



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**MANAGEMENT ISSUES: TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF
ESCAP AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENDED CONTRIBUTIONS**

(Agenda item 4 (d))

Draft report

1. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/65/21, which provided an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions in 2008.
2. In her introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission of the secretariat's initiative to shift from a project-based approach to a more integrated programme approach, which aimed at creating greater impact and supporting Governments in the delivery of key development results, particularly in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.
3. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that a key element of the secretariat's technical cooperation work in 2008 had focused on partnership-building to promote "Delivering as one" at the regional level, particularly through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, which had a membership of about 30 regional and subregional United Nations and affiliated organizations and was chaired by ESCAP.
4. The Executive Secretary highlighted a number of key achievements for 2008, including support for post-Cyclone Nargis recovery and livelihood creation as well as work in the areas of addressing the complex and interrelated challenges regarding the food, fuel and financial crises and climate change; the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway network; strengthening capacities of national statistical systems; social protection; capacity-building through the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade; and administration of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.
5. The Commission noted that the total contributions received by the secretariat for technical cooperation activities in 2008 from the regular budget as well as voluntary sources amounted to approximately \$12.2 million. In addition, generous in

kind contributions, including the services of non-reimbursable loan experts, had been provided by various donors.

6. Several delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the technical cooperation work of the secretariat, including the activities of the five ESCAP regional institutions.

7. The Commission noted the request by one delegation that ESCAP should focus on areas in which it had a comparative advantage, including the promotion of connectivity and regional integration, particularly through the enhancement of technical cooperation in areas related to the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway network. It further noted the view of another delegation regarding the need to increase the role of ESCAP in promoting technical cooperation and the sharing of good practices among countries, particularly in response to the financial and economic crisis. One delegation, in noting the useful efforts of the Executive Secretary to further enhance the effectiveness and activities of the regional institutions, pointed out the need for the regional institutions to implement their work at a wider level in the region.

8. The Commission noted the following contributions pledged by members and associate members of ESCAP for 2009.

9. *Brunei Darussalam.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Brunei Darussalam would make the following contributions:

	\$
SIAP	15 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

10. *China.* The delegation of China indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme	RMB 1 000 000 and \$150 000
	\$
APCTT	20 000
SIAP	40 000
UNAPCAEM	20 000

11. *India.* The delegation of India announced that its Government would make the following contributions for the period from April 2009 to March 2010:

	\$
APCICT	10 000
APCTT	200 000 (equivalent in rupees)
SIAP	20 000
UNAPCAEM	15 000

12. *Indonesia*. The delegation of Indonesia announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

CAPSA	Rp. 767 000 000
	\$
APCTT	35 000
SIAP	15 000
UNAPCAEM	29 982

13. In addition, the delegation of Indonesia intended to make an in kind contribution equivalent to \$79,000 to APCICT for the period from April 2009 to March 2010.

14. *Islamic Republic of Iran*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had increased its contributions to ESCAP from \$55,000 to \$60,000 and would make the following contributions:

	\$
ESCAP programme of work	16 000
APCTT	10 000
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	12 000
UNAPCAEM	12 000

The notification of the Islamic Republic of Iran also referred to an offer of financial and in kind support for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communications and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

15. *Japan*. The delegation of Japan indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

	\$
ESCAP programme of work (Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund)	142 500
SIAP (for the period from April 2009 to March 2010)	1 665 680

16. The delegation of Japan also reported that its Government intended to make an in kind contribution equivalent to \$1,152,640 to SIAP for the period from April 2009 to March 2010. In addition, as part of its technical cooperation programme through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with SIAP, the Government of Japan intended to provide fellowships for 58 individuals.

17. *Macao, China*. The secretariat had received written notification that the government of Macao, China, would make the following contributions:

	\$
APCICT	5 000
APCTT	5 000
CAPSA	3 000
SIAP	18 000

18. *Malaysia.* The delegation of Malaysia announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

	\$
APCTT	15 000
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	20 000

19. *Mongolia.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Mongolia would make the following contribution:

	\$
ESCAP programme of work	5 000

20. *Myanmar.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Myanmar would make the following contributions:

	\$
ESCAP programme of work	2 000
CAPSA	1 000
SIAP	1 000

21. *Pakistan.* The delegation of Pakistan renewed its commitment to support the work of the regional institutions and indicated that its Government would make a contribution totalling \$26,660 to the regional institutions for 2009 and would provide the breakdown separately.

22. *Republic of Korea.* The delegation of the Republic of Korea reaffirmed its Government's strong support for ESCAP technical cooperation activities through the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. The delegation reiterated that its Government would continue to support the operational costs for APCICT with a contribution of \$2 million for 2009, of which \$1.5 million would be in cash and \$500,000 in kind. In addition, subject to funding availability, the Government would continue to make contributions to the other ESCAP regional institutions, namely APCTT, CAPSA, SIAP and UNAPCAEM, and other programmes such as the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) and the North-East Asia Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC).

23. The Commission was informed by the delegation of the Republic of Korea that the Korea International Cooperation Agency had approved two ESCAP projects in 2008 to be implemented during the period 2008-2010 with a total budget of \$1.5 million, and that the Korea Energy Management Corporation had recently approved the sum of 500 million Korean won for an ESCAP project to be implemented in 2009-2010.

24. *Russian Federation.* The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Commission that its Government had taken the decision to make a voluntary annual contribution of \$1.2 million to ESCAP in 2009 and 2010.

25. *Thailand.* The delegation of Thailand announced that its Government would make contributions as follows:

	\$
APCTT	15 000
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	20 000
UNAPCAEM	15 000
CCOP	40 000
Typhoon Committee	12 000
Tropical Cyclone Trust Fund	2 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000
Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000

26. In concluding, the Executive Secretary thanked the Commission for its support of the secretariat's technical cooperation programme and thanked the members and associate members which had pledged financial support for 2009. The Executive Secretary indicated that the outcomes of the technical cooperation work of ESCAP had provided valuable inputs into the Commission's normative and analytical work and were aimed at supporting the efforts of Governments to strengthen national capacities in a range of key development sectors.