a special programme for that region. It should aim at establishing a subsystem which would provide a linkage between the existing institutions concerned with technology transfer or skill-building. The suggestion was made that the donor countries could earmark a separate fund and place it at the disposal of RCTT, to be utilized in developing activities relevant to the island countries of the South Pacific.

809. The Commission noted that the activities of RCTT had been developed within the framework of priorities which had been chosen by a meeting of the national focal points in April 1978. It was suggested that another such meeting with the participation of UNIDO and UNCTAD might now be considered with the purpose of reviewing the progress made in the various fields and of drawing up guidelines for the future. It was stated that, in view of the expanding activities of RCTT, the appointment of its Director could now be considered.

810. The Commission emphasized that in proportion to the size and importance of the task entrusted to RCTT, the resources pledged to it were extremely meagre. It strongly appealed to the member countries to come forward with generous contributions of funds and expertise.

Regional institutions

811. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/130/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/131. The Commission also heard the report of the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions and took note of document E/ESCAP/130.

812. Having considered the report of the Governing Council, the Commission approved the recommendations regarding the future structure of the regional

institutions contained in paragraph 37 thereof, namely, that the following four institutions, APDI, APDAC, SWDCAP and APCWD, should be integrated into a single institution to be named the "Asian and Pacific Development Centre" (APDC).

813. The Commission emphasized that the original concerns which had prompted the establishment of the four institutions to be merged should be reflected as appropriate in the unified work programme of the new integrated Centre. It was stressed that the Centre should organize its work programme in such a way as to develop its capacity to respond fully, and in an integrated manner, to the development needs of members and associate members. The Commission indicated that a special organizational identity should be provided for the programme area related to issues concerning women and development, as recommended by the Governing Council, and also that sufficient emphasis should be given to activities in the field of social welfare and development in the organization of the work of the new Centre, as well as the compilation and dissemination of the experience of all countries regardless of their social and economic systems.

814. The Commission also stressed that the financial viability of the new Centre should be ensured by pledges of assured funding, in advance, for its different programme phases. It was felt that the objectives intended through the integration could not be achieved unless that was done. It was strongly urged that UNDP should continue to provide institutional support to the new Centre as well as to SIAP. The Commission appealed to all Governments of members and associate members to provide timely assistance in cash and kind to the new Centre.

815. The Commission also heard the statements made by the directors and took note with great appreciation and satisfaction of the achievements made by the institutions, particularly in the context of resource constraints. It was stressed that until such time as integration was effected on 1 July 1980, adequate funds should be provided to the institutions by UNDP, member countries and other donor countries so that they could carry on with their programme activities without interruption. The Commission therefore urged members and associate members to ensure that pledged contributions were paid, wherever practicable, early in the calendar year to ease the current serious cash-flow problem of the institutions. It also urged member countries to continue to provide enhanced financial support to SIAP beyond 1980 so that it could expand its activities to meet the needs of member countries and also to maintain its international character. Particular note was also taken of the special financial needs of APCWD consequent upon its temporary relocation and the need to provide it with a viable core staff to implement the project for the integration of women in development,

for which UNDP was providing funds, as well as the need to take early action to provide appropriate interim host facilities for the Centre.

816. Several delegations stressed the importance of co-ordinating the activities of the new Centre and of the substantive divisions of the ESCAP secretariat in order to avoid duplication and also to ensure that the needs of the member countries were adequately served through an appropriate mix of activities which could be shared between the new Centre and the secretariat.

817. With regard to the legal instrument of APDC, the Commission agreed that the Centre should ultimately be an intergovernmental institution with its own charter along the lines recommended by the ESCAP/UNDP Task Force on Programme Support for Regional Institutions. It was urged that the Executive Secretary should take timely action on the formulation of the legal instrument of the new Centre and on the preparation of the next project phase of SIAP for consideration by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session.

818. The Commission also stressed the importance of ensuring that a director of the highest possible caliber should be found for the proposed Centre, and stressed the need for adherence to the requirements approved by the Governing Council in that regard, in order to ensure that staff of the highest quality were provided to the Centre.

819. As to the location of the new Centre, the Commission took note of the offers made by Malaysia and Thailand to host the Centre without prejudice to other possible offers, and stressed the need for early resolution of that question. The Commission directed the Executive Secretary to undertake further consultations in that connexion and empowered the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions to take a decision thereon at its July 1979 session in order to adhere to the time-table for the establishment of the integrated Centre.

820. The Commission noted that the terms of office of Australia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka on the Governing Council expired in March 1979. In view of the fact that the integration of the four institutions had been scheduled for 1 July 1980, which would leave only a short balance of the period of tenure for the existing Governing Council, the Commission decided that the term of office of the current members of the Council should be extended until the date on which the new Governing Council of APDC assumed office.

821. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 191 (XXXV) on the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

**Findings and recommendations of
the Advisory Committee of Permanent
Representatives and Other Representatives
Designated by Members of the Commission**

822. The Commission considered document E/ ESCAP/ 135, which was introduced by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, who had been designated by the Advisory Committee for that purpose.

823. In his introduction, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan reported that ACPR had deliberated on various assignments given to it by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session. The most important of those tasks had been scrutinizing and streamlining the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, with a view to making it highly selective and pragmatic, ensuring avoidance of duplication by deleting activities of lesser importance, devising a new format to make the programme of work easily understandable and reviewing the conference structure of the Commission.

824. In addition to those tasks, ACPR had also taken, for the first time, a close look at the format and contents of the programme of work and priorities of the next biennium, 1980-1981, sector by sector, in close consultation with the concerned divisions of the secretariat. The proposed programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, had been reviewed at several levels of consultation, at informal and formal meetings of ACPR, and at sessions of the legislative committees held during the previous year, before being presented to the Commission. It was therefore felt that duplication and overlapping among the programmes of various divisions of ESCAP as well as with the activities of other international organizations had been eliminated to a great extent.

825. It was reported that through co-operation between ACPR and staff members of the ESCAP secretariat, ACPR had developed into a useful body maintaining a continuing dialogue between the member Governments and the secretariat.

826. The Commission commended ACPR on the very useful work accomplished during the previous year, which had assisted the Commission in its deliberations at the current session. In particular, the Commission expressed its appreciation of the improvement in the presentation of the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, in the new format, which integrated the annotation of activities in each programme, thus making the work programme better understood by member Governments.

827. Some members of the Commission observed that the scrutiny of the programme of work and priorities of the Commission might have confronted ACPR with some constraints as it could not go beyond the recommendations made by the various legislative committees of the Commission, whose participants were technical officials of the Governments. Some members therefore

felt that the programme of work might appear overambitious in relation to the availability of resources for the implementation of activities in the work programme. Some members maintained, however, that the work programme, jointly scrutinized by ACPR and the secretariat for the biennium 1980-1981, and endorsed by the legislative committees which had met during the previous year, reflected the felt needs of the developing member countries of the Commission. The prospective donors could therefore study those needs and select those which they considered to be in keeping with their policies and most beneficial to the developing countries of the region. The problem of acquiring the necessary resources would have to be tackled to the utmost extent possible so that most of the activities could be implemented as envisaged. The Commission felt, however, that suitable criteria might be developed for addition or deletion of activities from the work programme.

828. The Commission generally endorsed the report of ACPR. One member observed, however, that there was still one pending matter which the Commission had assigned to ACPR at its thirty-fourth session, namely, the review of the membership of the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions with a view to allowing for adequate representation of countries with different social and economic systems, and requested ACPR to consider the matter again in the coming year.

829. The Commission also noted that during the previous year two additional members had joined ACPR and expressed the hope that there would be wider participation of member Governments in ACPR so that the Executive Secretary and the staff members of the secretariat would benefit greatly from the continuous dialogues between ACPR and the secretariat on a wide range of matters important to the region.

**Revision of the conference structure
of the Commission**

830. The Commission considered document E/ ESCAP/ 136 and Corr .1.

831. In introducing the agenda item, the Executive Secretary mentioned that in the light of the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 32/197 calling for, *inter alia*, streamlining of the subsidiary machinery of the regional commissions, and also of the mandate given by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session to consider the streamlining of the conference structure on a comprehensive basis, ACPR and the secretariat had pursued intensive discussions during the previous year to scrutinize various aspects of the conference structure with the aim of bringing about improvements and the desired streamlining. Although both the secretariat and ACPR had hoped to present concrete proposals to the Commission at its current session, that had not proved possible particularly because the implementation of General Assembly

resolution 32/197 had not progressed as had been hoped and the implications of such implementation were not yet known. During the current session, therefore, the preliminary views of the Commission were invited on the progress report on the review of the conference structure prepared by the secretariat in consultation with ACPR.

832. The Commission felt that the streamlining of the conference structure should be conducted in such a way as to enable the Commission to meet more effectively the demands of its enhanced role deriving from General Assembly resolution 32/197 and should therefore be considered in the broad context of the general restructuring being undertaken in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Streamlining should mean more effective conservation and utilization of available resources to produce greater efficiency in the Commission's work to meet the needs and interests of the developing countries of the region. The suggestion was made that the Commission should bring its conference structure into line with that of the Economic and Social Council. The Commission requested the secretariat to obtain and disseminate information about the practices of other regional commissions, covering current practices as well as those planned in the context of their own restructuring exercises under General Assembly resolution 32/197.

833. The Commission considered that the proliferation of legislative bodies as well as meetings should be avoided. It also deprecated the tendency towards sectoralization of legislative bodies. The view was expressed that intergovernmental screening of over-all demands and expectations vis-a-vis the programme of work and priorities prior to the Commission session would be needed to scrutinize the priorities and desired activities put forward by different legislative committees.

834. The Commission recommended that a more comprehensive examination of the conference structure should be conducted in order that the Commission would be in a position to make effective regional contributions in the global context as well as be able to serve as a forum for the exchange of policy experience in the economic and social sectors and stimulate economic activity and economic co-operation within the region as well as with other regions.

835. In order to guide future action by ACPR and the secretariat in preparing comprehensive proposals for the revision of its conference structure, the Commission expressed the following views on the specific parts of the existing conference structure, as given in paragraphs 836-850 below.

836. With regard to the question of merging the Committees on Social Development and on Population, while several delegations welcomed the recommendations of both Committees that they should remain separate, some representatives felt that the Committees should be merged. It was suggested that consideration

should be given to the possibility of merging the Committee on Social Development with the Committee on Development Planning, and also of merging the Committee on Population with the Committee on Statistics. An alternative suggestion was that the Committees on Population and Social Development could be replaced by small expert groups, reporting directly to the Commission.

837. With regard to the recommendations of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications at its second session concerning its structure, the Commission generally endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that it should continue, for the time being, to function as one body which met for 10 full working days, with the two wings meeting separately for 5 working days consecutively, and that it should consider the reports of the wings in a plenary meeting on the concluding day of the session. However, one delegation maintained that the existing arrangements were satisfactory and did not need to be changed.

838. Regarding the legislative arrangements for the programme on integrated rural development, while some delegations considered that the programme should be considered by an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting in view of the multidisciplinary nature of the programme, other delegations felt that the programme should be placed under the purview of the Committee on Agricultural Development. One delegation considered that the Committee on Development Planning might be the best forum for the programme.

839. With respect to the programme on special measures for the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries, the Commission felt that that programme, dealing mainly with issues in the field of trade and transit facilities, could continue to be reviewed by the Committee on Trade while other problems of special significance to those three groups of countries would be reviewed by other relevant legislative committees.

840. Most members considered that the programme on transnational corporations could most appropriately be reviewed by the Committee on Development Planning.

841. With regard to the programme on the environment, the Commission felt that the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology should continue to review the programme for the time being until other arrangements were found more appropriate and necessary.

842. As to the proposed change in the name and terms of reference of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology, the Commission endorsed the proposed changes as recommended by the Committee. One delegation proposed the establishment of a separate committee on human settlements in pursuance of General

Assembly resolution 32/162. While the Commission was in favour of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology retaining the programme on human settlements under its purview, the matter would be considered further in the future.

843. With regard to the name and the terms of reference of the Committee on Social Development, the Commission felt that that question could be further discussed at the next session of the Committee.

844. The Commission endorsed the revision of the terms of reference of the Committee on Statistics by replacing "Asian Statistical Institute" in clause 5 by "Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific".

845. With regard to the Council of Ministers for Asian Economic Co-operation, the Commission was of the view that many of the functions of the Council envisaged at the time of its establishment had subsequently been performed by the Commission itself, by legislative committees and by the ad hoc ministerial conferences on trade, industry etc., and felt that the Council as such could be deleted from the conference structure.

846. With regard to the Special Body on Landlocked Countries, the Commission reaffirmed the important functions performed by the Special Body and recommended that it should continue to function in accordance with its terms of reference. The Commission felt that the terms of reference might be reviewed by the Special Body at its next session so as to reflect new developments in the international development strategy, the establishment of the new international economic order and the new mandates given by the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, held in August 1978. It was suggested that the scope of the Special Body be enlarged to include the special problems of the least developed and developing island countries and that its name and terms of reference be changed accordingly.

847. The Commission noted the list of existing bodies under its auspices. One delegation suggested merging CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC into a single body to serve both subregions.

848. With regard to the Trade Co-operation Group and its subgroups established in pursuance of the decisions of the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, the proposal was made that the status of the Group and its subgroups should be clearly defined in the context of the conference structure of the Commission.

849. In considering the desirability of continuation of its annual sessions, many delegations considered that by meeting annually the Commission could respond flexibly to the changing needs and situations of the countries of the region. Other delegations were in favour of holding sessions biennially and proposed close examination of the feasibility and effectiveness of such an arrangement.

Some delegations felt that the procedural aspects of the conduct of the sessions should be improved. In that connexion, one delegation suggested that statements be limited to 15 minutes in plenary and to 10 minutes in committee meetings; that more information be circulated in document form in lieu of statements; that congratulatory statements to officers of the session be limited to the first delegation speaker; that the list of speakers compiled by the conference secretariat be adhered to more precisely; that plenary and committee meetings be held concurrently from the opening day of the session; and that use be made of certain measures designed to assist the Chair in ensuring that those guidelines were observed. It further suggested that such procedural improvements should be applied equally to legislative committee sessions. In view of that suggestion, the Commission requested ACPR and the secretariat to review the guidelines for the conduct of meetings and submit them to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session.

850. With regard to the frequency of legislative committee sessions, the Commission regarded that issue as a complex one requiring further consideration. Various views were expressed. While some delegations were in favour of maintaining the present 50-day ceiling provided for in resolution 143 (XXX), as shown in annex II (a) to document E/ESCAP/136, others were in favour of adjusting the schedule so that all the committees would meet in every even year, as presented in annex II (b) to the document.

851. The Commission recommended that the views expressed during the current session be examined closely in the course of the year by ACPR and the secretariat, so that comprehensive proposals for the revision of the conference structure could be prepared for submission to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session, taking into full account the developments in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197.

852. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 193 (XXXV) on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

Other matters

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission: membership of Fiji and Solomon Islands, and admission of the New Hebrides and Niue as associate members of the Commission

853. The Commission noted that Fiji, which had remained an associate member of the Commission after its admission to the United Nations in 1970, had become a full member of the Commission on 23 October 1978, the date on which the Government had indicated, in a letter to the Executive Secretary, its desire to become a full member of ESCAP.

854. It also noted that, by General Assembly resolution 33/1 of 19 September 1978, Solomon Islands had been admitted as a member of the United Nations, and had become a full member of the Commission on 16 November 1978, the date on which the Government had indicated, in a letter to the Executive Secretary, its desire to become a full member of ESCAP.

855. The Commission observed that the Governments of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had informed the Executive Secretary, in accordance with article 5 of the terms of reference of the Commission, of the request of the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides for admission as an associate member of the Commission and inclusion within its geographical scope. It also observed that a similar communication had been received by the Executive Secretary from the Government of New Zealand, concerning the admission of Niue as an associate member of the Commission. The requests of the Governments concerned were contained in documents E/ESCAP/139 and E/ESCAP/141 respectively, which also stated the financial implications of the proposals.

856. The Commission noted that Fiji (E/ESCAP/137) and Solomon Islands (E/ESCAP/138) had become full members of ESCAP. It also unanimously recommended the admission of the New Hebrides and Niue as associate members of the Commission and their inclusion within its geographical scope. It further recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the consequential amendments to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the Commission's terms of reference and adopted a draft resolution to that effect for action by the Council.

Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

857. The Commission took note of document ESCAP/188 and Add.1 containing the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission which had been adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session and by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1978.

Date and place of meeting of the next session

858. The Commission decided that its thirty-sixth session would be held at the ESCAP headquarters at Bangkok some time in March 1980. The Executive Secretary, after consultation with ACPR, would determine the exact dates of the session and would inform the members of the Commission accordingly.

Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

859. At its 545th meeting on 16 March 1979, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft report prepared by the Technical and Drafting Committee.

Closure of the session

860. At the closure of the session on 16 March 1979, Her Excellency Madam Imelda Romualdez Marcos, Minister of Human Settlements and Governor of Metro Manila, delivered a closing address.

D. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

861. The summary of the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, listing all programmes and their components and specific activities, was presented to the Commission in document E/ESCAP/128. In the main document containing the summary of programmes and activities, the secretariat has also outlined major trends in the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, which will indicate the direction in which ESCAP's programmes are moving. In order to facilitate consideration of the work programme by sector, the secretariat has presented the sectoral programmes in 22 addenda to the main document. In the sectoral programmes, in addition to the objectives of each programme and its components, annotations on each specific activity are also provided giving information relating to authority/origin and objectives, plans, progress and expected output, participating parties in the activities and resources available and required for implementation of that particular activity.

862. In pursuance of resolution 170 (XXXII) and in accordance with the terms of reference of ACPR, the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, was prepared stage by stage in close consultation with ACPR. The divisions of the secretariat had informal meetings with ACPR and discussed their proposed sectoral programmes, which were then modified as suggested by ACPR. These modified programmes were again considered at formal meetings of ACPR before being presented to the respective legislative committees. The Committees on Industry, Housing and Technology; Statistics, Natural Resources, Shipping, and Transport and Communications, Social Development and Population met during the year under review. The Committees on Agricultural Development and Development Planning did not meet, in accordance with their terms of reference. The Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific was held in lieu of the Committee on Trade.

863. This year, the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, is presented in quite a different format from the past. This format was jointly formulated between the ESCAP secretariat and ACPR in pursuance of the Commission's directive to streamline the work programme and improve its presentation to make it easier to understand.

864. The Commission endorsed the programme changes, 1979, and the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1980.1981, with the following amendments:

1. Programme changes, 1979

(1) *Programme 03 -Raw materials and commodities*

<i>Work programme code number</i>	<i>Modification</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	
03.2 (xii) Consultations with and advisory services to the ANRPC, APCC and PC secretariats and councils as well as tropical timber producing countries to assist project formulation and strengthen community activities		Consultations with and advisory services to the ANRPC, APCC and PC secretariats and councils as well as tropical timber and jute producing countries to assist project formulation and strengthen community activities	See E/ESCAP/127, page 5.

(1) *Programme 05—Part A: Trade expansion and monetary co-operation*

<i>Work programme code number</i>	<i>Modification</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	
05.2 (i) (b) Professional development services: assistance to member countries in the development of professional staff and human resources engaged in trade promotion and development activities through organization of professional training programmes such as training courses, seminars and workshops		Professional development services: assistance to member countries in the development of professional staff and human resources engaged in trade promotion and development activities through organization of professional training programmes such as training courses, seminars, including a seminar on Chinese foreign trade management, and workshops	

(1) *Programme 19—Special measures for the least developed and land-locked countries and developing island states*

<i>Work programme code number</i>	<i>Modification</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	
19.1 (ii) Study on major economic problems		Study on major economic problems and identification of exportable products, location of their markets in the region to assist countries in utilizing existing potentials for expansion of exports and reorientation of potential exports to their needs with a view to reducing their trade imbalances	

2. Programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981

Modifications

Development of food and agriculture (01)

865. The annotation of activity 01.05.01 was amended read as follows:

"01.05.01 *Workshops and field studies on the promotion of local-level planning, monitoring and evaluation for rural development*

"Authority/origin and objectives

An Expert Group Meeting on Local-level Planning for Integrated Rural Development was held in November 1978. This Meeting, which was attended by experts from nine developing countries of the region and also by representatives of international organizations, made detailed suggestions for follow-up action to assist individual countries in strengthening their capacity along such lines.

These activities, conducted in co-operation with APDI and other international organizations, are linked with the ESCAP priority programme on integrated rural development [resolution 172 (XXXIII)].

"Plans, progress and expected output

Local-level planning for integrated rural development has been arousing interest in developing countries and the international community; however, considerable progress remains to be achieved in order to ensure sound local-level planning in most rural areas within a short span of time. In order to follow up on the suggestions that emerged from the Expert Group Meeting, ESCAP, in co-operation with relevant organizations, is already involved in activities such as detailed case studies, a study tour and participation in national experimental projects on local-level planning. For the biennium 1980-1981, it plans to pursue a systematic set of activities, including (a) technical co-operation for assisting in local-level planning experiments and in training national staff, (b) continued studies aimed at improving, planning and monitoring methodology and (c) exchange of experience and information among countries of the region (through workshops, publications etc.), with the general aim of assisting in improving the capacity of interested countries, with special concern for the low-income target groups."

Development and transfer of appropriate technology (04)

866. At the end of the title of activity 04.04.01 the following words were added: "and consideration of suitable regional arrangements".

Development planning, projections and policies (07)

867. The title of activity 07.03.03 was changed to read: "Development and assessment of techniques for

necessary linkages between macro-level and subnational planning".

Special measures for the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries (18)

868. The title of activity 18.01.02 was changed to read:

"Identification of exportable products of the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries and location of their markets in the region to assist them in utilizing existing potentials for expansion of exports and reorientation of potential exports to their needs with a view to reducing their trade imbalances".

3. Major trends in the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981

869. In dealing particularly with the socio-economic aspects of food and agriculture, the programme lays emphasis on food and rural development. It is aimed primarily at assisting countries in increasing food production and consumption and raising nutritional standards through improvement in the quality and quantity of development assistance for food, supply and utilization of production requisites, especially fertilizers and pesticides, research and development of "inferior" food crops, trade in rice, improvement in agricultural plans, programmes and information systems and development of rural areas with emphasis on improving the welfare of small farmers, tenants, the landless, rural women and small fishermen. With a view to improving the effectiveness of the over-all programme, not only has the number of programme components been reduced from seven in 1978-1979 to five in 1980-1981, but the specific activities have been significantly modified in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Agricultural Development. The programme changes reflect perspectives for the new international development strategy.

870. A programme on energy for the next three years has been recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, based on the report of the working Group Meeting on Energy Planning and Programming held in August 1978. The question of financial support for this programme is being discussed with UNDP, and other potential donors are being approached. The programme involves a range of technical assistance activities, including national and rural energy planning, and development of non-conventional energy resources. Further promotion of TCDC is proposed, particularly in a strengthened programme of information exchange, and co-operative research and development.

871. In the field of raw materials and commodities, advisory services and technical assistance to member countries and to the existing commodity associations/communities will be continued. A co-operative arrangement among tropical timber producing/exporting countries is being developed with the objective of establishing an Asia and Pacific tropical timber community

in the near future. Following the decisions reached at the first session of the subgroup for commodities which was constituted under the Trade Co-operation Group, advisory services and technical assistance to the existing commodity communities, particularly in the area of "other measures" and TCDC/ECDC aspects among producing/exporting countries in the region, will be intensified and expanded. The programme will also include the establishment of new co-operative arrangements for commodities of socio-economic interest to countries in the region, particularly the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries. Dialogues between commodity producing/exporting and importing countries will also be organized. In view of the multisectoral nature of the activities, closer co-operation and co-ordination among the divisions within the secretariat, and between the secretariat and the commodity associations/communities as well as United Nations specialized agencies such as FAG, UNCT AD and ITC will be strengthened.

872. In matters of technology the focus is on building national capacities and capabilities, transfer of technology and the promotion of technical co-operation among countries, particularly between developing countries. Strengthening of regional and national institutional facilities in this regard has been highlighted. In light of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and the recommendations of its two regional preparatory meetings, the programme of work reflects new activities in the field of science and technology which again are geared to strengthening national capabilities and promoting TCDC.

873. In the field of trade, the 1980-1981 work programme has been drawn up in pursuance of the recommendations and decisions of the Commission at its thirty-fourth session and of the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific. Thus, the specific activities are not entirely new; some are continuing activities, while others have been modified taking into account the decisions mentioned above, which reflected the fact that a programme for intra-regional trade and co-operation was urgently needed to accelerate the economic development of countries participating in the Trade Co-operation Group, and that sufficient scope existed for this to be done. The Trade Co-operation Group was constituted in November 1978, as well as seven subgroups in the fields of a network of trade promotion centres; trade-creating joint ventures; long-term contracts; commodities; monetary and credit co-operation; liberalization of trade; and trade statistics, customs tariff nomenclatures and customs and transport facilitation procedures and documentation. In framing the programme of work, appropriate provisions have been made to take into account the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries, the recommendations and decisions contained in the blueprint

for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region and the existing activities in international trade in the priority area relating to trade promotion and development.

874. Activities in the field of transnational corporations (TNCs) have recently been considerably intensified in ESCAP. Work undertaken by the Joint CTC/ESCAP Unit on TNCs is directed towards three major areas: case study research, technical co-operation, and information. Research studies currently embrace seven industries in nine ESCAP countries, with ample scope for expansion. A case study approach has been adopted so as to arrive at specific and policy-oriented conclusions. Greater emphasis is being placed upon technical co-operation, with the organization of sector and country workshops and training programmes for improving the negotiating capacity of host Governments in their dealings with TNCs. The information component is being maintained, priority being given to liaison with official agencies and research institutes in the ESCAP region with the objective of collecting, analysing and disseminating information on TNCs.

875. The integrated programme on rural development has been further strengthened with reference to its basic objectives through a continuous process of consultations with the member countries and international agencies. The programme of work for 1980-1981 will seek to concentrate further on the key elements, including some new inputs for integrated rural development such as project planning for local development, strengthening of rural institutions, more equitable access for the target groups to assets and services, mobilization of local resources for development, training, monitoring and evaluation and exchange of information. Projects specifically directed towards the low-income groups, seeking more comprehensive solutions to improve their bargaining power, productivity, employment opportunities and income, will be implemented through a set of core activities and programmes of the substantive divisions. Taking the experiences acquired so far into account, closer harmony among sectoral activities and programme components of integrated rural development will be developed.

876. In addition to review and appraisal of economic and social developments in the region on a continuing basis, the central focus of work in the field of development planning is currently on the formulation of a regional input into an international development strategy for the 1980s. Various complementary activities that are pertinent to this area of activity are in progress and expected to be completed in the course of 1979. Most important is the work on patterns and strategies of development in the 1980s, which has moved from a country study phase to a wider examination of common development problems among countries of the region: a project on long-term structural change will examine the broad course of development hitherto taken by a selection of ESCAP developing countries; a major

project, based on original field research in four member countries, is concerned with the incidence of poverty and the scope for increasing participation in the development process; a collection of papers is being prepared on the broad environmental aspects of development for a major seminar in 1979; and an econometric system of medium-term economic projections is being refined and will also provide an important input to the international development strategy for the 1980s. Significant new developments in the work in this field include plans to hold round-table consultations on decentralized management of rural development in the south-east Asian region, following the joint Government of India/ESCAP project in August 1978. It is also intended to establish an information service concerning development plans and techniques of planning which will cover all developing countries of the ESCAP region.

877. In the field of industrial development, continuing emphasis has been placed on the new policy elements enunciated by the Meeting of Ministers of Industry held in 1977 in respect of linkages with agriculture, dispersal of industries to non-metropolitan areas, development of industries meeting the basic needs of the poorer section and promotion of small and medium-scale industries and their linkage with large modern and basic industries. Special attention has also been given to the public sector in the light of Commission resolution 181 (XXXIV). Co-operation among countries of the region also continues to receive special attention through the "club" proposed by the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and in other ways. Active promotion of domestic capital formation and foreign investment in industry has also been stressed. More attention will also be given to the promotion of investment and regional co-operation through joint ventures in industrial projects.

878. The human settlements problem has continued to be a matter for growing concern. The Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology, at its third session, recommended that priority attention be given to such areas as settlements policies and strategies, slum and squatter settlements, land, shelter, infrastructure and services, building materials industries, planning and management and public participation. The importance of an information system on human settlements has also been emphasized. These aspects are reflected in the programme of work for the biennium 1980-1981. The main thrust of the human settlements programme will continue to be directed towards the causes and effects of large-scale rural-urban migration, namely, the poorly serviced and often unhygienic rural settlements with accompanying social ills and the slums and squatter settlements of the metropolitan areas, which are often the first station in these migrants' new urban life.

879. With the establishment of the Environmental Co-ordinating Unit, a major change has taken place in the programme of work and priorities in the field of

the environment. The principal thrust of the programme is now on the assessment of environmental aspects in all programmes of the Commission with a view to enhancing the environmental dimensions of its ongoing and planned activities. Several new activities are being further elaborated, such as development of environmental legislation, creation of environmental awareness at the national-level, environmental impact assessment, water pollution control, protection of the marine environment, regional follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Desertification and development of a subregional programme on environmental management for the fragile ecosystem of the island countries of the South Pacific.

880. With regard to the programme on shipping, ports and inland waterways, priority attention will continue to be given to manpower development with the objective of meeting the urgent needs of the developing ESCAP countries for adequately trained maritime and managerial personnel at all levels and categories. In response to the strong support given by member countries, emphasis is also placed on the development of the shippers' co-operation project with a view to strengthening the position of the shippers, and to bringing about a better understanding between the regional shippers and shipowners. Emphasis will also be given to the establishment of shipping and port information systems and the development and/or strengthening of maritime policy institutions. Increasing attention will be given to the transfer of technology in the context of ECDC and TCDC, as this programme has great potential for the promotion of these activities.

881. In the area of transport and communications, two main themes are reflected by bringing about changes in the work programme for 1980-1981. First, there is increased emphasis on action-oriented programmes to develop transport and communications infrastructures and to improve national capabilities to plan, construct and manage those infrastructures. Second, as transport demand is derived from activities in other sectors of societies and economies, more attention is being given to the promotion of transport research and to the collection and dissemination of appropriate statistics to help to define more precisely the role that transport plays in the countries of the ESCAP region and also in the programmes in the priority areas of agriculture, energy, raw materials and commodities, transfer of technology, external financial resources and rural development. Improved urban transport planning capabilities, economic aspects of air cargo transport, promotion of integrated transport systems and enhancement of transport research, transport statistics and technical co-operation on transport problems will also receive greater attention. It is also clear that these efforts will have particular relevance to the problems of the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries.

882. Changes in the programme on highways and highway transport reflect increased emphasis on rural transport, traffic engineering and management of urban transport, development of international road transport and maximization of the use of highway resources by improving construction and maintenance techniques and standards, as well as the collection, analysis and dissemination of highway and highway transport statistics. Emphasis will continue to be placed on the harmonization and standardization of weights, dimensions and safety devices of vehicles as well as the formats of national driving licences and requirements for obtaining them. No substantive changes have been made in the work programme on railways but a few additional activities have been included as requested by the Governments at the intergovernmental Railway Group Meeting in June 1978. In the field of tourism, more attention will be focused on the investment aspect of tourism development projects, particularly the infrastructural and super structural facilities.

883. Provided the necessary resources are available, arrangements will be made in ESCAP to promote liaison with the postal activities co-ordinated by UPU. A new pattern in the provision of telecommunication assistance will be adopted by redistributing the ESCAP/ITU experts to Bangkok, Manila and New Delhi, thus making assistance more readily available where it is needed.

884. In the natural resources sectors there have been several important developments. Strengthening of the three regional mineral projects has continued, and the inaugural sessions of the governing bodies of SEA TRADC and RMRDC were held during the year. A major development was the approval of a UNDP project on investigation of the mineral potential of the South Pacific, with a contribution of just over \$ 2.5 million for the three-year period 1979-1981. More attention is also being given to inter-country and regional geological and mineral studies. In the water sector, activities are mainly related to issues identified by the United Nations Water Conference. However, work on international rivers is being suspended because of lack of interest by countries. Proposed activities in that sector may be influenced by the findings at the special session of the Economic and Social Council Committee on Natural Resources held in New York in February 1979 to consider follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference. ESCAP working group meetings in late 1978 and 1979 are expected to lead to activities in remote sensing and thematic mapping respectively.

885. The work programme on social development will continue to have a strong rural bias, and will emphasize micro-level action, in accordance with the objectives of the ESCAP integrated programme on rural development. This is particularly true in the case of activities relating to the integration of women in the development process in accordance with the criteria set by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, which

have also been considerably expanded to cover a number of critical needs in the field. Some innovative activities have been included among the youth activities, such as the field attachment programme of youth workers and leaders among selected participating countries in the region, which is being promoted on the basis of TCDC.

886. In the field of population, the programme may be divided into three sectors, namely, population and development, population policy, and information dissemination. As to population and development, in addition to continuing the major regional research and studies already started, the programme for 1980-1981 focus on the progressive incorporation of population factors and policies in planning and programming mechanisms in all sectors, stages and levels in each ESCAP member country. This process is expected to be speeded up by the establishment of population units within the planning infrastructure of each country and creating or strengthening the technical capacity of the units to carry out the various activities for the objective indicated. Particular attention will be given to strengthening the data base for population and development planning, expanding inputs of demographic data and analysis into development programmes and broadening the understanding by planners and policy makers of the interrelationships between population factors and development.

887. Three programme components in family planning programmes, namely, administrative aspects of family planning programmes, motivational components of fertility and family planning behaviour, and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of family planning programmes, which were used in earlier presentations of activities in the population field, have been combined and presented in the 1980-1981 work programme under one component, "Population policy". In this programme, it is proposed to continue to give priority to regional activities that will assist member countries in: (a) improving organizational performance in delivering family planning services and in creating demand for these services; (b) enhancing their knowledge of the determinants of fertility behaviour; and (c) assessing the impact on fertility of such family planning activities as training courses and meetings. Regional consultancy services will be increased. More emphasis will be given to the collection and analysis of family-level data for evaluating family planning programme performance and formulating more effective population policies, aimed at maximizing the role of family planning in family welfare.

888. As country population programme planners, implementers and researchers work to help to meet desired national goals, they have become increasingly aware of the usefulness of developing clearing-house and information activities. It is foreseen that their requirements will demand an increased scope of technical assistance, which is reflected in the 1980-1981 programme. This is indicated, for example, in the trend from individual isolated

libraries to more sophisticated programmes which include continuing research into changing user requirements, including preparation of information tailored to meet specific needs. This trend, found in few countries five years ago, has developed rapidly. Today an increasing number of networks which link the related government ministries, vertically and horizontally, are being strengthened to help to ensure that knowledge reaches those concerned more efficiently.

889. In the field of statistics, attention will continue to be given to the promotion of the 1980 round of population and housing censuses and to greater in-depth analysis of census data for socio-economic planning; the development of guidelines and promotion of their use in compiling data series required for the planning, implementation and monitoring of integrated rural development projects; the promotion of national house-hold survey capability programmes, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office and specialized agencies, with particular emphasis on data for smaller geographic areas and for specific groups of the population; and the development of social statistics from censuses and sample surveys, and the use of uniform concepts and definitions in this field. Promotion of economic statistics, with emphasis on international trade, industry, prices and energy data, will continue.

Technical meetings, particularly of a methodological nature, will be organized in subject-matter areas recommended by the Committee on Statistics.

890. Earlier sessions of the Commission emphasized the need for co-ordination and strengthening of the information activities of the secretariat. During the previous biennium 1978-1979, an information programme was established to provide for the acquisition of computing equipment, and to lay the other organizational and technical foundations upon which an augmented programme could be based. The programme in 1980-1981 is directed towards the more visible implementation of this long-range programme, through (a) assisting Governments in developing their information systems and (b) facilitating the transfer of information held by the secretariat to users in member States. As part of this programme, it is proposed that additional attention be given to extending the coverage of the computerized bibliographic data base to the sectoral information systems, clearing-houses and various project libraries operating under the auspices of the Commission. Concurrently, assistance to countries in the development of their national information systems will be strengthened through the provision of advisory services and training workshops and the conduct of technical meetings.

Chapter IV
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
AT ITS THIRTY -FIFTH SESSION

**191 (XXXV). Regional training and research
institutions under the auspices of the
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific¹**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific,*

Recalling its resolution 175 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, in which it requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions, to define clearly the role and responsibilities of the relevant divisions of the secretariat vis-a-vis those institutions in order to eliminate duplication and overlapping of functions and work programmes between the secretariat and the institutions, and also requested the Governing Council to bring about greater integration of the work programmes of those institutions,

Further recalling its resolution 183 (XXXIV) of 15 March 1978, in which it requested the Governing Council to examine the question of the possible restructuring of existing regional training and research institutions in order to achieve reduction of operational costs and the optimum use of resources as well as the goal of assisting member countries,

Taking note of the report of the Governing Council on its second session and of the report of the secretariat on the implementation of resolution 183 (XXXIV),³

Appreciating the action taken by the Executive Secretary towards the implementation of the directives contained in resolution 183 (XXXIV),

Expressing its appreciation of the achievements of the institutions, their directors and staff, particularly in the face of the financial and manpower constraints within which they have had to operate,

Appreciative of the assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme towards the implementation of resolution 183 (XXXIV),

Grateful to the members and associate members of the Commission, the host Governments, donor countries, United Nations agencies and foundations for the assistance rendered to the regional training and research institutions,

Also appreciative of the continued contributions to the regional institutions by the United Nations Development Programme,

Recognizing that the achievement of an integrated approach to development problems in the training, research and allied activities of the Commission as well as in optimizing future financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme and the Governments of members and associate members, as well as from other donor sources, calls for a restructuring of the existing network of regional training and research institutions,

1. *Expresses appreciation* of the initiative of the Executive Secretary and the United Nations Development Programme in appointing the ESCAP/UNDP Task Force on Programme Support for Regional Institutions, particularly with reference to their programmes and their institutional structure;

2. *Endorses* generally the recommendations made by the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions at its second session;

3. *Decides* that the Asian and Pacific Development Institute, the Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre, the Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development shall be integrated, and that the integration shall be completed by 1 July 1980 as far as practicable, in accordance with the time-table for preparatory activities annexed to the report of the Task Force;⁴

4. *Further decides* that the integrated institution shall be named the Asian and Pacific Development Centre;

5. *Recommends* that the Centre, in formulating its work programme, should seek functional unity by adopting a fully integrated approach responsive to the priority development needs of the region, drawing fully upon the accumulated experience and expertise of the

¹ See paras. 811-821 above.

² E/ESCAP/130.

³ E/ESCAP/131.

⁴ MTCP/RTRI(2)/1.

Asian and Pacific Development institute, the Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre, the Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development;

6. *Recommends further* that, in setting up the new Centre, a special organizational identity should be given to the programme area related to issues concerning women and development, and that sufficient emphasis should be given to activities in the field of social welfare and development;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the offers made to host the Asian and Pacific Development Centre;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to hold further consultations with interested Governments on the location of the Centre and to inform members and associate members of the Commission of the results of those consultations;

9. *Empowers* the Governing Council to make a decision on the location of the Centre at its forthcoming session in June-July 1979;

10. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the offer by the Government of Japan to continue to provide the required host facilities and related services to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

11. *Decides* that the Statistical institute for Asia and the Pacific shall continue to operate as a separate regional institution, paying due regard to the special nature of its functions;

12. *Resolves* that the Asian and Pacific Development Centre shall be an intergovernmental institution with its own charter, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

13. *Resolves further* that:

(a) The activities of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre and of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific shall be reviewed by a governing council, consisting of representatives of the host Governments and other members, the number and the terms of office of which are to be specified by the Commission;

(b) Taking into account the possible need for a guiding body for the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Executive Secretary shall be requested to examine this matter further and present his recommendations to the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions and the Commission for decision;

(c) The initial members of the proposed governing council shall be elected at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission;

(d) The governing council shall report to the Commission at its regular sessions;

14. *Recommends* to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme that the Commission be designated as the executing agency of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre;

15. *Resolves* that the term of office of the present members of the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions, including the five members whose terms of office expire in 1979, shall be extended until the date on which the members of the new governing council assume office;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps, in consultation with the directors of the institutions, to implement the recommendations made by the Governing Council at its second session, as approved by the Commission;

17. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to proceed to formulate a charter for the Asian and Pacific Development Centre in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office of legal Affairs and Governments of members and associate members, and to submit the charter to the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions and to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session for consideration;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to pursue action for the preparation of the next project phase of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in consultation with the host Government, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office of legal Affairs, if necessary;

19. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to appoint, from 1 July 1980, in consultation with the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions, a director for the Asian and Pacific Development Centre according to the requirements approved by the Governing Council and, in consultation with the director, to appoint other staff as necessary;

20. *Strongly urges* the United Nations Development Programme:

(a) To provide to the new institution adequate institutional support at an appropriate and sufficient level in addition to programme support;

(b) To continue institutional and programme support to the Asian and Pacific Development Institute, the Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre, the Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development until their integration in the Asian and Pacific Development Centre has been effected, to enable them to implement their work programmes for 1979 and 1980;

(c) To continue to provide institutional support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for 1980 and 1981, as already agreed, and also to continue to provide programme support to the institute;

21. *Appeals* to all Governments of members and associate members of the Commission, other donor countries and interested agencies, foundations and institutions:

(a) To continue to provide timely assistance in cash and kind to the existing regional training and research institutions until their integration in the Asian and Pacific Development Centre to ease their cash-flow difficulties and to enable them to implement their work programmes for 1979 and 1980;

(b) To continue to provide timely assistance in cash and kind to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific after the other four institutions have been integrated;

(c) To provide generous assistance in cash and kind to the Asian and Pacific Development Centre especially to ensure its successful initial operation;

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to exploring the possibility of providing, out of the regular budget of the United Nations, institutional support to the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, under the auspices of the Commission, in the same manner as in the case of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning;

23. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

544th meeting
14 March 1979

192 (XXXV). Statute of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centres⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the recommendation to the secretariat at the Commission's twenty-sixth session that consideration should be given to the establishment of a regional mineral resources development centre,

Recalling further the establishment by the secretariat of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre on 24 October 1973,

Considering the agreement at its thirty-first session that an intergovernmental meeting should be convened in 1975 to consider, *inter alia*, the draft Statute of the centre,

Noting the election of the first Governing Council of the Centre at the thirty-fourth session, and the adoption of the draft Statute of the Centre at the first session of the Governing Council, held at Bandung, Indonesia, in September 1978,

⁵ See paras. 768-777 above.

Adopts the Statute of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as a basis for its operations.

544th meeting
14 March 1979

Annex

Statute of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

Establishment

1. The Centre, established in October 1973 in accordance with a decision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its twenty-ninth session and the Regional Conference on Geology and Mineral Resources Development at the ninth session, shall be entitled "the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre" (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre").

2. The objective of the Centre is to assist the regional members and associate members of ESCAP, upon their request, in strengthening and increasing the scope and activities of their governmental agencies responsible for geological investigations and mineral resources development.

Functions

3. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 2, the Centre, in co-operation with other bodies as appropriate, shall, as requested by the countries concerned:

(a) Provide the services of experts to assist and advise the governmental agencies and train their counterpart personnel, in various fields of mineral resources exploration and development;

(b) Assist governmental agencies in drawing up programmes and identifying national projects for which assistance might be needed and in preparing requests and arranging for assistance, either from international agencies or from Governments willing to provide assistance on a bilateral basis;

(c) Assess the requirements for training in specialized fields and arrange appropriate facilities and programmes for training, as far as possible within the ESCAP region;

(d) Acquire and disseminate technical data to governmental agencies, and provide assistance in building up systematic national or regional inventories of mineral resources, with a view to computer storage and retrieval where appropriate;

(e) Arrange regional or subregional laboratory facilities for the use of those countries for which the

acquisition of such facilities, particularly for the more sophisticated processes, could not be justified individually.

4. In carrying out its functions, the Centre will encourage due concern for environmental quality and the development of skills in environmental management.

Governing Council

5. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") consisting of a representative of the host member and eight representatives of the other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission.

Other than the host member, members of the Council shall be elected for a period of three years, but shall be eligible for re-election. The first Council will be elected for the period ending at the Commission session in 1980.

6. The Executive-Secretary of ESCAP or his representative, the Co-ordinator of the Centre and, during the period of UNDP financial support to the Centre, the representative of UNDP shall be ex officio members of the Council.

7. Governments other than those specified in paragraph 5 above, as well as international and national bodies deemed appropriate by the Council, may be invited to attend its meetings in a consultative capacity.

8. The Council shall be responsible for the over-all management of the operations of the Centre through the Co-ordinator. The Council shall consider and adopt the annual and long-term programme of work of the Centre. The Council shall submit a progress report on the work of the Centre to the Commission at each of its sessions.

9. The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Co-ordinator and staff

10. The Centre shall have a Co-ordinator who shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations after consultation with the Council. The first Co-ordinator may be appointed by the Secretary-General before the establishment of the Council for a period of up to two years.

11. The Co-ordinator shall be responsible for the execution of the decisions and directives of the Council, for the preparation of the Centre's draft programme and budget, for the execution of the Centre's work programme and for the general control, direction and management of the affairs of the Centre.

12. The Co-ordinator shall prepare and submit to the Council an annual report on the activities, administration, management and financial status of the Centre.

13. The professional staff will be appointed by the appropriate administrative authorities at United Nations Headquarters upon the recommendation of the Co-ordinator. One of the professional staff may be appointed by the Co-ordinator to act as Deputy Coordinator.

Resources of the Centre

14. The financial, staff and physical resources of the Centre shall be derived from contributions made by UNDP, other United Nations bodies and agencies and contributing Governments. Further resources may be derived from intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations and institutions and other sources, as may be deemed appropriate by the Council. Contributions received are to be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules and practices of the United Nations, including those with respect to the establishment and control of trust funds.

15. The financial management of the Centre shall be subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules and other pertinent directives of the United Nations.

16. A separate agreement shall be entered into by the United Nations with the Government of the country providing host facilities.

193 (XXXV). Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, particularly section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197, relating to structures for regional and interregional co-operation,

Affirming the important role that the Commission fulfils in the United Nations system in facilitating, promoting and expediting the process of the development and socio-economic co-operation of the developing countries in the region,

Noting the confirmation by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197 of the need for the regional commissions:

(a) To play their role as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions,

(b) To exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level,

⁶ See paras. 460-461, 830-834 and 851-852 above.

(c) To provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the competent United Nations organs, and to participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by those organs,

(d) To be consulted on the definition of the objectives to be included in the medium-term plan of the United Nations covering fields of interest to them,

(e) To participate actively in operational activities and to be enabled to function expeditiously as executing agencies as appropriate,

(f) To intensify their efforts to strengthen and enlarge regional and subregional co-operation,

(g) To strengthen and, as appropriate, expand arrangements for the exchange of information and experience so as to promote more effective interregional co-operation,

(h) To rationalize their structures, *inter alia*, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the Commission, particularly through expeditious implementation of the relevant clauses of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development, so that the objectives envisaged in those resolutions are achieved effectively and efficiently,

Considering the slow progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, in particular section N of the annex,

Noting the proposals and measures contained particularly in paragraph 93 of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly⁷ on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to expedite the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, particularly where it relates to the Commission, and to make available adequate budgetary and financial resources, especially through redeployment, in order to strengthen the capability of the Commission;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that arrangements are made and ways and means provided for the implementation of measures included in paragraph 93 of his report;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to identify the tasks which could be assumed by the Commission as a result of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and to indicate the financial and manpower implications of those tasks;

⁷ A/33/410/Rev.1.

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, to continue efforts towards rationalizing the conference structure of the Commission in order to improve its over-all performance, bearing in mind the issues and proposals mentioned in the present resolution;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to obtain the required resources for the secretariat and to make the necessary arrangements to strengthen its capability to meet the new challenges posed by the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make every effort to streamline the existing administrative structure of the secretariat so as to minimize the extent of the additional resources required as a result of added responsibilities arising out of decentralization;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the progress made and measures to be adopted in implementation of the present resolution.

*544th meeting
14 March 1979*

194 (XXXV). Promotion of and support for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International "Economic Order, and Commission resolutions 162 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976 on technical co-operation among developing countries and 171 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 on economic and technical co-operation among developing ESCAP countries, *Recalling* further General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, in particular its provisions relating to priority setting, and 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on new dimensions in technical co-operation, especially its aspects relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development,

Recalling also the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation

⁸ See paras. 440-454 above.

among Developing Countries, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978 on the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Affirming the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as an instrument for collective self-reliance and for the attainment of the new international economic order,

Recognizing both the primary responsibility of developing countries for such co-operation and the need for supplementary external assistance in addition to present aid flows, especially with respect to least developed, land-locked and developing island countries, as well as the scope for the Commission and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify efforts to assist such co-operation systematically at the bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional levels,

Stressing the importance of the efforts made so far by its own subsidiary organs and affiliated bodies and by the Executive Secretary to develop and implement the Commission's role as regional focal point and catalyst for the promotion, monitoring and support for implementation of such co-operation, in accordance with the role assigned to it in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

1. Endorses generally the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Working Group of Senior Officials Concerned with TCDC in Developing Asian and Pacific Countries;⁹

2. *Urges* its developing members and associate members to participate actively in all forms of co-operation among themselves consistent with their national development objectives, laying due emphasis on:

(a) The intensification of technical co-operation among themselves, *inter alia*, to facilitate economic co-operation;

(b) The development and utilization of networks and other links to facilitate collaborative research among national institutions;

(c) Co-operation in training, the use of expert and consultancy services and the procurement of equipment;

(d) The special needs of least developed, land-locked and developing island countries;

3. *Invites* developed countries to fulfill their roles in support of technical co-operation among developing countries in the Asia and the Pacific region as provided for in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

4. *Further invites* developed countries, as well as intergovernmental organizations, institutions and

foundations, including the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system, in the context of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, to support economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by providing increased external assistance to supplement, when necessary, the resources contributed for implementing such co-operation activities by the countries participating in them, especially with respect to the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries;

5. *Invites* its developing members and associate members and their institutions to collaborate in the development and operation of a regional information system to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, which should:

(a) Draw as far as possible on existing systems and flows in the region;

(b) Serve as the regional and of the information referral system for technical co-operation among developing countries operated by the United Nations Development Programme, sharing resources available for that purpose;

(c) Be linked with similar systems in other regions to form an effective interregional network; and also invites developed countries and organizations of the United Nations system to support such efforts;

6. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as appropriate, to promote and support the implementation of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by intensifying his efforts to:

(a) Develop, co-ordinate and service the regional information system, rendering technical assistance where appropriate to strengthen its constituent national and inter-country flows as necessary and ensuring appropriate dissemination of relevant data;

(b) Monitor and review on a continuing basis at the regional level progress in such co-operation with which the United Nations system is associated and, where appropriate, collate information on other activities under technical co-operation among developing countries in the Asia and the Pacific region;

(c) Place increasing emphasis on such co-operation in the research and analytical work of the Commission in various sectors, especially in the context of the formulation and review of international development strategies for the 1980s;

(d) Assist developing countries of the region in identifying and exploiting increased opportunities for effective co-operation through:

⁹ E/ESCAP/IOS, section III.

- (i) The identification and matching of their capabilities and needs, especially with respect to experts and institutions;
- (ii) The preparation of intensified programmes of co-operation as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1978/74;
- (iii) The formulation of inter-country projects on request;
- (iv) The provision of other preparatory assistance ;

(e) Assist through appropriate follow-up activities on request the implementation of co-operative activities and projects undertaken by developing countries and subregional economic and other functional groupings ;

(t) Collaborate with the other regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of joint projects to assist co-operation between countries in two or more regions through interregional action programmes;

(g) Attract and channel additional financial and other forms of contributions to assist economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, including resources to facilitate, *inter alia*, the participation of least developed, land-locked and developing island countries, the expansion of fellowships and trainee programmes, and the execution of preparatory and supplementary assistance projects;

7. *Recommends* to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme that it should take active steps to ensure the involvement of developing countries of each region in determining collectively the priorities for the utilization of the indicative planning figure for their respective region;

8. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, in co-operation, where feasible, with the executive secretaries of the other regional commissions, to consult the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, with a view to reviewing present practices for determining the utilization of regional indicative planning figures, in order to involve developing countries of each region in the collective setting, through their respective regional commission, of priorities for this purpose;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take urgent steps to provide adequate resources and other support to enable the secretariat of the Commission to undertake the activities effectively and to help to achieve the objectives referred to in the present resolution;

10. Calls upon its legislative committees, the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions and other intergovernmental bodies under its auspices to:

(a) Place accelerating emphasis on the promotion, implementation and review of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in their various sectors;

(b) Take the necessary steps to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74; 11. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*544th meeting
14March 1979*

195 (XXXV). Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and die Pacific¹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 154 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975, in which it appealed to the international community and member States of the region to rededicate themselves to, and display the necessary political will for, the attainment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the achievement of growth with social justice,

Further recalling its resolution 182 (XXXN) of 15 March 1978, in which it invited members and associate members of the Commission to contribute substantial additional resources for the implementation of the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions,

Noting the unanimous support indicated by members and associate members at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission for the announcement of intended contributions to the work programme of the Commission and that of the regional training and research institutions,¹¹

Appreciative of the generous contributions made by members and associate members from within and outside the region, donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme, agencies of the United Nations system and foundations towards the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions,

Appreciative also of the steps taken by the Executive Secretary to make available to the members and associate members detailed information on projects available under the Commission and other documentation relevant to the announcement of intended contributions,

¹⁰ See paras. 455 -462 above.

¹¹ Official Record, of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No.8 (Efi978f48-EfESCAPf97), para. 321.

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, pursuant to resolution 182 (XXXN), to take steps to make the practice of the announcement of intended contributions a regular feature of future Commission sessions along the lines adopted at the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions and to make available to the members and associate members and other donor countries appropriate information to facilitate the announcement of intended contributions;

2. *Requests* the members, associate members and other donor countries to indicate, whenever practicable, the level of their intended contributions for the following calendar year;

3. *Urges* members, associate members and other donor countries, especially the countries of the region and other countries which are in a position to make contributions to the Commission, to contribute generously for the implementation of the work programmes of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Commission and, in order to enable the secretariat to implement the work programme expeditiously, to endeavour to make payments of their contributions as early as possible in the calendar year;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to obtaining additional resources from the United Nations regular budget for the activities of the Commission;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary to continue efforts to obtain additional contributions from the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies, international financial institutions, organizations and foundations and other sources of extrabudgetary funds;

6. Further invites the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission, at its thirty-sixth session, on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*545th meeting
16March 1979*

196 (XXXV). Role of the co-operative movement in the social and economic development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific¹²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2459 (XXXIII) of 20 December 1968 and 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1668 (LII) of 1 June 1972,

¹² See para. 475 above.

Further recalling General Assembly resolutions 31{38 of 30 November 1976 on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and 33{47 of 14 December 1978 on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement,

Recalling its resolutions 161 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976 and 172 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 on the integrated programme on rural development and 180 (XXXN) of 17 March 1978 entitled "Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s",

Recognizing that co-operatives play an important role in socio-economic development, in particular, through mobilization and national utilization of human, financial and other resources and through the participation of the population as a whole in the process of development at the local level,

Taking into account the experience of the countries of the region in promoting the co-operative movement,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary, in co-operation, if necessary, with relevant United Nations agencies in the region, to prepare for discussion at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, a report summarizing the experience of member countries in promoting the co-operative movement with reference, in particular, to rural areas and to the participation of women and youth in the co-operative movement and to the role of co-operatives in socio-economic development, as a regional contribution to the report being prepared by the Secretary-General for the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

2. Invites member countries to submit to the Executive Secretary, if possible before the middle of 1980, reports on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to take into account, in preparing the regional report, the comments and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

*545th meeting
16March 1979*

197 (XXXV). Role of the public sector in promoting the economic and social development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific¹³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3335 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3488 (XXX) of 12

¹³ See para. 506 above.

December 1975,32/179 of 19 December 1977 and 33/144 of 20 December 1978, Economic and Social Council decision 274 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 and resolution 1978/60 of 3 August 1978 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries,

Further recalling its resolutions 180 (XXXN) of 17 March 1978 entitled "Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s" and 181 (XXXIV) of 17 March 1978 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, adopted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at its Second General Conference, which, *inter alia*, recognized the importance of ensuring an adequate role for the public sector in the expansion of the industrial development of developing countries,

Taking note of Industrial Development Board resolution 48 (XII) of 26 May 1978 on the role of the public sector in promoting the industrial development of developing countries,

Recalling once again General Assembly resolution 33/144, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, noted with interest the initiatives taken by the Commission in its resolution 181 (XXXIV) and emphasized the need for expanding the exchange of experience regarding the role of the public sector, especially among the developing countries, through a more detailed examination of its different aspects, and recommended that the important role of the public sector should be taken into account in formulating proposals concerning the new international development strategy,

Bearing in mind paragraph 5 of resolution 33/144, in which the General Assembly invited the regional commissions and other organizations concerned within the United Nations system to make a contribution on the basis of their experience in order to assist the Secretary-General in his study of the role of the public sector in promoting the economic and social development of developing countries,

Bearing in mind that every State has the sovereign and inalienable right to choose its economic and social system in accordance with the will of its people without outside interference,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary on the role of the public sector in implementation of Commission resolution 181 (XXXIV);

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to take into account the important role of the public sector in the formulation of proposals for the regional input into the new international development strategy for the 1980s;

3. *Invites* members and associate members of the Commission to submit reports to the Executive Secretary on their national experience in the role and development of the public sector with a view to summarizing the results obtained and promoting the exchange of experience in this sphere;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide assistance on a continuing basis to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in carrying out the study of the role of the public sector in implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/1,44 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/60;

5. *Urges* the legislative committees of the Commission to pay due attention to the role of the public sector in their respective areas of competence in the economic and social development of the developing countries of the region;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

545th meeting
16 March 1979

198 (XXXV). Technical and economic co-operation among developing countries of the region in shipping matters¹⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 171 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 on economic and technical co-operation among developing ESCAP countries,

Bearing in mind that the developing Asia and the Pacific region is the largest consumer of shipping services among the developing regions of the world,

Considering that the share of developing countries of the region in world demand for shipping services is far larger than their share in total world shipping tonnage,

Recognizing that changes in the price and quality of shipping services have a direct effect on the competitiveness of the region's seaborne trade and on balance-of-payments positions, since the region is now, and will continue to be in the foreseeable future, a net importer of shipping services,

Considering also that the value of shipping services utilized by the developing countries of the region contains a particularly large element of liner shipping and that liner freight rates have been increasing steadily, thereby affecting adversely the marketing of goods of established and emerging industries,

¹⁴ See paras. 599-607 above.

1. *Calls upon* the developing countries of the region to strengthen technical and economic co-operation among themselves in shipping matters at the subregional and regional levels with a view to securing adequate and economic shipping, port and cargo-handling services to meet the needs of their growing trade and economy, enabling their national shipping lines to carry a reasonable share of liner cargo and assisting the development of their respective merchant marines;

2. *Urges* the developing countries of the region to co-operate closely among themselves in establishing and strengthening regional bodies of shippers, shipowners and port organizations concerned so as to facilitate the achievement of collective self-reliance in shipping matters;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to intensify support for the efforts of the developing countries of the region to establish such close co-operation among themselves and to facilitate co-ordination of these efforts at the regional and international levels.

*545th meeting
16 March 1979*

199 (XXXV). Regional inputs into the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade¹⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the international Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-YI) and 3202 (S-YI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-YII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling further its resolution 180 (XXXIV) of 17 March 1978 entitled "Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s",

Taking full account of General Assembly resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979 on preparations for an international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade,

Emphasizing the importance of the objectives contained in section I of that resolution,

Emphasizing further the fundamental importance, for the new international development strategy, of bringing to a speedy and successful conclusion the

¹⁵ See paras 417439 and 495497 above.

current and projected negotiations and conferences under the auspices of the United Nations before the new international development strategy is launched,

Underlining, in this context, the importance of concrete progress at the forthcoming fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

Noting that there is a relationship between development and peace, security and disarmament,

Taking note of document E/ESCAP/I03 containing a progress report on the implementation of resolution 180 (XXXN),

Recognizing that the new international development strategy should be a major step in the continuing efforts of the international community towards the -establishment of the new international economic order through, *inter alia*, the removal of the structural inequities and imbalances in the existing international economic order which constitute major obstacles to the development of developing countries,

Recognizing further the close interdependence between the economies of countries at different stages of development and the shared responsibility of all in devising economic and social measures for the benefit of all, consistent with national development plans and priorities of each country ,

Emphasizing that, in the context of the urgent need for changes in the structure of the existing international economic order, essential elements of the new international development strategy include the following issues of special interest to its members and associate members:

(a) Changes in the structure of world production to accelerate the industrialization of developing countries and to achieve an equitable global distribution of productive capacity,

(b) Promotion of equity in trade relations between the developing and the developed countries with a view, *inter alia*, to ensuring a substantial increase in the share of developing countries in world exports,

(c) Improvement in the terms of trade of developing countries, and the general effort to liberalize world trade, particularly in favour of developing countries, *inter alia*, through the reduction of barriers to world trade,

(d) Improvements in the organization and development of the primary commodity sector in the world economy,

(e) Arrangements conducive to the rapid growth of the technological capacity of developing countries,

(f) Measures to increase substantially the flow of resources in real terms to developing countries and to enhance the responsiveness of the international monetary system to their needs and interests,

Recalling that the new international development strategy should reflect in an appropriate manner the need for adequate policies for the promotion of social development, to be defined by each country within the framework of its development plans and priorities and in accordance with its socio-economic structure and stage of development, with full mobilization of national resources, taking into account that the final aim of development must be the constant increase of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom,

Bearing in mind discussions and recommendations on the regional input to the new international development strategy in various forums of the Commission held since its thirty-fourth session, notably the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Ministers of Industry and the legislative committees of the Commission,

Recognizing that the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade should be within the framework of viable and consistent specific quantitative and qualitative goals and objectives -both over-all and sectoral -defining the role of, and where appropriate, containing agreed commitments of all countries, expressed in quantified terms or in a time framework, or in both, for the adoption and implementation of policy measures to achieve the above goals and objectives,

Stressing the need for recognition that international economic policies, in particular those of developed countries, which have world-wide economic implications, should contribute to the growth of developing countries, thus further enhancing global prosperity, and that an important objective of such policies should be to increase the productive capacity and purchasing power of developing countries,

Affirming that the primary objective of the new strategy should be to promote the development of developing countries, bringing about improved standards of living for all with social justice, in accordance with the objectives of the new international economic order,

1. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, in preparing the input into the new international development strategy as requested in General Assembly resolution 33/193, to undertake studies which would identify viable goals and targets for over-all and sectoral growth in the region in the light of the experience over the last decade, particularly in those areas where the goals and targets of the International Development Strategy

for the Second United Nations Development Decade have not been achieved, bearing in mind the special situation of the region as well as the varying stages of development of developing countries of Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that this input is based on the objectives contained in General Assembly resolution 33/193 and the issues set out in Commission resolution 180 (XXXIV), emphasizing those issues in which the developing countries have a vital interest, such as:

(a) liberalization of international trade and improvement in the developing countries' terms of trade;

(b) Food and agricultural development, including access to markets of agricultural products of developing countries;

(c) Improvement in the organization and development of the primary commodity sector in the world economy in the light of ongoing negotiations in other forums;

(d) Enlarging the shipping services of the developing countries;

(e) Enlarging the developing countries' share in total world industrial production;

(t) Increasing the flow of resources in real terms;

(g) Promotion of the transfer of technology to the developing countries, by securing the removal to the fullest extent possible of obstacles to, and taking positive measures for, such transfer, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring justice, equality and mutual benefit in these sectors of international trade and economic relations for the promotion of accelerated economic growth of the developing countries of the region and for the amelioration of social problems in the region;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to give special attention, in the formulation of the proposals, to action to meet the special needs of the least developed, land-locked, developing island and most seriously affected countries;

4. *Decides* that the regional input into the formulation of the new international development strategy should place adequate emphasis on the possibilities and development of co-operation among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, so as to promote the attainment of the objectives of national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries of the region;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to maintain close contact with the ongoing negotiations on the formulation of the new international development strategy in the United Nations to ensure adequate and

timely reflection of the needs of the region in that process;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to present a full report on the input from the region into the formulation of the new international development strategy to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session;

7. Decides to consider this question as a matter of priority at that session.

*545th meeting
16 March 1979*

200 (XXXV). Organization on human settlements at the regional level¹⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-Y!) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, in which, *inter alia*, the General Assembly recommended that the regional commissions should consider the establishment of regional intergovernmental committees on human settlements, comprising all members,

Recalling its resolution 184 (XXXIV) of 15 March 1978 on human settlements,

Noting that in its resolution 32/162 the General Assembly recommended the establishment of regional committees which should be responsible for policy formulation and programming and should report to the Commission on Human Settlements through the regional commissions,

Reiterating the need for a unified and integrated approach to economic and social development, and bearing in mind that most of the problems of human settlements are aspects of social development,

Conscious that the majority of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific are developing countries, which have serious and immense problems of human settlements,

Convinced of the need to give new impetus to activities for the solution of human settlements problems at the national, regional and global levels, and to improve the mechanism within the Commission for this purpose,

¹⁶ See paras. 523-528 and 842 above.

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to give further consideration to the implementation of the recommendations in General Assembly resolution 32/162 concerning human settlements organization at the regional level and Commission resolution 184 (XXXIV) on human settlements and to prepare, in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, a comprehensive report on the best organizational set-up for the Commission to implement the above resolutions, including the question of the establishment of a separate intergovernmental committee on human settlements indicating, *inter alia*, the resources required as well as sources from which these could be obtained, for consideration by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session;

2. *Further* requests that in formulating his report the Executive Secretary should take into account General Assembly resolution 32/162, Commission resolution 184 (XXXN) and the discussions on human settlements at the Commission's thirty-fifth session;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account in his report the need to rationalize the conference structure of the Commission and to submit specific proposals to integrate within any new committee on human settlements all or part of the relevant functions of one or several of the committees existing at present;

4. *Recommends* that, pending finalization of that report, emphasis on human settlements should be consistent with other priorities set by the Commission;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to examine, in the light of General Assembly resolution 32/162, the adequacy of secretariat arrangements to meet growing requirements in the field of human settlements.

*545th meeting
16 March 1979*

201 (XXXV). Regional activities on the International Year of the Child, 1979¹⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/169 of 21 December 1976, in which the General Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 International Year of the Child, and 32/109 of 15 December 1977, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that the major focus of the International Year of the Child was at the national level, but that that should be supported by regional and international co-operation,

¹⁷ See para. 638 above.

Noting that, pursuant to its resolution 187 (XXXN) of 15 March 1978, the Regional Consultation on the International Year of the Child for Asia and the Pacific was held at Manila from 25 November to 3 December 1978 with the Government of the Philippines providing the necessary host facilities,

Affirming the recommendations of the Regional Consultation that the International Year of the Child should not only be a year of celebration but a springboard for active advocacy on behalf of children and for continuous and sustained efforts in the 1980s to plan and implement long-term socio-economic programmes for the development of services for and welfare of children in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Urges* members and associate members of the Commission to continue to participate in the observance of the International Year of the Child through intensification of activities and review, where appropriate, of policies and legislation for the development of services for and welfare of children;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake a review and evaluation of the International Year of the Child activities in the region during 1979 to provide a further basis for the formulation of medium-and long-term programmes at the national and regional levels for the development of services for and welfare of children, and to present a report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the regional contribution to the preparation of the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade gives due consideration to aspects of social development relating to basic rights and needs of children;

4. Recommends that the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies extend adequate assistance to member and associate member countries of the region, according to their priority needs, in this field.

*545th meeting
16 March 1979*

Annex I
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND
PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

The draft resolution for action by the Economic and Social Council with respect to the admission of the New Hebrides and Niue as associate members of the Commission has the following financial implications:

<i>Travel of staff on official business</i>	<i>Per associate member</i>
Travel of staff to visit the area for consultations with the Governments: a maximum of two Trips by two staff members (air fares, daily subsistence, terminal and miscellaneous expenses)	\$ 5,600
<i>General and other expenses</i>	
Expenses connected with stationery and reproduction, cables, postage, diplomatic pouch etc.	\$ 1,500
Total	\$ 7,100

Additional financial implications for technical assistance would also be involved. It is estimated that \$ 28,600 for each of the two countries would be required for this purpose. This amount would have to come from the United Nations regular programme for regional advisory services, as well as from UNDP and other extrabudgetary assistance resources, in order to maintain the present level of assistance to other countries.

The financial implications of the Commission's own resolutions are set out below for the Council's endorsement, under financial regulation 13.1 of the United Nations.

Resolution 191 (XXXV). Regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

No financial implications.

Resolution 192 (XXXV). Statute of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

No financial implications.

Resolution 193 (XXXV). Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

No financial implications.

Resolution 194 (XXXV). Promotion of and support for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

Although all sections of the secretariat will contribute to the implementation of this resolution, the adequate execution of several of its provisions will necessitate increases in regular budget resources (apart from the redeployment of existing staff which has already occurred) as well as a considerable expansion in extra budgetary resources. The latter will be required for both the funding of supportive project activities reflecting the resolution's various operational provisions and the channelling of resources to assist developing countries' own co-operative activities. With respect to the regular budgetary resources of the Commission, and related particularly to the proposed regional information work, it will be necessary to provide for the

establishment of the following posts in the programme budget for 1980-1981:

1	P-4	Information scientist/ programme officer	Salary, post adjustment and common staff costs
2		Local-level staff members	Salary and common staff costs

Resolution 195 (XXXV). Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

No financial implications.

Resolution 196 (XXXV). Role of the co-operative movement in the social and economic development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific

The resolution requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a report summarizing the experience of member countries. The report is expected to cover the whole co-operative movement, and cannot be restricted to the rural areas. Even in the rural areas, it would cover not only agricultural co-operatives, but also other types of co-operatives such as consumer co-operatives, electrification co-operatives and small-scale industry co-operatives. It would thus cover a multidisciplinary field broader than the agricultural sector.

In the agricultural sector proper, a consultant would need to be hired for six months and would have to travel in the region and assist national consultants in preparing their national reports and collecting supplementary information, including information on the participation of women and youth. The financial implications are estimated as follows:

Regional consultant for six months	
Travel expenses	\$ 8,000
Communications, supplies and services	\$ 1,500

Resolution 197 (XXXV). Role of the public sector in promoting the economic and social development of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific

Six months of consultancy.

Resolution 198 (XXXV). Technical and economic co-operation among developing countries of the region in shipping matters

No financial implications.

Resolution 199 (XXXV). Regional inputs into the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade

No financial implications.

Resolution 200 (XXXV). Organization on human settlements at the regional level

No financial implications.

Resolution 201 (XXXV). Regional activities on the International Year of the Child, 1979

No financial implications.

Annex II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol of report</i>
Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific	New Delhi 21.23 August 1978	E/ESCAP/98
<i>Chairman</i> , H.E. Mr. Mohan Dharia (India)	Third session, Bangkok, 19.25 September 1978	E/ESCAP/99
Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology		
<i>Chairman</i> , .Mr. Charoon Oon-Jitt (Thailand)		
Committee on Statistics	Third session, Bangkok, 17-23 October 1978	E/ESCAP/101 and Corr. 1
<i>Chairman</i> , Mrs. Ektritra Kohkongka (Thailand)		
Committee on Natural Resources ,	Fifth session Bangkok, 31 October- 6 November 1978	E/ESCAP/102 and Corr. 1
<i>Chairman</i> , Mr. Pravith Ruyabhom (Thailand)		
Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications	Second session, Bangkok, 14-22 November 1978	E/ESCAP/104
<i>Chairman</i> , Mr. Manus Corvanich (Thailand)		
Committee on Social Development ,	Second session Bangkok, 6-12 December 1978	E/ESCAP/110
<i>Chairman</i> , Mrs. Rosita L. Fondevilla (Philippines)		
Committee on Population Bangkok,	Second session, Bangkok, 13-19 December 1978	E/ESCSP/111
<i>Chairman</i> , Mr. Vita Osatananda (Thailand)		

Annex III

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. PUBLICATIONS

- Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977*: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.F.1
- Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, vol. XXVII, No.2, December 1976: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.F.17; vol. XXVIII, No. 1/2, June/ December 1977: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.F.18
- Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1975 and 1976*: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.F.1
- Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific*, vol. XIII, Series A, No.1: United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.78.II.F.2; vol. XIV, Series A, No.: United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.78.II.F.15; vol. IX, Series B, No.1: United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.78.II.F.16
- Peak Load Coverage with particular reference to Gas Turbines and Hydroelectric Plants* (Energy Resources Development Series No. 17): United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.F.19.
- Proceedings of the Seminar and Study Tour on Electricity Distribution Systems in Urban Areas and Their Integration with Transmission Systems*: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.F.8
- Proceedings of the Third Session of the Committee on Natural Resources* (Mineral Resources Development Series No. 43): United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.F.13
- Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific*, vol. VII, No. I, March 1977: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.F.3; vol. VII, No.2, June 1977: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.F.4; vol. VII, No.3, September 1977: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.F.5
- Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, No. 15: United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.78.II.F.18
- Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, No. 51, 1977: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.F.20; No. 52, 1978: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.F.2
- Water Resources Journal* (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/117-120) (English)
- B. DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION**
- Report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session (E/ESCAP/101 and Corr.1)
- Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fifth session (E/ESCAP/102 and Corr.1)
- Progress report on the implementation of resolution 180 (XXXIV) on an economic and social development strategy for the 1980s I (E/ESCAP/103)
- Report of the Committee' on Shipping, and Transport and Communications on its second session (E/ESCAP/104)
- Technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) (E/ESCAP/105)
- Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources for the work programme of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/106 and Corr.1)
- Progress report on the implementation of resolution 182 (XXXIV) on mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions (E/ESCAP/106/Add.1)
- Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources for the regional institutions (E/ESCAP/107 and Corr.1)
- Technical co-operation activities of ESCAP, 1978 (E/ESCAP/108 and Corr.1 and Add.1)
- Technical co-operation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1978: information papers presented by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (E/ESCAP/109)
- Report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/110)
- Report of the Committee on Population on its second session (E/ESCAP/111)
- Progress report on the implementation of resolution 188 (XXXIV) on the Commission's activities in the Pacific (E/ESCAP/112)
- Progress, proposals and issues in various fields of activity of ESCAP:
- Agriculture (E/ESCAP/113)
 - Natural resources (E/ESCAP/114 and Add. 1)
 - International trade (E/ESCAP/115)
 - Industry, human settlements and technology (E/ESCAP/116)
 - Transnational corporations (E/ESCAP/117)
 - Integrated rural development (E/ESCAP/118)
 - Development planning (E/ESCAP/119)
 - Environment (E/ESCAP/120)
 - Shipping, ports and inland waterways (E/ESCAP/121)
 - Transport and communications (E/ESCAP/122)
 - Social affairs (E/ESCAP/123)
 - Population (E/ESCAP/124)
 - Statistics (E/ESCAP/125)
 - Information systems and documentation services (E/ESCAP/126)
- Programme changes, 1979 (E/ESCAP/127 and Corr.1)

- Programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981
Summary of programmes and activities (E/ESCAP/128)
- Development of food and agriculture (E/ESCAP/128/Add.1)
- Evaluation, development, use and management of energy resources (E/ESCAP/128/Add.2)
- Raw materials and commodities (E/ESCAP/128/Add.3)
- Development and transfer of appropriate technology (E/ESCAP/128/Add.4)
- International trade, transnational corporations and external financial resource transfers (E/ESCAP/128/Add.5)
- Integrated programme on rural development (E/ESCAP/128/Add.6)
- Development planning, projections and policies (E/ESCAP/128/Add.7)
- Industrial development (E/ESCAP/128/ Add.8)
- Human settlements (E/ESCAP/128/ Add.9)
- Environment (E/ESCAP/128/Add.10)
- Development of shipping, ports and inland waterways (E/ESCAP/128/Add.11)
- Development of transport (E/ESCAP/128/Add.12)
- Development of communication facilities (E/ESCAP/128/Add.13)
- Development of tourism (E/ESCAP/128/ Add.14)
- Evaluation, development, use and management of mineral resources (E/ESCAP/128/Add.15)
- Evaluation, development, use and management of water resources (E/ESCAP/128/Add.16)
- Remote sensing, surveying and mapping (E/ESCAP/128/Add.17)
- Special measures for the least developed, landlocked and developing island countries (E/ESCAP/128/ Add.18)
- Policies and programmes for social development and welfare (E/ESCAP/128/ Add.19)
- Population policies and programmes (E/ESCAP/128/ Add.20)
- Statistical development and services (E/ESCAP/128/ Add.21 and Corr.1)
- Information systems and documentation services (E/ESCAP/128/Add.22)
- Report of the Trade Co-operation Group (E/ESCAP/129)
- Report of the Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions on its second session (E/ESCAP/130)
- Progress report on the regional training and research institutions, 1978 (E/ESCAP/130/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1)
- Progress report on the implementation of resolution 183 (XXXIV) on strengthening the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Commission (E/ESCAP/131)
- Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/132)
- WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/133)
- Regional Centre for Technology Transfer (E/ESCAP/134)
- Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/135)
- Progress report on the review of the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/136 and Corr.1)
- Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission: membership of Fiji (E/ESCAP/137)
- Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission: membership of Solomon Islands (E/ESCAP/138)
- Communications from the Governments of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requesting the admission of the New Hebrides as an associate member (E/ESCAP/139)
- Report of the Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Ministers of Industry (E/ESCAP/140)
- Communication from the Government of New Zealand requesting the admission of Niue as an associate member (E/ESCAP/141)
- Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1978: Biennial review and appraisal at the regional level of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/ESCAP/L.26)
- Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin: annual report, 1978 (E/ESCAP/L.27)
- Report of the fifteenth session of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) (E/ESCAP/L.28)
- Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/L.29)

