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**ASIAN AND PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The present document reviews briefly the activities of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development in 2006; it is focused on the establishment of the Centre and the preparations for a regional forum on capacity-building in information and communication technology (ICT). The Centre's main functions are enhancing knowledge and skills in ICT, providing advisory services and undertaking analytical studies related to human resources development in ICT. The Centre's main target groups are ICT policymakers, project managers and trainers in the public sector.

The Centre was officially established as a subsidiary body of ESCAP on 16 June 2006 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, and the recruitment of the Centre's Director was completed in September 2006. Preparations are under way to organize a series of events and trainings including the Regional Forum on ICT Capacity-building and a training session on e-government to be held during the first quarter of 2007.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) was established on 16 June 2006 as a subsidiary body of ESCAP. It is located in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The Headquarters Agreement and the Agreement on Administrative and Financial Arrangements, which accord the Centre the status of a United Nations institution with applicable privileges and immunities, were signed by representatives of ESCAP and the Government of the Republic of Korea on 31 January 2006.
2. The statute of APCICT was adopted by the Commission in its resolution 61/6 of 18 May 2005 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.
3. In April 2006, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the statute, the Commission elected representatives of the following countries, along with the host country, the Republic of Korea, to be members of the Governing Council of the Centre for the period 2006-2009: Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Thailand.

I. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND RESULTS IN 2006

4. In line with the statute of APCICT, the activities of the Centre focused on its establishment and the building of national human and institutional capacity in information and communication technology (ICT) to create “digital opportunities” and enhance socio-economic development in countries of the Asian and Pacific region.
5. The first meeting of the Centre’s Technical Committee and the first session of the Governing Council of APCICT was held on 14 June 2006 and on 15 and 16 June 2006 respectively, in conjunction with the inauguration of the Centre. Since then, the activities of the Centre have been focused on setting up its administration and recruiting staff, including the Centre’s Director, who reported for duty in September 2006.
6. In addition, preparations are under way to organize the Centre’s first event in 2007, the Regional Forum on ICT Capacity-building and a training session on e-Government. The forum will provide a platform for representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, United Nations agencies and international organizations, to enable them to share experiences and discuss salient issues related to ICT capacity-building. The forum is aimed at reviewing the current status, needs and challenges of ICT capacity-building at the regional and national levels; sharing experiences and good practices of the international community and the private sector concerning ICT capacity-building; developing the key elements of a plan of action to be implemented by all stakeholders, including APCICT, in order to close the gap in human resources development in ICT for development; and discussing the means for monitoring progress in the implementation of the plan of action. The expected outcomes of the forum include the adoption of

mechanisms to assess systematically the needs of member States and the strategic plan being developed for effective collaboration among diverse stakeholders engaged in ICT training for development.

II. FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

7. The first session of the Governing Council of APCICT was attended by representatives of six member countries of the Centre's Governing Council, namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. An observer from China also attended. The Council elected Mr. Christian Pangaribuan (Indonesia) as Chairperson and Mr. Tsoodol Nyamhuu (Mongolia) as Vice-Chairperson.

8. The Council adopted the following agenda:

- (1) Opening of the session.
- (2) Election of officers.
- (3) Adoption of the agenda and rules of procedure.
- (4) Report of the Technical Committee on its first meeting.
- (5) Presentation and discussion on proposed future projects and programmes.
- (6) Date and venue for the second session of the Governing Council.
- (7) Any other matters.
- (8) Adoption of the report.

The Council also adopted the rules of procedure.

9. Representatives of five member countries, namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, attended the first meeting of the Technical Committee. Representatives of various United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other entities, namely the United Nations Development Programme Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (UNDP-APDIP), International Telecommunication Union and the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion also participated in the meeting.

III. ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

10. The Governing Council took note of the Centre's strategies and programme of work; a summary of the discussions is contained in annex I to the present document. It also noted the following ICT training programmes and services recommended by the Technical Committee as possible future activities of the Centre that should be developed in close partnership with national Governments and international organizations: (a) e-government; (b) the establishment of community-based access points, such as community e-centres, including systems and information services for

disaster early warning systems; and (c) free and open-source software. The Governing Council recommended that APCICT, in partnership with international organizations, such as UNDP-APDIP, organize technical and policy-training programmes on free and open-source software, especially for government officers.

IV. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11. The report of the Technical Committee on its first meeting was endorsed by the Governing Council at its first session. The Council recommended that the Centre should undertake the following:

(a) Development of training modules and services based on the immediate needs of the member countries as determined by analytical research and the establishment of an effective communication mechanism, such as an online discussion forum, to enhance both human and institutional capacity in information and communication technology for socio-economic development;

(b) The design of mechanisms for needs assessments;

(c) The strengthening of regional coordination and partnership in capacity-building and human resources development by having the Centre function as a multilateral cooperation mechanism for regional cooperation in ICT for development;

(d) Meeting the needs of member countries for training programmes and services by developing partnerships for the implementation of such programmes with interested member countries.

Annex I

SUMMARY OF APCICT STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

I. INTRODUCTION

The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), located in Incheon, Republic of Korea, is a subsidiary body of ESCAP, with a membership identical to that of ESCAP. The statute of the Centre was adopted on 18 May 2005 as an annex to Commission resolution 61/6 of 18 May 2005 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, as the basis of its operation. The Headquarters Agreement and the Agreement on Administrative and Financial Arrangements, which accord the Centre the status of a United Nations institution with applicable privileges and immunities were formally signed by representatives of ESCAP and the Government of the Republic of Korea on 31 January 2006.

Background

Although some countries in the Asian and Pacific region have become global leaders in several areas of information and communication technology (ICT) development and application, the ICT indicators of most countries in the region, measured in terms of the number of fixed and mobile telecommunication subscribers, Internet hosts and Internet users, remains low compared with the global average and the cost of accessing ICTs is still quite high in many countries.

The major barrier to the development and application of ICT is the lack of awareness and capacity among policymakers and ICT professionals in planning and implementing ICT policies and programmes, along with the low level of ICT infrastructure that may be caused by a lack of awareness among policymakers of the importance of ICT in socio-economic development, with the result that sufficient resources are not allocated to infrastructure development.

II. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

A. Functions

One of the objectives of APCICT is to build the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP through training programmes on the use of information and communication technology for the purposes of socio-economic development. In pursuance of this objective, APCICT carries out the following functions:

- (a) Enhancing knowledge and skills in ICT for policymakers and ICT professionals;
- (b) Enhancing the capacity of ICT trainers and ICT training institutions by providing training-of-trainers programmes and the exchange of trainers and experts;

(c) Providing members and associate members of ESCAP with advisory services on human resources development programmes;

(d) Undertaking analytical studies related to human resources development in ICT, including the identification of training needs and the sharing of best practices on human resources development programmes and training methods.

Figure 1 illustrates the goal, objectives and functions of APCICT.

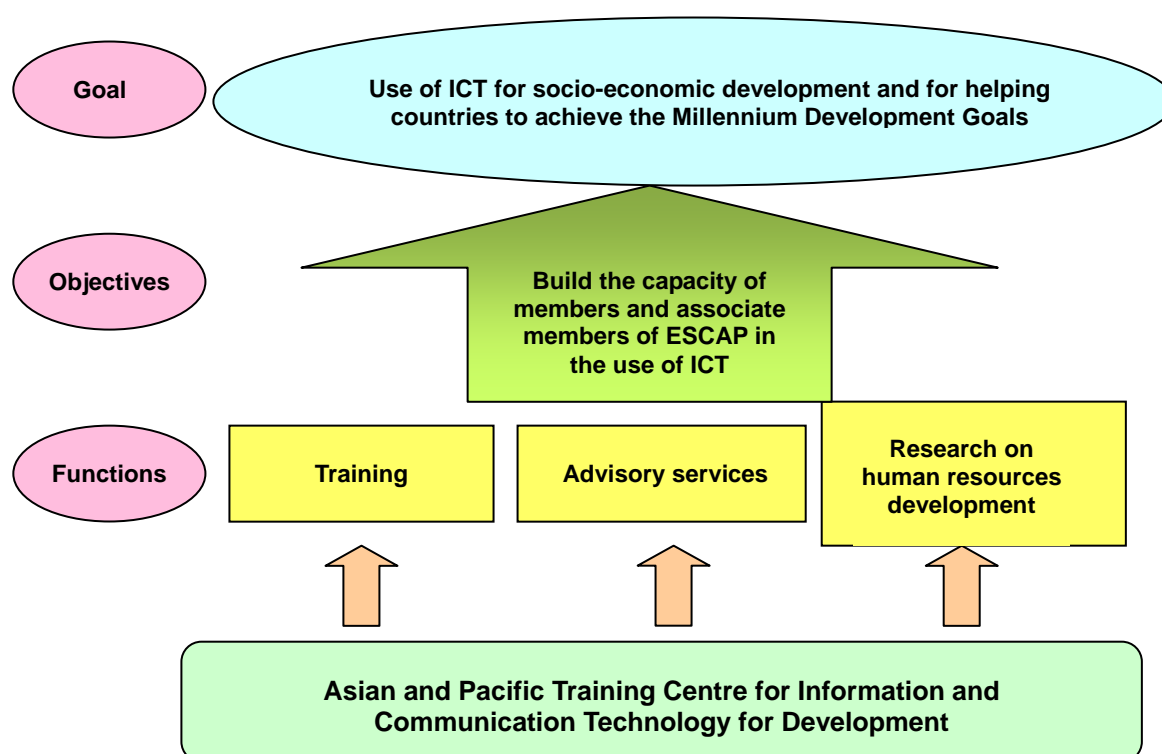


Figure 1. Goal, objectives and functions of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

B. Strategies

In order to build national capacity in ICT, the Centre provides two types of services: ICT training and training consulting services, which are supported by analytical training research activities on ICT trends and training needs in order to make the training programmes demand-driven and up to date with developments in ICT (see figure 2).

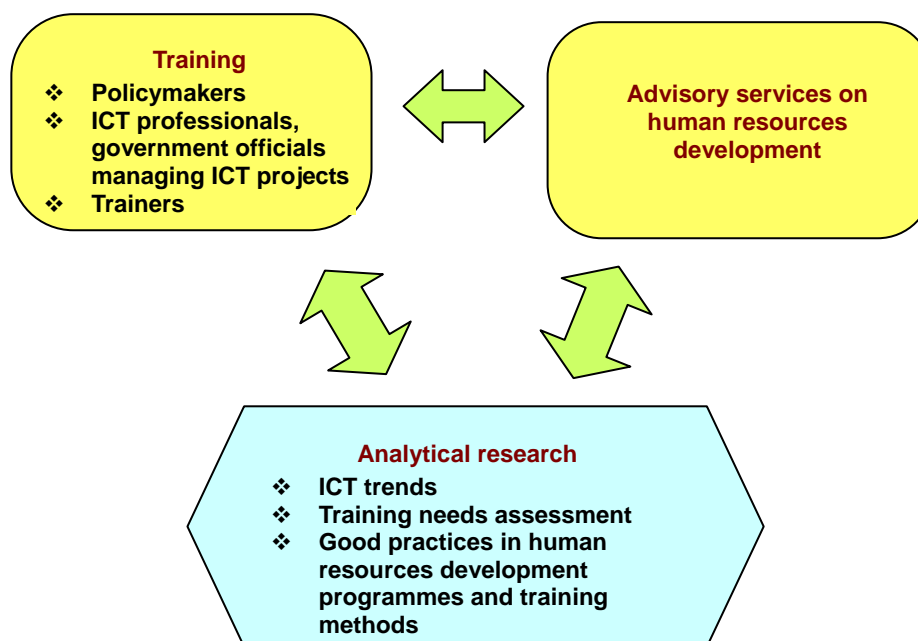


Figure 2. Activities of the Centre

1. *ICT training*

APCICT provides training in appropriate technology based on the needs of member States and the latest ICT development trends. For more effective and wider diffusion of ICT, training programmes are designed for trainers wherever possible. Training programmes are conducted by invited lecturers from universities, research institutions and organizations, officials from relevant ministries and the private sector. Site visits to relevant organizations are a part of each training programme in order to provide trainees with the opportunity to learn from field experiences. The Centre categorizes its training activities as follows:

(a) *ICT trends*: The Centre conducts studies and shares knowledge and information on ICT policies, technology trends and good practices in policy regulations and legislation that are required for the development of ICT training models suitable for each country;

(b) *ICT technology*: The Centre provides training for the active utilization of the latest information and communication technologies and technology issues, including e-government, and the code-division multiple access digital cellular technology, among others;

(c) *ICT trainer*: The Centre develops trainers for more effective and wider diffusion of ICT.

A set of training modules will be developed, and continuously updated on the basis of the Centre's analytical research programme. Training programmes will be organized by combining and modifying various modules depending on the target group and its training needs. Because it is important to train trainers in building institutional capacity and the wider diffusion of training, a

special module will be developed for a training-of-trainers programme that can be combined with other modules in order to develop trainers in specific areas, such as in e-commerce. Special training programmes will also be conducted for disadvantaged groups of communities, including women and people with disabilities.

2. Advisory services on human resources development

To strengthen cooperation among member States for the development of human resources in ICT, the Centre will provide customized training, consulting and information on course designs. It will also provide support on content development, based on each country's unique environment with regard to culture, language and education.

3. Analytical research

The Centre will carry out analytical studies on the need for ICT human resources development in order to share national experiences in such programmes among member States and make its human resources development programme relevant to the changing needs of countries for training and the development of new technologies and the overall ICT industry.

While all members and associate members of ESCAP are eligible to participate in the Centre's programmes, higher priority will be given to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Centre's target group includes policymakers, ICT professionals, government officials implementing ICT projects and trainers. Training programmes for women and disadvantaged groups, including people with disabilities, will also be arranged as part of the Centre's overall training programmes.

C. Cooperation with the private sector

Because the development of the ICT sector is led by the private sector and many private sector companies are engaged in capacity-building programmes as part of their corporate responsibility programmes, APCICT will strengthen its partnership with the private sector in order to enrich the content of its training programmes; improve its financial sustainability; and promote public-private partnership. Currently under consideration is a memorandum of understanding to foster collaboration with a major global corporation with regard to various areas of the Centre's activities.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK

A. Training programme

1. Types of courses

Policymaker course: development of ICT policymaking capabilities

(a) Goal: Increased awareness and understanding regarding the overall ICT development process among policymakers;

- (b) Target groups: ICT-related government officials;
- (c) Duration: 4-5 days;
- (d) Modalities: Lectures and site visits to related agencies;
- (e) Contents: Introduction to ICT policy development; ICT development trends; and good practices in ICT policies and strategies.

Manager course: enhancement of ICT project management capabilities

- (a) Goal: Increased awareness and understanding among government ICT project managers of the latest ICT policies and technologies and their application;
- (b) Target groups: Project managers from the public sector;
- (c) Duration: 7-14 days (duration could vary depending on the topic and target group);
- (d) Modalities: Lectures, discussions focused on field cases and site visits to related organizations;
- (e) Contents: Introduction to new ICT trends; ICT applications such as e-government, networking, system integration, information security, mobile communication, e-commerce, code-division multiple access digital cellular technology; and an introduction to, and the benchmarking of, good practices.

Trainer course: development of ICT trainers

- (a) Goal: Strengthened qualifications and capabilities of trainers;
- (b) Target groups: Trainers and potential trainers from ICT training institutions in the public sector;
- (c) Period: 1-4 weeks;
- (d) Modalities: Lectures;
- (e) Contents: Trainer course for basic information technology skills; trainer courses for information technology experts in various application areas.

2. Number of trainees

Approximately 120 persons will be trained each year based on the recommendations of member States; two or three courses will be conducted for each type of training course for a total of 6 to 8 courses, each of them training about 20 persons.

B. Advisory services on ICT human resources development

The major activities of the advisory services include the following:

- (a) Support for the establishment of strategic plans for ICT human resources development in member States;

(b) Facilitate the active exchange of trainers and the free distribution of training materials;

(c) Enhance partnerships between academic institutions in the region.

C. Analytical research programme on ICT human resources development

Activities involving the conduct of research, a survey on the ICT training environment of member States and in-depth studies to identify training needs and to improve training programmes will include the following:

(a) The production of periodic reports on ICT training needs and trends, which will be reflected in ICT training programmes;

(b) The facilitation of the exchange/sharing of experiences and information in cooperation with other international organizations, and through an online discussion forum and networks;

(c) Promotion of joint research projects and the establishment of a research collaboration network for the development and sharing of training contents and resources.

D. Training programme for 2006

In the APCICT training programme for 2006, approximately 20 policymakers, 20 ICT project managers in Governments and 20 ICT trainers were trained.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Governing Council

According to the Centre's statute, the Governing Council of the Centre is composed of nine members, including the representative(s) of the host country. The election of the Governing Council was held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, held in Jakarta in April 2006. Representatives of the following member States were elected for the period 2006-2009: Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea (host country) and Thailand. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the convener of the Governing Council, invited representatives of China and Japan to attend the inaugural session of the Governing Council as observers.

Under the statute, the Governing Council is responsible for advising the Director of the Centre on the formulation of the programme of work and for reviewing the administrative and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work (see annex II for financial details in 2006).

B. Staff

The staff of APCICT comprise three professionals (one director, one deputy director and one associate expert/programme officer), two non-reimbursable loan experts and one administrative assistant. The lecturers for the training programmes are outsourced.

Annex II

CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2006 AND STATUS OF ACCOUNT

Regular annual contributions in 2006

Country/Organization	Contributions in 2006	Value of contributions in 2006 (United States dollars)
Republic of Korea	Cash	1 109 125
	Office renovation, furniture, equipment and computers	390 855

Status of account

<u>As of 31 December 2006</u>							(in United States dollars)
	Donor	Balance carried over from 31 December 2005	Contributions (2006)	Expenditure (2006)	Interest earned (2006)	Returned from completed project (returned to donors) 2006	Balance at 31 December 2006
Institutional support	Government of the Republic of Korea	0.00	1 109 125.00	366 120.99	34 595.88	0.00	777 599.89
Subtotal		0.00	1 109 125.00	366 120.99	34 595.88	0.00	777 599.89
Total		0.00	1 109 125.00	366 120.99	34 595.88	0.00	777 599.89

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