

dustry in the economy of Asia and the seriousness of the problems it faces at the present juncture,

Expressing its satisfaction at the formation of the Asian Coconut Community by the developing countries of Asia for the purpose of undertaking concerted action for the industry's fullest development,

Recognizing in the Asian Coconut Community a pioneering and exemplary endeavour to develop self-help and concerted action among the countries in the region,

Noting the resolution unanimously adopted at the Inter-Governmental Consultations on the Asian Coconut Community as set out in document E/CN.11/L.223,

1. *Endorses* fully the formation of the Asian Coconut Community;

2. *Requests* the member countries of the Commission and the United Nations family of organizations to give the Community their fullest support and assistance.

*409th meeting,
26 April 1969.*

96 (XXV). MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE SEA IN
THE ECAFE REGION

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Aware of the importance of the sea in offering prospects for the future supply of mineral fuels and metals,

Noting the increasing attention being given to the subject by member countries of the United Nations, as reflected in a number of resolutions adopted recently by the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on resources of the sea², on international co-operation in problems related to the oceans³, on permanent sovereignty over natural resources⁴, and on "Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the seabed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind"⁵,

² Economic and Social Council resolutions 1112 (XL) of 7 March 1966 and 1380 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 and General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966.

³ General Assembly resolution 2414 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1381 (XLV) and 1382 (XLV) of 2 August 1968.

⁴ General Assembly resolutions 523 (VI) of 12 January 1952, 626 (VII) of 21 December 1952, 1515 (XV) of 15 December 1960, 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, 2158 (XXI) of 25 November 1966 and 2386 (XXIII) of 20 November 1968.

⁵ General Assembly resolutions 2340 (XXII) of 18 December 1967 and 2467 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968.

Recognizing the need for extensive research and exploration in order to develop the wealth of the sea for the benefit of mankind as a whole taking into account the special needs and interests of developing countries,

Firmly believing that it is important to promote international co-operation in this regard,

Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to formulate a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research and to accept the concept of an International Decade of Ocean Exploration for the 1970's,

Recalling that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2414 (XXIII), the Secretary-General has been invited to consider, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the possibility of extending technical assistance services to the Governments of member States which may request them for the development of the mineral resources of their continental shelf areas.

Noting that, as far as the Western Pacific area of the ECAFE region is concerned, the ECAFE Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) has already undertaken and has plans to conduct several projects proposed for consideration under the programme envisaged for the International Decade of Ocean Exploration,

Welcoming the proposal of the Third Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation to establish a similar co-ordinating body for countries bordering the Indian Ocean,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to support and to mobilize assistance required for the activities of CCOP (for the Western Pacific region) and to extend similar support to the co-ordinating committee for member countries bordering the Indian Ocean, when established;

(b) To foster close co-operation among neighbouring member countries of the region regarding both their individual and common interests through the activities of these committees;

2. *Invites* the Committee for the Western Pacific and, in due course, that for the Indian Ocean:

(a) To participate actively, in their respective areas, in relevant aspects of the co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research and exploration, including the proposed International Decade of Ocean Exploration;

(b) To consider their role in any international arrangements in this field to be made in the light of the General Assembly's resolutions;

3. *Invites* the developed countries, both within and outside the region, and international organizations, particularly UNDP and the Inter-Governmental

Oceanographic Commission (IOC), to further their co-operation with ECAFE and provide assistance to its activities in this field,

*409th meeting,
26 April 1969.*

97 (XXV). THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN
HANDICRAFT CENTRE

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the
Far East,*

Considering the high artistic level and enormous range of handmade traditional products that are produced in the cottage industries in the ECAFE region, as well as the vast opportunities of employment that the handicraft industry provides to the artisans of the countries of the region,

Welcoming the efforts of the ECAFE secretariat in engaging a consultant on handicrafts to visit and advise several countries of the region on the categories of handicrafts having export potential to send to the International Bazaar for Handicraft to be held during the Second Asian International Trade Fair at Tehran, Iran,

Recalling its endorsement at its twenty-fourth session of the recommendation of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources that the secretariat examine the possibility of holding an Asian craft industries exposition as soon as possible,

Further noting the offer of the Government of the Republic of Singapore to build an Asian Handicraft Centre in Singapore which would

- (i) display and sell handicrafts produced in the various countries in the region, and
- (ii) provide a permanent exhibition where the art of the various traditional handicrafts may be demonstrated by craftsmen drawn from throughout the region,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take steps for the early establishment of an Asian Handicraft Centre in Singapore, and to seek adequate assistance from international organizations and other bodies concerned to ensure its effective functioning;

2. *Invites* Governments of member States of ECAFE to extend full co-operation to the work of the Centre;

3. *Further requests* UNDP, UNCTAD, UNIDO, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other appropriate bodies to extend full co-operation and assistance to the Asian Handicraft Centre.

*409th meeting,
26 April 1969.*

98 (XXV). THE PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A REGIONAL COMPUTING CENTRE

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the
Far East,*

Noting the view of the United Nations General Assembly as expressed in its resolution 2458 (XXIII) that electronic computers are of special importance in accelerating the progress of vital economic and social programmes,

Aware of the serious lag in the application of computer technology in countries of the ECAFE region, especially in censuses of population, housing, agriculture and industry,

Recognizing that accurate, fast and detailed computation of such censuses on a continuing basis is vital to the formulation of effective social and economic programmes,

Being convinced that, in addition to the advantage of deriving fuller information from these censuses, benefits in many other fields of development would be opened up to countries through having a computing centre in the region,

Recalling the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-fourth session that the secretariat carry out further studies in regard to the establishment of a regional computing centre for processing census data in the region,

Noting that the studies made by the secretariat had revealed the urgency of establishing such a centre in view of the fact that the ability of regional countries to process various census and other statistical data would otherwise be seriously impaired,

Noting further that the Conference of Asian Statisticians at its forthcoming session in June 1969 will consider the report of the Expert Group on the Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Computing Centre, which met in December 1967,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, should the Conference on Asian Statisticians endorse the recommendations of the Expert Group of December 1967, to appoint a committee of experts to determine the financial implications and organizational and other factors involved in establishing a regional computing centre and to prepare a plan of action for submission to the next session of the Commission for consideration and decision; and

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to establish informal contacts with the member countries, the United Nations Development Programme and the agencies to discuss the plan of action, pending the decision by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session.

*410th meeting,
28 April 1969.*