

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Seventy-first session**

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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Management issues: partnership and  
extrabudgetary contributions****Overview of partnerships and extrabudgetary  
contributions****Note by the secretariat\*\****Summary*

The present note provides an overview of the secretariat's partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work in 2014. It highlights the importance of effective partnerships in all of the work carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in particular through its role in facilitating the United Nations working as one at the regional level and engagement with regional and subregional partners; describes steps taken by the secretariat to strengthen its relations with partners and donors; provides a summary of extrabudgetary contributions made available to the secretariat in 2014; and elaborates on the delivery of the Commission's technical cooperation work in 2014, including by offering examples of results of the secretariat's capacity development work achieved in cooperation with some of its key partners. The Commission may wish to review the note and provide the secretariat with guidance on the development, direction and priorities of its partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work.

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\*\* The present document was submitted late owing to the early deployment of Umoja.

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## **I. Partnership developments in 2014**

### **A. Introduction**

1. Effective partnerships have long proven to be critical to unlocking the human and financial resources, energies, knowledge and skills necessary for the vast and diverse region to reach its potential in achieving inclusive and sustainable development, which is also resilient in the face of natural and economic shocks, thereby transforming the lives and futures of citizens in Asia and the Pacific.

2. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has nearly 70 years of experience in working to address regional challenges and priorities in partnership with a wide and diverse range of Governments, United Nations and other international agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the business sector and research and academic institutions. Drawing on this long and diverse experience, the secretariat has identified several critical success factors for partnerships that work best in the interests of peoples and Governments in the region:

(a) Shared purpose and priorities — with a focus on working together to achieve clear agreed results that are measurable and able to be monitored, including through joint analysis, planning based on the resources that each partner brings into the partnership, and review and evaluation;

(b) Comparative advantage — being clear about what each partner brings to the relationship, maximizing the impact of the strengths of each. There are several aspects to the Commission's comparative advantage that include: (a) its intergovernmental convening power, i.e. the ability to provide

the region's most comprehensive intergovernmental platform to bring together Governments from across the region at all levels around common interests and priorities; (b) the fact that it is the only United Nations entity working fully at the Asia-Pacific regional level, and able to link Asian and Pacific priorities, needs and resources together for mutual benefit; and (c) its multidisciplinary and multisectoral policy, analytical and technical expertise in areas covering transport, trade and investment, statistics, macroeconomics, social development, environment and development, information and communications technology (ICT) and disaster risk reduction;

(c) Mutual respect — based on understanding each other's mandates and strengths and building trust and confidence through working together;

(d) Accountability — based on transparency and open communication and a recognition that, ultimately, the Commission's accountability is to its member States;

(e) Committing the necessary resources to building and sustaining partnerships. The secretariat's experience shows that successful partnerships need the consistent investment of staff resources and time.

3. The Commission's role in partnerships for development in the region, as well as globally, has several dimensions. One such dimension is South-South cooperation, which is at the very heart of the Commission's mandate and role, and covers its intergovernmental meetings; its role as a regional hub for sharing development knowledge and good practices across the region; its technical cooperation programme; and the interregional cooperation it promotes by working with other regional commissions to strengthen region-to-region links for mutual benefit. Details of the Commission's recent work in the context of South-South cooperation are extensively covered elsewhere in the documentation for the seventy-first session of the Commission.

4. The remainder of this section focuses on three other important dimensions of the Commission's partnership work: (a) facilitating the United Nations working as one at the regional level; (b) working with regional and subregional partners; and (c) establishing partnerships for the implementation of the programme of work.

## **B. Facilitating the United Nations working as one at the regional level**

5. Strong partnerships and coordination with other agencies in the United Nations system — within the framework of system-wide coherence and the United Nations "Delivering as One" approach at the regional level — are vital to ensure the effectiveness of the capacity development work of ESCAP.

6. The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, convened and serviced by the ESCAP secretariat, has a membership of 31 United Nations and affiliated entities, including, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank. Currently, seven thematic working groups operate as subsidiary bodies of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, namely education for all; environment and disaster risk management; gender equality and empowerment of women; health; international migration, including human trafficking; poverty and hunger; and youth (a joint group of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific).

7. The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism organized four meetings in 2014. The focus of much of its work was on two key issues: (a) inputs to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 processes; and (b) the Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations.

8. Under the ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership, the Regional Coordination Mechanism, in coordination with the Department of Political Affairs, provided joint inputs — coordinated through a Regional Coordination Mechanism task team consisting of representatives in the region of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) — to the ASEAN-United Nations Workplan for 2015, which was adopted at the ASEAN-United Nations Summit in November 2014, in Myanmar. The Workplan contains priority areas of a common interest where the United Nations has comparative advantage, and where the partnership can produce tangible results for ASEAN member States.

9. Some of the highlights of the work of the thematic working groups under the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism in 2014 include:

(a) Development of the second phase of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan on Disaster Management;

(b) The convening of the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review, attended by over 700 participants from Governments and civil society in November 2014, in Bangkok;

(c) Research and analysis that produced the regional overview report on the gaps, challenges and achievements in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action;

(d) Issuance of the Zero Hunger Challenge Regional Guiding Framework, which was introduced to ASEAN, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and several countries in the region for country-level application and the launching of National Zero Hunger Challenges;

(e) The initiation of preparations for the Asia-Pacific youth situational report — the first ever regional report on youth — to be launched at a special commemorative session of the General Assembly marking the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in May 2015 in New York.

10. Engagement of the secretariat in the work of the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific, which focuses on helping the United Nations to deliver as one at the country level, continued to provide another important means for ESCAP to coordinate and interact with other entities in the United Nations system in 2014, including through selective involvement in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes.

11. The secretariat continued to work with the Economic Commission for Europe in supporting the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. Its engagement in this effort was mainly centred on organizing the Special Programme Economic Forum, held on 4 December

2014, and the ninth session of the Governing Council of the Special Programme, held on 5 December 2014, both in Ashgabat. The secretariat contributed to the work of the Special Programme project working groups that covered areas in which ESCAP has strong expertise and in general a comparative advantage, namely trade, transport, and water and energy resources.

### **C. Working with regional and subregional partners**

12. ESCAP continued to work closely with regional and subregional organizations that serve the region in pursuit of its mandate to build regional consensus on shared priorities and common solutions for common problems, and to provide a regional hub for sharing development knowledge and good practices across Asia and the Pacific. In this context, ESCAP works with a range of regional and subregional partners, including under formal cooperation agreements.

13. During 2014, under existing agreements, ESCAP continued to work with ADB, ASEAN, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Greater Tumen Initiative, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Integration Committee of the Eurasian Economic Community (under a trilateral arrangement also including the Economic Commission for Europe), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

14. An annual consultation meeting with ADB to review the joint thematic priority areas of work, which include the Millennium Development Goals, water, environment, climate change, statistics, social protection, regional connectivity and disaster risk reduction, was held on 18 July 2014.

15. In the context of the ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership referred to above, the Executive Secretary participated in the sixth ASEAN-United Nations Summit held in Nay Pyi Thaw, Myanmar, on 12 November 2014. Participants at the Summit agreed to proceed with the Workplan for implementing the partnership during 2015. The secretariat's partnership with ASEAN is in the areas of regional connectivity (including transport, trade facilitation and ICT), disaster risk reduction and social development.

### **D. Partnerships for the implementation of the programme of work**

16. The ongoing development of a diverse and wide range of partnerships, involving funding and other forms of cooperation, is a critical foundation for the Commission's ability to deliver its programme of work efficiently, effectively and accountably.

17. The secretariat implemented a number of measures and actions during 2014 to further develop relations and cooperation with development partners and donors. These included:

(a) Visits by the Executive Secretary to Japan and the Republic of Korea aimed at raising the visibility of ESCAP as the most inclusive platform for intergovernmental consensus-building, research and analysis and technical cooperation, including as a knowledge hub in the Asia-Pacific region, and strengthening the base for increased and expanded cooperation with these two member States;

(b) The signing of a long-term agreement with the Russian Federation on its voluntary contributions to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme, followed by an annual consultation meeting;

(c) The signing of an agreement with Kazakhstan on a voluntary contribution in support of a renewable energy project in the Pacific subregion;

(d) An annual consultation meeting with the Republic of Korea that reviewed achievements under the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and other projects funded by the Republic of Korea and agreed on priority areas for future funding;

(e) A consultation meeting with China to review achievements of and future priorities for the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme;

(f) Discussions with other existing and potential donors, including Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the European Union, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Hilti Foundation;

(g) The organization and fielding of two scoping missions to Bhutan — one on information and communications technology and one on statistics — following the request by the Prime Minister of Bhutan to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to develop a highly prioritized cooperation programme for the country;

(h) The delivery of a customized training session for the Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology that focused on developing resource mobilization and project management skills of the staff under a support programme for regional institutions initiated in 2013.

18. The importance of the business sector as one of the key partners of the secretariat in promoting and delivering capacity development is increasing. In this context, ESCAP continued to work in 2014 with, among others, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., the Hilti Foundation and the Nippon Foundation. The secretariat continues to pursue new partnership opportunities in 2015 with a range of global and regional business sector entities.

## II. Extrabudgetary contributions in 2014

19. ESCAP receives extrabudgetary contributions for its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and its General Trust Fund. In 2014, the secretariat's total extrabudgetary contributions amounted to \$13.3 million (Table 1).

Table 1

### Summary of extrabudgetary contributions in 2014, by component

Component	United States dollars	Percentage
(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund	11 592 235	87.3
(b) General Trust Fund	1 684 000	12.7
1. Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia: Republic of Korea	1 426 000	10.7
2. Subregional Office for North and Central Asia: Kazakhstan	100 000	0.8
3. Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia: India	158 000	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 276 235</b>	<b>100.0</b>

20. It should be noted that the contribution of the Republic of Korea to the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia not only covers the institutional costs of the office but also contributes to the implementation of its programme of work. The contributions of Kazakhstan and India to the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, respectively, cover the institutional costs of these offices only.

21. Owing to the limited accessibility of the United Nations Conference Centre at the time, the Government of Thailand hosted the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development from 19 to 21 May 2014 in Pattaya, Thailand.

### **III. Delivering the Commission's technical cooperation programme in 2014**

#### **A. Contributions to the Commission's technical cooperation programme**

22. In 2014, the secretariat's technical cooperation programme continued to focus on capacity development that encompassed: (a) policy advocacy and dialogue on critical and emerging issues, including follow-up to global and regional commitments; (b) regional knowledge networking aimed at enabling the members and associate members of ESCAP to share and discuss information and experiences on good and innovative practices; and (c) training, advisory services and other forms of technical assistance aimed at strengthening the capacity of the members and associate members of ESCAP to formulate and implement effective policies and programmes in a range of key development areas.

23. The ESCAP technical cooperation work in 2014 was funded from both the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary resources. The regular budget comprised: (a) the regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23); and (b) the United Nations Development Account (section 35). Extrabudgetary resources included voluntary contributions provided by individual Governments, entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and NGOs. Such contributions were provided as cash (funds-in-trust) or in-kind.

24. The total cash contributions received by ESCAP in 2014 for technical cooperation, from sources within and outside the United Nations, amounted to \$18.2 million. Bilateral voluntary cash contributions by ESCAP member and non-member States remained the main extrabudgetary source of funding. A summary of the financial contributions by source in both United States dollars and percentage terms is provided in table 2.

25. Representing 46.4 per cent of the total financial contributions in 2014 for technical cooperation, the bilateral donor country contributions amounted to \$8.5 million. Further details on the extrabudgetary resources (funds-in-trust) received from bilateral sources are provided in annex I to the present document. The largest overall bilateral donor contributions were received from the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Russian Federation, Germany and China.

26. The United Nations contributed \$7.2 million, representing 39.4 per cent of the total funds received for technical cooperation in 2014 (see table 2).

Table 2  
**Summary of financial contributions for technical cooperation in 2014,  
 by source**

Source	United States dollars	Percentage
(a) Donor countries (see annex I)	8 469 451	46.4
(b) United Nations system	7 190 178	39.4
1. United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 001 600	16.5
2. United Nations Development Account (section 35)	3 650 000	20.0
3. United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies	538 578	3.0
(c) Other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see annex II)	2 584 206	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 243 835</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Regular budget (b.1 + b.2)	6 651 600	36.5
Extrabudgetary contributions (a + b.3 + c)	11 592 235	63.5

27. Other intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and NGOs contributed \$2.6 million of the total funds received in 2014. The three largest contributors under this category were the European Union, ADB and the Korea Disabled People's Development Institute. More detailed information on contributions from other intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and NGOs for technical cooperation is given in annex II.

28. The Commission's technical cooperation work in 2014 was further facilitated by contributions in-kind, such as the services of experts and the provision of host facilities and equipment. The former included a total of 84.5 work-months of services of experts in various disciplines provided by ESCAP member States and one NGO on a non-reimbursable loan basis as detail in annex III.

29. The volume of the secretariat's technical cooperation delivery in 2014 in financial terms totalled approximately \$18.8 million.

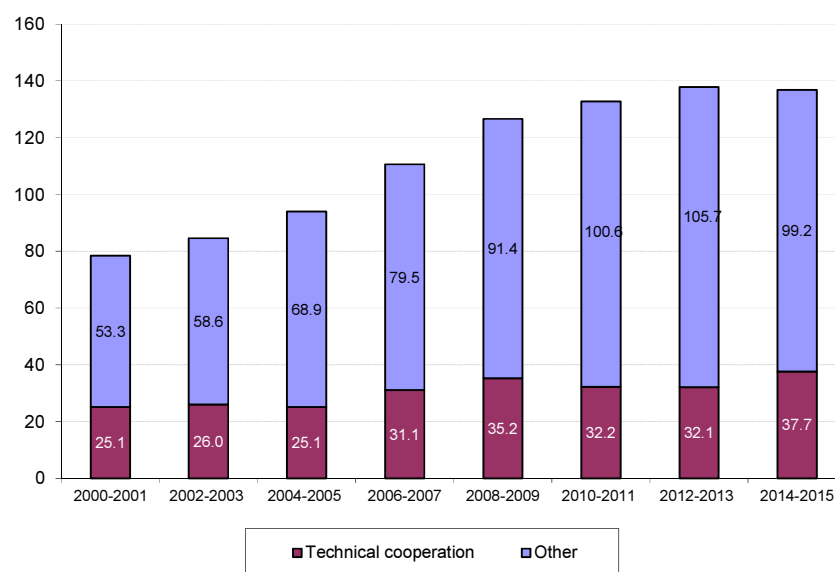
30. The distribution of extrabudgetary resources over the Commission's eight subprogrammes in 2014 is shown in table 3.



Table 3  
**Distribution of extrabudgetary contributions to Commission subprogrammes in 2014**

ESCAP subprogrammes	Percentage
Subprogramme 1: Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development	10.0
Subprogramme 2: Trade and investment	10.8
Subprogramme 3: Transport	5.4
Subprogramme 4: Environment and development	12.7
Subprogramme 5: Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction	28.6
Subprogramme 6: Social development	7.1
Subprogramme 7: Statistics	12.7
Subprogramme 8: Subregional activities for development	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure  
**Evolution of Commission expenditures, 2000-2015**  
(Millions of United States dollars)



## B. Highlights of the technical cooperation work in 2014

31. Underpinned by evidence-based analysis and normative work, capacity development remained the main driver of the secretariat's technical cooperation work during 2014. Effective and inclusive partnerships remained at the centre of it. Through various modalities, such as analytical studies, training workshops, advisory services, communities of practice and networks to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practice, ESCAP continued to provide a vital platform for the sharing of knowledge, information and experience among member States within the Asian and Pacific region.

32. The secretariat endeavoured to maximize the impact of the resources, experience, skills and linkages that partners bring to the implementation of the work of ESCAP in all its subprogrammes. Some of the key achievements under the ESCAP technical cooperation programme in 2014 are illustrated by the following selected examples:

(a) In cooperation with the Republic of Korea, ESCAP continued implementing the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup> and promoting eGovernment for women’s empowerment policies and tools. ESCAP also partnered with the Government of the Republic of Korea in support of trade facilitation, transport, green growth policies and solutions, and the dissemination of capacity-building programmes on the use of information and communications technology for development;

(b) Cooperation with the Russian Federation was instrumental in promoting the policy, normative and capacity development work of ESCAP in support mainly of the energy and transport sectors, as well as in other joint priority areas, such as migration, statistics and information and communications technology;

(c) With support from Switzerland, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, ESCAP organized a successful Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing (Jakarta, June 2014) aimed at fostering regional financial cooperation and strengthening the regional voice in global processes;

(d) In cooperation with Japan, the Commission’s role is further strengthened by positioning itself as a regional hub for statistical training activities through the establishment of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific under the ESCAP Committee on Statistics;

(e) In cooperation with China, ESCAP has been implementing a regional programme to promote the economic empowerment of women, based on the South-South cooperation model. The programme promotes integration of a gender perspective into national development strategies, with a particular focus on gender-responsive budgeting, women’s economic empowerment and gender-sensitive poverty eradication;

(f) Partnering with Germany, in particular Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), ESCAP worked to strengthen early warning systems for coastal hazards in the Asia-Pacific region through its Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries. This partnership with Germany is part of the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management that is implemented through GIZ. The initiative brings together a wide range of stakeholders from Germany and the Asia-Pacific region, providing a forum for new and innovative ways of cooperation in disaster risk management;

(g) In cooperation with the European Union, ESCAP continued to promote sustainable agriculture and food security in member States through the Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia by building technical and analytical capacity through technical cooperation in the area of food security and poverty reduction;

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<sup>1</sup> ST/ESCAP/2648.

(h) With support from Kazakhstan, ESCAP initiated a project to support the development of biogas-based renewable energy solutions in the Pacific, focusing on the installation and roll-out of sanitation and energy systems in 10 small island developing States. The project is based on successful experiences and lessons from existing biogas approaches in the Pacific.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

33. Working with a wide range of partners, including Governments, donor agencies, United Nations entities, other international and regional organizations and the business community, the secretariat achieved further progress in strengthening member State capacity to develop and implement inclusive and sustainable economic and social development policies in Asia and the Pacific.

34. In particular, further steps were taken to enhance the impact, focus and integration of the secretariat's technical cooperation work, with a particular focus on capacity development and special attention to the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developed countries and Pacific island developing countries. Additional steps were taken to increase and diversify the secretariat's resource mobilization and partnership capabilities and base. Enhancing relations with key partners and donors through regular communication and engagement remained at the core of the secretariat's resource mobilization efforts.

35. The secretariat will continue to strengthen the application of results-based management approaches to ensure that maximum impact is achieved from its technical cooperation work with member States. Recommendations and lessons identified through evaluations and evaluative reviews will be actively drawn upon to strengthen performance and results. The secretariat will furthermore continue to create the necessary strategic and operational synergies with United Nations entities and subregional organizations to ensure United Nations system-wide coherence at the regional level.

## Annex I

### Extrabudgetary resources provided by bilateral donors in cash for technical cooperation in 2014 (funds-in-trust) (United States dollars)

Australia	200 000
Bangladesh	16 000
China	603 866
Fiji	9 881
Germany	679 200
Hong Kong, China	60 000
India	120 000
Indonesia	132 982
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	198 447
Japan	1 685 983
Kazakhstan	205 000
Macao, China	33 000
Malaysia	45 000
Maldives	5 000
Mongolia	10 000
Myanmar	8 000
New Caledonia	5 622
Pakistan	22 506
Philippines	28 875
Republic of Korea	2 936 686
Russian Federation	1 200 000
Sri Lanka	20 000
Switzerland	150 403
Thailand	63 000
Timor-Leste	5 000
Tonga	10 000
Viet Nam	15 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 469 451</b>

## Annex II

### Technical cooperation resources provided by the United Nations system and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in 2014 (United States dollars)

#### 1. United Nations system

##### (a) Regular budget resources

United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 001 600
United Nations Development Account (section 35)	3 650 000
Subtotal (a)	<u>6 651 600</u>

##### (b) Extrabudgetary resources

United Nations agencies and bodies	538 578
Subtotal (b)	<u>538 578</u>

<b>Subtotal of resources from the United Nations system (a) + (b)</b>	<b><u>7 190 178</u></b>
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#### 2. Other organizations

Asian Development Bank	287 533
Centre for World Trade Organization Studies	61 250
China Disabled Persons' Federation	10 000
European Union	1 852 998
Green Technology Center-Korea	45 587
The Goldman Sachs Foundation	67 500
International Development Research Centre	18 903
International Institute for Trade and Development	66 910
Korea Disabled People's Development Institute	69 000
Korea Internet and Security Agency	58 526
Korea Maritime Institute	38 000
Stockholm Environment Institute	8 000

<b>Subtotal of extrabudgetary resources from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations</b>	<b><u>2 584 206</u></b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>9 774 384</u></u></b>
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## **Annex III**

### **Extrabudgetary assistance in kind (non-reimbursable loans) in 2014**

#### **Japan**

**(Total 12.0 work-months)**

Mr. Michio Ito

Expert on Disaster Reduction

Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

12.0 work-months

#### **Republic of Korea**

**(Total 72.5 work-months)**

Mr. Myung Soo Yoo

Expert on Environment Policy

Environment and Development Division

12.0 work-months

Mr. Kwang Dong Kim

Expert on Information and Communications Technology

Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

12.0 work-months

Mr. Bong Seok So

Expert on Regional Cooperation in North-East Asia, with particular focus on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division

12.0 work-months

Mr. Jehak Jang

Expert on Programme Management

Programme Planning and Partnerships Division

2.0 work-months

Mr. Young Hun Jeong

Expert on Social Policy

Social Development Division

12.0 work-months

Mr. Jun Ho Shin

Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation

Trade and Investment Division

12.0 work-months

Mr. Kim Hyung-Suk

Expert on Railway Transport

Transport Division

7.0 work-months

Mr. Jeongsu Park

Expert on Railway Transport

Transport Division

3.5 work-months