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UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA  
Distr.  
GENERAL  
26 APR 1982  
E/ECWA/151  
LIBRARY February 1982



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Ninth session

8-12 May 1982

Baghdad, Iraq

Item 7(i) of the provisional agenda

FOLLOW-UP ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL ON UNITED NATIONS  
WORLD CONFERENCES AND ECWA REGIONAL MEETINGS

Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States  
(Paris, 14-18 November 1981)

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States was held with the co-operation of UNESCO at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 14 to 18 December 1981. About seventy participants attended the Seminar. These included representatives of the following members of the Commission: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, PLO, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Representatives of Algeria and Somalia, two Arab countries not members of ECWA, attended as observers. The following national and regional Arab organizations were represented: The Arab Labour Organization, The Arab Research Center, The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research; The Conference of Ministers of Arab States Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development; The Union of Arab Members of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture; The Union of Arab Economists and the Union of Arab Engineers. The United Nations Organizations and Specialized Agencies were represented by the ILO, the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD, UNDP, The United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, and UNESCO. Participants in this Seminar included also twenty experts invited in their personal capacity to present papers on priority and critical subject areas pertaining to technology policies in the Arab States. Twenty four papers were presented and discussed. These covered the subjects of sectoral technology policies, investment and technology policy, environment of technology policy in government operations, research and development and international co-operation as well as the role of consulting and engineering in the transfer and development of technology.

2. In addition to the discussion of issues and problems of technology policies in the ECWA region, efforts have been in this Seminar to enable participants from the ECWA region to share the experience of other developing countries in formulating and implementing technology policies. It is for this purpose that the experience of other Arab countries, such as Algeria, Morocco and Sudan, not member of ECWA, was discussed. The experience of other developing countries including India and the Andean countries was also reviewed with a view to promoting the sharing of experience in technology policy formulation between

the ECWA region and other developing regions. In addition, the unique experience of Japan was analysed and discussed and the co-operative arrangements in science and technology between some of the Arab countries on the one hand and a developed country on the other were reviewed.

3. The proceedings of this Seminar will be published in book form and circulated to member governments, regional and international organizations in 1982.