

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.*