



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Fifty-ninth session (phase II)
1-4 September 2003
Bangkok

**ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES
DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

(Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES
DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

Addendum

Introduction

1. The present document is an addendum to the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) on its activities (E/ESCAP/1288). It covers the activities of ACPR during the period from May through August 2003. During this period, ACPR held three regular sessions (two hundred and seventy-third to two hundred and seventy-fifth) and two meetings of the ACPR open-ended informal working group.

2. At the three regular sessions, ACPR discussed the following topics:

- (a) Review of the first phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission;
- (b) Preparations for the second phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, including the annotated provisional agenda and finalization of the theme topic of the sixtieth session;
- (c) Outcome of the evaluation of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre;
- (d) Outcome of the evaluation of regional institutions (Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre));
- (e) Technical cooperation strategy;
- (f) ESCAP online publications and document distribution;
- (g) Preparations for the first session of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues, Bangkok, 4-6 September 2003.

3. ACPR held two meetings of its open-ended informal working group to consider draft resolutions that would be submitted to the Commission at the second phase of its fifty-ninth session.

Review of the first phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission

4. ACPR reviewed the major achievements of the first phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, which had been held at Bangkok on 24 and 25 April 2003.

Preparations for the second phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, including the annotated provisional agenda and finalization of the theme topic of the sixtieth session

5. ACPR reviewed preparations for the second phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, which had been postponed to 1 to 4 September 2003 as a result of the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome in the region. ACPR reviewed the status of various aspects of the preparations for the Commission session, including the dates, draft provisional agenda and other documentation, bureau, draft resolutions to be submitted to the session, the speakers list for the plenary, preparations

for the Ministerial Round Table, general meeting schedules, social events and the meeting of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. It also discussed the theme topic for the sixtieth session of the Commission, which was subject to final approval at the second phase of the fifty-ninth session.

Outcome of the evaluation of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

6. ACPR considered a document (OES/ACPR/1349) that summarized an external evaluation of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre. The evaluation had been commissioned by the Executive Secretary in early 2003 as part of his initiative to revitalize the secretariat. ACPR took note of the evaluation exercise and was informed that a number of reforms were taking place based on the evaluation, including the relocation of the Centre from Port Vila to Suva.

Outcome of the evaluation of regional institutions (APCTT, SIAP and CGPRT Centre)

7. ACPR considered a document (OES/ACPR/1350) that summarized an external evaluation of three ESCAP regional institutions: APCTT, SIAP and the CGPRT Centre.

8. ACPR took note of the Executive Secretary's initiative to evaluate the three regional institutions, in connection with his continuing efforts to revitalize ESCAP. It looked forward to more detailed discussions on the evaluations and, in particular, on key proposals for changes arising from them, at the meetings of the governing boards of the institutions as well as during the second phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.

Technical cooperation strategy

9. ACPR considered a document on ESCAP's development of a technical cooperation strategy (OES/ACPR/1353) and expressed appreciation for the secretariat's development of a technical cooperation strategy to increase the impact of its work. It encouraged the secretariat in its ongoing efforts to concentrate resources on a few larger, long-term projects in areas of key strategic concern, to enhance cooperation between theme areas, to ensure work was demand-driven and to improve monitoring and evaluation.

ESCAP online publications and document distribution

10. ACPR was informed about ESCAP's online publications and documents database. The database had been created based on a recommendation of an evaluation of ESCAP publications conducted in December 2002. ACPR was also informed about a new web site for ACPR activities (www.unescap.org/acpr/).

Preparations for the first session of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues

11. ACPR reviewed the preparations for the first session of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues, to be held at Bangkok from 4 to 6 September 2003. The session was aimed at stimulating discussions and interactive dialogue on priority issues in social development, including emerging social issues, in the Asia-Pacific region, providing policy guidance on programmes related to those issues and providing clear direction for the future work of the Committee. As the first session of any of the new thematic committees created by ESCAP's recent restructuring process, ACPR noted that high priority should be given to the session both by the secretariat and by Governments. ACPR expressed its belief that the new thematic committee approach would result in more focused discussions.

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