

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

Bangkok, 25-29 May 2015

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda\*

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: disaster risk reduction and management****Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its ninth session***Summary*

The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development held its ninth session in Bangkok on 15 October 2014, in conjunction with the fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

During the session, the Governing Council reviewed the work undertaken by the Centre and expressed its appreciation to the Centre for providing the region with a broad range of capacity-building programmes and services in the field of information and communications technology for development that complement and support regional and national development efforts.

It endorsed the Centre's work programme for 2015 in which the Centre will broaden the coverage and deepen the utilization of its flagship programmes in the region. The Centre will: continue with its flagship programme approach; forge and leverage strategic partnerships; promote institutionalization and ensure sustainability of capacity-building in the field of information and communications technology; and facilitate regional dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking. The Centre will also develop regional-level initiatives in the areas of information and communications technology standards and responsible use of social media.

The Governing Council recommended that the Centre continue to expand its capacity-development programmes to more countries in the region as well as to other beneficiary groups, including marginalized and vulnerable populations, and to diversify the delivery channels for its programmes through e-learning strategies and diversified platforms.

The Governing Council underscored the importance of customization and localization of training content to fit local environments and to address unique challenges. It also recommended that partnerships with communities and universities facilitate programme adoption and institutionalization.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

\* E/ESCAP/71/L.1/Rev.1.

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### **I. Recommendations**

1. The Governing Council endorses the 2015 work programme of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, including its T-strategy approach to capacity development as regards information and communications technology (ICT), which involves broadening the coverage and deepening the utilization of the Centre’s flagship programmes in the region. The Centre will continue with its flagship programme approach; forge and leverage strategic partnerships; promote institutionalization and ensure sustainability of capacity-building in the field of ICT for development; and facilitate regional dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking. The Centre will also develop regional-level initiatives, including in the areas of ICT competency standards and responsible use of the Internet and social media.

2. The Governing Council recommends that the Centre continue to expand its capacity-development programmes to more countries in the region as well as to other beneficiary groups, including marginalized and vulnerable populations.

3. The Governing Council underscores the importance of customization and localization of training content to fit local environments and to address unique challenges. It also recommends that partnerships with communities and universities facilitate programme adoption and institutionalization.

4. The Governing Council further recommends diversifying the delivery channels for the Centre's programmes through e-learning strategies and diversified platforms.

5. In reviewing the administrative and financial status of the Centre, the Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the host country, the Republic of Korea, for its continued funding support to the Centre as well as to other member States for their voluntary as well as in-kind contributions. It recommends member States to continue their support for the Centre.

## II. Summary of deliberations

6. The Governing Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Administrative and financial status of APCICT (E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(9)/2);

(b) Work programme and project activities of APCICT (E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(9)/3);

(c) Brief on the Centre's Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders (Academy) programme;

(d) Brief on the Centre's Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders programme;

(e) Brief on the Centre's Virtual Academy;

(f) APCICT online: advancing knowledge development and sharing;

(g) Brief on the Centre's research and knowledge-sharing;

(h) Brief on the Centre's media outreach;

(i) Brief on the Centre's resource mobilization.

7. Presentations were made by the Director of the Centre.

### A. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre

8. The Governing Council was informed of the Centre's administration and management, including the current organizational structure and staffing composition. The Governing Council was presented with the Centre's financial status, summarizing the institutional and funding support from the host country, the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning and the Incheon Metropolitan City, and the funding for projects by the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, the Korea International Cooperation Agency and Korea Internet and Security Agency, as well as voluntary contributions from other member States.

9. The Governing Council was informed about significant in-kind contributions provided by the Centre's partners. Those contributions to programme delivery covered different types of support, such as: provision of materials, logistical and human resources for training or workshops related to the Centre's programmes; and support for localization or translation of the Centre's publications and knowledge products and towards the localization of the distance-learning content of the Centre's Virtual Academy.

10. The Governing Council was also informed about partner-led resource mobilization efforts and how funding from development organizations — such as the United States Agency for International Development, the Open Society Institute, and the United Nations Development Programme — had

also helped national partners in their institutionalization and utilization of the Centre's programmes.

11. The representative of India observed that continuity from year to year in the form of consistent representation was important to the functioning of the Governing Council. The representative of Bangladesh concurred, noting that his Government assigned one non-mobile officer responsibility for following up on all matters related to the Centre.

**B. Presentation of the work undertaken by the Centre since the eighth session of the Governing Council**

12. The Governing Council noted the substantive work programme and activities that had been undertaken by the Centre under its various areas of work, including training, research and knowledge-sharing, e-learning and online platforms, advisory services, advocacy and outreach. Aligned with its programmatic approach to building human and institutional capacities regarding ICT for development in the region, the Centre continued to strengthen its two flagship programmes, the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders and Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders.

13. Since the eighth session of the Governing Council, the Centre had further enhanced the content and regional coverage of both the Academy and the "Primer Series on ICTD [ICT for Development] for Youth" (Primer) curricula and developed the capacities of its national partners to utilize and integrate the programmes in human resource development frameworks. The Centre had also produced new knowledge resources and facilitated regional dialogues and knowledge-sharing to complement and reinforce its capacity-building work on ICT for development in the region.

14. The Governing Council was informed that Academy module 11 on social media for development had been officially launched at a regional event in June 2014. The Centre had also produced supplementary material to module 11 entitled "Social Media for Development: Understanding, Implementing and Managing Social Media Tools", which provided technical guidelines to government officers on how to use social media.

15. The Governing Council was also informed that, in an effort to avoid duplication of existing capacity-building programmes on ICT for small and medium-sized enterprises offered by other entities in the region, the Centre had decided not to proceed with the development of an Academy module on ICT and such enterprises. Instead, in accordance with feedback received from national partners, the Centre had conducted research and curated various resources on ICT for small and medium-sized enterprises — including training modules, guidelines and studies that were produced by other institutions and development organizations — and had made them available online through the eCollaborative Hub for broader dissemination.

16. The Governing Council was briefed about the support provided by the Centre to national partners in customizing and localizing the Academy modules, which were available in 14 languages.

17. The Governing Council was informed that in 2014 the Academy programme had been officially launched in two new countries, Bangladesh and Nepal. Some 29 countries had officially adopted the programme. To date, the subregional, regional and national training workshops organized by the Centre and its partners under the Academy programme, together with online course enrolments in the Virtual Academy, had reached over

27,600 participants from 152 countries representing government officers, policymakers, trainers and other officials.

18. The Governing Council was also informed about the increasing demand for the Virtual Academy, not only in Asia and the Pacific but also in other regions. The Centre had collaborated with various United Nations regional commissions and regional development banks as well as the public institutions of the Republic of Korea to bring the Academy programme to government officials from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia. Advisory services provided by the Centre had supported the establishment of the new Centre for Advanced Studies in Broadband Development in Nicaragua. This new centre had opened in June 2014; it would replicate the Centre's programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, utilizing localized versions of the Academy modules.

19. The Governing Council was also briefed on the status and progress under the Centre's second flagship programme, Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders, which had sought to impart knowledge on ICT for development to students and youth in the region. Under this programme, the Centre had developed the Primer Series on ICT for development for youth, which were learning resources that could be used by institutions of higher learning, thereby expanding the coverage of such education in university curricula.

20. The Governing Council was informed that four issues of the Primer Series had already been developed, and a fifth issue on social media for development was being prepared. The Governing Council was also briefed on the finalization of the monitoring and evaluation guidebook for the Primer Series, which aimed to provide partners with practical guidance on capturing the progress and impact of their Primer implementation.

21. Since the previous session of the Governing Council, the Centre and its Primer partners had organized sensitization and capacity-building activities that had helped to expand utilization of the programme by higher education institutions. The Primer Series had been rolled out in 14 countries and introduced in two subregions. Over 130 universities in Asia and the Pacific had benefited by utilizing the Primer Series programme. As a result, over 16,000 students and workshop participants had been reached.

22. The Governing Council was informed about the Centre's efforts to further enhance ICT for development learning among students in universities in the region through the Engaged Learning initiative. That initiative advocated linking classroom learning to community service by immersing students in ICT-enabled community development projects. To promote the engaged learning approach in the region and assist universities in its adoption and implementation, the Centre had co-organized a global workshop on engaged learning and had initiated the development of a guidebook on the topic in partnership with Cornell University.

23. The Governing Council was also briefed on the technical assistance provided by the Centre to national Governments, universities and training partners for both the Academy and Primer programmes in areas such as localizing and delivering capacity-building activities on ICT for development; promoting the institutionalization of training courses in capacity-building frameworks; mobilizing resources; and conducting needs assessments.

24. The Governing Council was apprised of the Centre's activities under its research and knowledge-sharing pillar, which help to increase awareness

and understanding among the Centre's target audience of government officials and policymakers on issues related to ICT for development, share best practices, and reinforce capacity-building. Those activities include new publications such as the Case Study Series on "Open and Distance Learning in Asia and the Pacific"; the Knowledge-Sharing Series on Enterprise Architecture; stocktaking of ICT indicators and competency standards in the region; and development of video case studies on ICT for development. The Governing Council was also informed about the new ICT Trend Brief Series launched in 2014, the first issue of which focused on Big Data.

25. In the area of e-learning, the Governing Council was informed about the continued increase in online enrolments at the Centre's Virtual Academy, which had reached more than 9,500 enrolments from 152 countries. It was also noted that the Virtual Academy had localized content developed through partner-led activities.

26. The Governing Council was also informed that its eCollaborative Hub, an online repository of knowledge resources, offered more than 900 resources and had received more than 290,000 page views since its launch in 2008.

27. Recognizing the importance of advocacy and obtaining buy-in from government leaders and decision-makers for capacity-building regarding ICT for development, the Centre had actively participated in various regional and international conferences to advocate for the importance of capacity-building in national efforts. The Centre also continued to advocate on the topic of capacity-building concerning ICT for development to students from universities and high schools through lectures and presentations.

28. The key to the Centre's strategy for building capacities regarding ICT for development was networking and forging partnerships at the regional, subregional and national levels. The Governing Council was informed that the Centre maintained partnerships with more than 100 organizations. The Centre also organized annual meetings among the partners to promote regional knowledge-sharing, foster cooperation, obtain feedback on emerging ICT for development capacity-building needs, and assess and strengthen the Centre's flagship programmes. To date the Centre had organized five Academy partners meetings and two Primer partners meetings.

29. The Governing Council commended the Centre for the breadth of capacity-building programmes and services it provided to the region as regards ICT for development. They noted with appreciation the extensive work carried out by the Centre on human and institutional capacity-building and the great relevance of the Centre's programmes to regional and national development efforts. The Governing Council further recommended the broadening and deepening of those capacity-development activities in Asia and the Pacific as regards ICT for development.

30. The representative of Bangladesh informed the Governing Council that ICT training in the country was thriving, and that there was a need for more trainers and resource persons to support the country's ICT capacity-building work. The representative of Nepal stated that his ministry recognized the need to further strengthen the capacities of its government officials on ICT. It had developed programmes and established partnerships with the Centre for that purpose.

31. The representative of Cambodia informed the Governing Council how the Centre's Academy programme was utilized by the University Network of

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which had helped in the deployment of the programme to larger audiences in the subregion. The representative noted the importance of content localization and of diversifying delivery channels to expand the impact of the Academy programme.

32. The representative of Thailand noted how the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology continued to develop and implement ICT programmes for vulnerable and marginalized populations. The representative recommended for the Centre to continue developing relevant programmes in that area.

### **C. Panel discussion on “Regional capacity-building on ICT for development”**

33. The Governing Council held a panel discussion on the theme of “Regional capacity-building on information and communications technology for development”. The discussion was held concurrently with deliberations on agenda item 5 of the fourth session of the Committee on Information Communications Technology.

34. Moderated by the Centre’s Director, the panel discussion featured the following speakers: Ms. Maria Lourdes Aquilizan, Information Technology Officer, National ICT Competency Management, Information and Communications Technology Office, the Philippines; Mr. Suresh Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of General Administration, Nepal; Mr. Asomiddin Atoev, Chairman, Association of Internet Service Providers, Tajikistan; and Mr. Yudho Suchahyo, Associate Professor, Faculty of Computer Science, University of Indonesia.

35. The panel shared perspectives on how changes in the ICT landscape were being reflected in national ICT capacity-building programmes and identified priority and emerging areas for human capacity development at the regional, subregional and national levels. Each panellist also described the current capacity-building initiatives regarding ICT for development and the utilization of the Academy and Primer Series programmes.

36. The panellists described critical success factors in promoting sustainability and institutionalization of capacity-building efforts as regards ICT for development. They also noted that, in order to facilitate effective knowledge-sharing, networks of stakeholders as well as networks of resource persons should be established; effective online and offline platforms for collaboration should be provided; and the collection and sharing of case studies should be prioritized. The panel highlighted areas in which further work was required, such as developing common competency standards on ICT for development in the region and prioritizing programme monitoring and evaluation.

37. The Committee commended the work of the Centre in the context of expanding human and institutional capacity as regards ICT for development and noted the positive impact of the Centre’s work in the region.

38. The representative of Bhutan highlighted the need to address the social and cultural impact of ICT with a focus on government officials and people in the media. In particular, he emphasized the need to develop capacity for formulating policies and developing a regulatory environment that would promote and strengthen the positive uses of social media and mitigate their misuse.

39. The representative of India stated that capacity-building was a key pillar in the adoption of ICT, and that the Centre's capacity-building programmes should be promoted among countries in the region with the aim of identifying appropriate new partners to extend programme reach. She also stated that competency standards on ICT for development would complement the Asian Information Superhighway initiative.

40. The representative of Bangladesh briefed the Committee on Vision 2021, for which his Government had adopted ICT as a priority for development. He noted the need to build the capacity of all government officials to use social media and other ICT for development.

41. The representative of the Philippines stated that government chief information officers must be provided with capacity-building on the strategic use and management of information rather than on developing technical capacities only, and that relevant capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives should be provided in that regard.

42. The representative of the Republic of Korea observed that leveraging ICT would continue to play a central role in ICT for development, especially in the development agenda beyond 2015. He commended the Centre for the positive impact its programmes had made on the region.

#### **D. Presentation of the Centre's work programme for 2015**

43. The Governing Council reviewed the Centre's work programme for 2015, beginning with an introduction on the ongoing development paradigm shift from the Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals at the end of 2015. The recognition of the importance of ICT and capacity development as an enabler of sustainable development was highlighted.

44. The Governing Council was briefed on the changing world and its potential impact on increasing capacity regarding ICT for development. Important changes included increased connectivity as a result of developments in ICT and transportation, which were enabling rapid improvements in physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity. Increased connectivity and rapid regional and subregional integration had also contributed to removing barriers to free trade in the region, increasing the free movement of people, labour, goods and capital across national borders. The Governing Council was also briefed on the increasing recognition of the role of ICT for sustainable socioeconomic development as reflected in national development plans and eGovernment plans and strategies. However, it was noted that there were wide disparities among subregions and countries in Asia and the Pacific on levels of eGovernment development.

45. The challenges associated with the changing ICT landscape were highlighted to the Governing Council, including the increase in information security threats, personal vulnerability and the irresponsible uses of ICT. The persistence of the digital divide in its various forms, including access, ability to use and ability to create digital content, was also presented.

46. The Governing Council was introduced to the Centre's capacity development framework on ICT for development, which had been formulated after taking account of the lessons learned from its previous experience, the shift towards a sustainable development paradigm and the changing ICT landscape. Among its underlying principles were: continuing with the programmatic approach to capacity development; forging and leveraging strategic partnerships; promoting institutionalization and ensuring sustainability;



and facilitating regional dialogues and networking. Under this framework, the Centre would develop and implement programmes and services in accordance with its three pillars of training; research and knowledge-sharing; and advisory services.

47. The Governing Council was also informed about the Centre's T-strategy approach for increasing the impact of its capacity development work by broadening the coverage (through new beneficiary groups and module expansion) and deepening the utilization (through in-depth content and increased module utilization) of its capacity-building programmes, in accordance with the priorities of sustainable development.

48. The Centre's priorities and strategies for 2015 were also outlined to the Governing Council. It would enhance its flagship programmes through updating and expanding training content; continuing to develop a pool of resource persons at the subregional, regional and national levels; supporting customization and localization efforts; providing advisory services for Academy and Primer adoption and institutionalization; conducting research and developing publications and other knowledge resources; diversifying delivery channels and leveraging online platforms for dissemination and distance learning.

49. The Centre would also facilitate regional dialogues and networking as well as develop new regional-level initiatives, including in the areas of ICT competency standards and responsible use of the Internet and social media.

50. The Governing Council welcomed the Centre's T-strategy approach in its capacity-building work regarding ICT for development. The representative of Cambodia stated that online e-learning initiatives would be an important part of that strategy. Ensuring the consistency and quality of online training programmes would also be crucial.

51. The representative of Sri Lanka underscored the importance of continuous customization and localization of the Academy and Primer curricula to fit the local environment and address unique challenges. He noted that the context that came from localization was important even where literacy levels were high.

52. The representative of Cambodia said that partnerships with communities and universities would be valuable. He also noted that ICT could play a positive role in content development and delivery.

53. The representative of India underscored the lack of capacity today in leveraging new technologies for development purposes, and the importance of capacity-building initiatives in this area.

54. The representative of the Republic of Korea shared with the Council that his Government had already developed guidelines on developing tools and applications. The Government would be willing to share this with those in the region and would collaborate with the Centre in developing the relevant knowledge resources in the form of modules, case studies and other publications.

## **E. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council**

55. Several delegations expressed interest in hosting the tenth session of the Governing Council. However, the current Governing Council's term of office was due to expire in 2015 and the Commission at its seventy-first session would elect eight new members for another three-year term. The secretariat would therefore make the necessary arrangements for the date and

venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council on the basis of the current offers and the results of the election.

**F. Other matters**

56. No other matters were discussed by the Governing Council.

**G. Adoption of the report**

57. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 17 November 2014.

**III. Organizational matters**

**A. Opening of the session**

58. The ninth session of the Governing Council of the Centre was held in Bangkok on 15 October 2014.

59. On behalf of ESCAP, the Centre's Director opened the meeting and expressed appreciation to the Governing Council for its continued guidance on and support for the work of the Centre.

**B. Attendance**

60. The session was attended by representatives of nine member States of the Governing Council, namely: Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Indonesia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

61. The panellists from the Governing Council session on "Regional capacity-building on ICT for development", which was held in conjunction with the fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, participated as observers during the Governing Council session.

**C. Election of officers**

62. The Governing Council elected Mr. Sang Hun Lee (Republic of Korea) as Chair and Ms. Rungthip Sripetchdee (Thailand) as Vice-Chair.

**D. Adoption of the agenda**

63. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre.
5. Presentation of work undertaken by the Centre since the eighth session of the Governing Council.
6. Panel discussion on "Regional capacity-building on ICT for development" (in conjunction with agenda item 5 of the fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology).
7. Presentation of the Centre's work programme for 2015.
8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.

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**Annex**
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