

Invites all ECAFE member countries, and all other friendly Governments who, though not members of ECAFE, nevertheless desire to co-operate with the Mekong Committee, to consider possible ways of ensuring full, effective and early implementation of these priority investment and construction projects of the Mekong Committee.

349th meeting,
1 April 1966.

71 (XXII). Eradication of illiteracy

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling resolution 55 (XX) adopted at its twentieth session at Tehran on 17 March 1964 recommending that member States "make adequate provision in their national development plans for the progressive eradication of illiteracy",

Recalling that:

(a) the General Conference of UNESCO at its thirteenth session (Paris, 1964) adopted a selective, intensive and functional approach for the eradication of illiteracy,

(b) the International Conference on Public Education at its twenty-eighth session (Geneva, 1965) adopted recommendation No. 58 of the Ministers of Education concerning literacy and adult education,

(c) the World Congress of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy organized by UNESCO at Tehran (1965) adopted a resolution on the mobilization of human and material resources,

(d) the Conference of Ministers of Education and Ministers Responsible for Economic Planning in Asia (Bangkok, 1965), called upon member States "to actively promote adult literacy within the framework of national plans, priorities and development targets... to include functional literacy programmes in priority schemes of economic and social development, both existing and future",

Taking note of resolution 2043(XX) in which the General Assembly of the United Nations at its twentieth session "requests the Economic and Social Council and the regional economic commissions to study, within the framework of the United Nations Development Decade, the most appropriate measures for promoting the effective integration of literacy in development",

Having considered the document submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on "Integration of Literacy in Development",

Recognizing that the vast Asian continent has some 350 million adult illiterates above 15 years of age, the largest number in any world region, and that although great efforts to combat illiteracy have succeeded in reducing the percentage of illiterates from 67.71 per cent in 1950 to 53.57 per cent in 1962, the number in absolute terms has increased by almost 20 million between 1950-1962,

Convinced that functional literacy programmes for imparting professional and technical knowledge leading to fuller participation of adults in economic and civic life should be:

- (a) integrated into economic and social development plans,
- (b) integrated into the over-all educational plan and educational system of each country, and
- (c) financially supported from public and private resources,

Welcoming the response of the member States of UNESCO which have indicated interest in participating in the World Literacy Programme,

Noting with appreciation the action taken by UNESCO in close co-operation with such other agencies or programmes as the ILO, FAO and WFP, in dispatching exploratory missions, launching with the United Nations Development Programme a number of work-oriented adult literacy pilot projects linked with development, and providing assistance to member States for their national literacy programmes,

Recommends to Governments of member and associate member States that:

(1) Development projects in agriculture and industry in areas of mass literacy incorporate functional literacy components related to the technical and vocational training of workers;

(2) Food production, land reform and agricultural modernization programmes in such areas be accompanied by functional literacy projects;

(3) Functional literacy projects be established in urban areas where unemployed and unskilled illiterates must be absorbed into industry;

(4) Functional literacy projects be linked to secondary and tertiary industry;

(5) Plans for education and training make balanced provision for school and out-of-school education for young people and adults;

(6) Members States investigate the possibility of directing resources to functional literacy programmes from various ministries, local governments, governmental and non-governmental institutions, public and private enterprises and from funds appropriated for specific development projects;

Requests the Executive Secretary to assist member and associate member States and UNESCO in implementing the above recommendations;

Further requests the Executive Secretary to consult with and where appropriate assist UNESCO in exploring the possibility of establishing a literacy research centre for studying ways of integrating literacy campaigns with development efforts.

350th Meeting,
4 April 1966.

72 (XXII). Development of agriculture in the ECAFE region

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Noting resolution No. 5/65 on Industrial Co-operation passed by the FAO Conference at its thirteenth session, and the steps taken by the Director-General of FAO in pursuance thereof to stimulate interest in industrialized and developing countries in increasing the availability of inputs for agricultural production in under-developed countries,

Recognizing the importance of these inputs for raising food production at this critical time of food shortage in the countries of the ECAFE region,