



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Sixty-fifth session
23-29 April 2009
Bangkok

WORK OF THE ESCAP REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(Agenda item 5)

Draft report

Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

Report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

Report of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

1. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/65/22, E/ESCAP/65/23, E/ESCAP/65/24, E/ESCAP/65/25 and E/ESCAP/65/26, containing the reports of the ESCAP regional institutions, namely the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA), and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

2. The Commission was informed of the secretariat's full commitment to supporting the work of the five regional institutions and noted their strong potential to become leading centres of excellence in their respective fields, particularly in capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge sharing. APCICT and SIAP had been fulfilling key capacity-building needs and served as vital training arms of the Commission. CAPSA, APCTT and UNAPCAEM had been developed further into regional knowledge centres with a focus on South-South cooperation.

3. The Commission noted the generous contributions of the Governments of China, India, Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea as hosts of the five regional institutions. The secretariat drew attention to the need to diversify funding sources and ensure the financial sustainability of the regional institutions as well as their staffing base, and requested member States to consider increasing their contributions to the regional institutions.

4. The heads of each of the regional institutions provided an overview of the achievements of their respective institutions in 2008 and highlighted the outcomes of the recently concluded sessions of their Governing Councils. APCICT had intensified its efforts in ICT capacity for socio-economic development, particularly through the implementation of a flagship programme entitled “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders Programme”. APCTT had facilitated technology exchanges in the region utilizing modern ICT technologies through its web-based technology market and the development of an institutional cooperation mechanism on renewable energy technologies. CAPSA had developed plans to enhance its role in work related to food security and poverty alleviation, based on the recommendations of its Governing Council. SIAP had assisted 57 countries in strengthening their statistical capacity, particularly in fundamental aspects of official statistics. UNAPCAEM had strengthened its work in research and policy analysis, knowledge sharing and partnership building, particularly in promoting green technology for sustainable agricultural development.

5. Several delegations commended the work of the five regional institutions in their respective areas of specialization and reiterated their commitment to providing continued support for the regional institutions. One delegation expressed the view that some of the regional institutions needed to expand their funding base and further strengthen their work to meet the emerging needs of the ESCAP membership.

6. Some delegations acknowledged the significant achievements made by APCICT in ICT capacity-building through the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders. The representative of the Republic of Korea indicated that his Government intended to expand support to APCICT so as to enable the Centre to fulfil its mission and meet the diverse needs of member States. The representative of Indonesia reported on the national implementation of the APCICT Academy in Indonesia in collaboration with the University of Indonesia and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. Indonesia had provided an in kind contribution to the national roll-out of the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in Bahasa Indonesia for local government training.

7. The representative of India commended APCTT for its role as a promoter of regional and interregional cooperation in technology transfer and the management of innovation with special emphasis on South-South cooperation. That delegation noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the APCTT National Innovation System Phase 1 Project, which had been funded by the Government of India, and looked forward to the implementation of Phase 2 of the National Innovation System Project, which was under finalization.

8. The representative of China expressed appreciation for the work of UNAPCAEM and indicated that the agreement regarding administrative and financial arrangements for UNAPCAEM, as renewed in 2008, had contributed to the sustainability of the Centre. He indicated that China would provide further support to UNAPCAEM and other ESCAP regional institutions, particularly in the context of enhancing South-South cooperation.

9. The representative of Japan expressed appreciation for the contribution of ESCAP members and associate members to SIAP. The representative informed the Commission that the number of fellowships for the Tokyo Metropolitan Area-based (TMA) courses would decrease in 2009 due to the lower demand indicated in a survey. Japan would, however, consider renewing those courses on the basis of the outcome of a review to be conducted in 2009. The delegation requested Governments to consult with their national statistical offices and related agencies so that demand for TMA statistical training programmes would be fully reflected in that review.
10. The representative of Indonesia commended CAPSA for the progress it had made and stressed that his Government would continue to support CAPSA capacity-building efforts in the areas of food security and sustainable agriculture.
11. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the statute of APCICT, the Commission elected, along with the host country, Republic of Korea, the following countries to the Governing Council of the Centre for the period 2009-2012: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
12. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the statute of CAPSA, the Commission held elections for the Governing Council of the Centre for the period 2009-2012. In that regard, the Commission decided in draft resolution E/ESCAP/65/L.8¹ to amend the statute in order to allow for a larger Council. The following countries were elected to the Governing Council for the period 2009-2012: Bangladesh, Cambodia, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.
13. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the statute of UNAPCAEM, the Commission elected, along with the host country, China, the following countries to the Governing Council of the Centre for the period 2009-2012: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam.
14. The secretariat expressed appreciation to the Commission for its continuing support to the regional institutions, including the generous financial contributions.

¹ The actual number of the resolution, once approved, will appear in the final annual report to be issued after the Commission session.