

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

1 May 1987-20 April 1988

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1988**

SUPPLEMENT No. 11



UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ARSAP	agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CCOP	Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas
CCOP/SOPAC	Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas
CGPRT	coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber (crops)
CIRAD	International Cooperation Center of Agricultural Research for Development
ECDC	economic co-operation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
EEC	European Economic Community
FADINAP	Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
POPIN	Population Information Network
PORTMIS	Port Management Information System
RMRDP	regional mineral resources development programme
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation

ABBREVIATIONS *(continued)*

SEATRADC	Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SPEC	South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical co-operation among developing countries
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 1 May 1987 to 20 April 1988, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 677th meeting on 20 April 1988.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolution for action by the Economic and Social Council

Amendment of the terms of reference of
the Economic and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific: admission of
the Territory of American Samoa
as an associate member
of the Commission

2. At its 677th meeting, the Commission
approved the following draft resolution
for submission to the Economic and Social
Council for action:

"The Economic and Social Council,

*"Noting that the Territory of
American Samoa has become an associate
member of the Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific in
accordance with paragraph 5 of the terms
of reference of the Commission,*

*"Decides to amend paragraph 4 of the
terms of reference of the Commission
accordingly."*

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

264 (XLIV). Strengthening activities for
technical and economic co-
operation among developing
countries in the ESCAP region

265 (XLIV). Social aspects of rural
development

266 (XLIV). International Literacy Year

267 (XLIV). The adoption and implemen-
tation of the principle of
environmentally sound and
sustainable development in
the Asian and Pacific region

268 (XLIV). Shelter strategies towards
the year 2000

269 (XLIV). The Commission's activities
in the Pacific

270 (XLIV). Adoption of measures in the
Asian and Pacific region to
support follow-up of the
report *The Missing Link* on
telecommunication

271 (XLIV). United Nations Conference on
the Least Developed Countries

272 (XLIV). Study on the implications
of demographic changes on
the development of human
resources

273 (XLIV). Survey of the quality of life
in Asia and the Pacific

274 (XLIV). Jakarta Plan of Action on
Human Resources Development
in the ESCAP Region

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. During the year under review, the following subsidiary bodies met: the Committees on Agricultural Development; Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment; Natural Resources; Population; Shipping, and Transport and Communications (Transport, Communications and Tourism Wing); and Statistics. Details of the dates and bureaux of these meetings are given in annex III.

Committee on Agricultural Development

4. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

ESCAP/ILO Mid-term Review Meeting on the Promotion of Non-farm Employment and Income among Rural Workers, Bangkok, May 1987

UNIDO/Department of Agricultural Extension, Thailand/ARSAP Regional Expert Group Meeting on Pesticide Data Collection Systems in Asia and the Pacific, Pattaya, Thailand, May 1987

ESCAP/ILO National Workshop on Promotion of Non-farm Employment in Bangladesh, Dhaka, June 1987

Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of Low Agricultural Export Prices on the Agriculture Sector, Bangkok, August 1987

FAI (Fertilizer Association of India)/FADINAP Training Programme on Logistics of Fertilizer Distribution, Bangalore, India, August 1987

Department of Agricultural Extension, Thailand/FADINAP Training Programmes for Fertilizer Retailers, Phuket, Hat Yai and Pattaya, Thailand, September and December 1987

Regional Consultation on National Fertilizer Information Policies, Bangkok, January 1988

IFDC (International Fertilizer Development Center)/FADINAP/FAI International Workshop on NPK Fertilizer Production, Liquid Phase Granulation, Compaction/Granulation and Bulk Blending, Madras, India, February 1988

Agricultural Inputs Corporation, Nepal/FADINAP National Seminar on Fertilizer Pricing Policy, Kathmandu, March 1988

5. The following advisory services were provided during the period under review:

(a) The FADINAP regional adviser on fertilizer distribution and marketing rendered advisory services to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand;

(b) The ESCAP/ILO advisory mission to Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand provided advisory services concerning the second phase of the ESCAP/ILO non-farm employment promotion project;

(c) FADINAP undertook a study on the export potential of phosphate rock in Yunnan Province of China and the report was submitted to the relevant authorities in China;

(d) FADINAP provided the services of a senior consultant on information development to China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Sri Lanka in connection with the establishment of national centres participating in the FADINAP Network of Fertilizer Information Systems;

(e) At the request of the Fertilizer Association of India, FADINAP collaborated with the implementation of the 37th FAI Marketing Management Development Programme for Fertilizer Executives held at Aurangabad, India in September 1987. Three papers were presented on the following topics: the regional fertilizer situation; regional fertilizer marketing systems; and fertilizer marketing costs and margins in selected countries of the ESCAP region;

(f) Technical inputs were provided to the Second Project Management Committee Meeting on the Regional Network for Production, Marketing and Control of Pesticides in Asia and the Pacific (RENPAF), New Delhi;

(g) The ESCAP/NOAA (United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) agro-climatic project phase II proposal was explained to the Governments of India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand with a view to eliciting their guidance;

(h) FADINAP imparted training to the personnel of FAI in India, and the Agricultural Projects Services Centre and the Agricultural Inputs Corporation of Nepal in Kathmandu, on fertilizer information systems;

(i) An ARSAP expert visited Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to collect pesticides information and to demonstrate the ARSAP/CIRAD (International Co-operation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development) computer programme for the regional agro-pesticide index;

(j) FADINAP presented three technical papers at the 1987 IFA (International Fertilizer Industry Association)/FADINAP South-East Asian and Pacific Regional Fertilizer Conference, held at Kuala Lumpur;

(k) A technical paper was presented at the IFDC regional fertilizer marketing management programme, held at Manila;

(l) FADINAP provided an input on fertilizer sector developments in Asia and the Pacific for the 24th meeting of the FAO/UNIDO/World Bank Working Group on Fertilizers, held at Washington, D.C.;

(m) The Team Leader of FADINAP visited Viet Nam and discussed co-operation arrangements between the Government and FADINAP on fertilizer sector development in that country;

(n) FADINAP continued to provide specific trade information to several agencies in member countries and to international organizations upon request. It also provided numerous bibliographic and reprographic services and circulated news items on the fertilizer situation in the region to interested parties.

6. The following technical publications and studies were produced or were under

preparation during the period under review:

(a) *Agricultural Information Development Bulletin* (quarterly)

(b) *Agro-chemicals News in Brief* (quarterly), with two special issues (six issues in total)

(c) *ARSAP/CIRAD Regional Agro-pesticide Index*, vol. I: *Thailand and the Philippines*

(d) *Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals* (quarterly)

(e) *FADINAP Fertilizer Trade Information* (monthly)

(f) *RISS, Regional Information Support Service: An Abstract Journal on Fertilizer-related Subjects* (monthly)

(g) *Safe Handling and Application of Agro-pesticides* (safety guide translated into the Sinhala language)

(h) *Study on the Feasibility of Establishing a Multinational Fertilizer Marketing Enterprise for Asia and the Pacific*

(i) *Study on Port Handling of Mineral Fertilizers in Selected Countries of Asia*

(j) *Supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizer in Pakistan*

(k) "Fertilizer trade information telex" (fortnightly)

(l) "Impact of low agricultural prices on Asian agriculture"

Committee on Development Planning

Development issues and policies

7. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Seminar on Economic Co-operation through Foreign Investment among Asian and Pacific Countries (Phase II), Bangkok, May 1987

Training Course on a Unified, Comprehensive Approach to Rural Development Planning, Moscow, May-June 1987

Training Course in Planning Science and Technology, Moscow and Yerevan, September-October 1987

Workshop on Development Planning Techniques, Thimphu, September-October 1987

Expert Group on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, October 1987

National Training Course on Project Planning and Statistical Information Compilation, Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, November 1987

Regional Seminar on an Interlinked Country Model System, sixth session, Bangkok, November 1987

Workshop on Mobilization of Domestic Savings, Vientiane, January 1988

Training Course on Project Planning and Statistical Information, Pakse, Lao People's Democratic Republic, February-March 1988

8. The secretariat participated in and provided technical papers for the following meetings:

(a) World Project LINK, Spring Meeting, New York, March 1987;

(b) World Project LINK, Autumn Meeting, Melbourne, August-September 1987;

(c) UNCTAD Symposium on Trade Policy and Planning for the Least Developed Countries in the ESCAP Region, Dhaka, October 1987;

(d) Management Review Meeting on the UNDP-funded Project on Advisory Services for Development in the Pacific, Suva, November 1987.

The secretariat also participated in the following meetings:

(a) Expert Group Meeting on Administration and Public Finance, New York, March 1987;

(b) Committee for Development Planning, twenty-third session, New York, April 1987;

(c) Seminar on Human Resources Development organized by the World Federation of Trade Unions, Moscow, May 1987;

(d) Round Table Country Review Meeting, Vientiane, June 1987;

(e) Third Meeting of the Yaounde-Stockholm Initiative on the Integrated Programme of the United Nations on Savings for Development, Paris, November 1987.

9. The following advisory services and missions were undertaken:

(a) To Afghanistan and Bhutan, to gather information on the progress achieved as well as difficulties encountered in the implementation of the current development plans and to obtain views on the content envisaged for the forthcoming issues of the *Development Planning Newsletter*;

(b) To Australia, on economic co-operation through foreign investment among Asian and Pacific countries, and to Fiji, to discuss with government officials recent economic developments;

(c) To Bangladesh, to discuss with the authorities of the Ministry of Planning the course programme and schedule of a training course on project preparation and planning to be held at Dhaka and, subsequently, to finalize the arrangements for the holding of that course with government officials at Dhaka;

(d) To Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam, to ascertain the views of the Governments regarding the implementation of the project entitled "Study on the feasibility of establishing an institute of public finance";

(e) To China, to advise the LINK modelling team on the construction of the Chinese model and to deliver a series of lectures on statistical and econometric modelling and forecasting techniques;

(f) To China and Hong Kong, to discuss China's participation in the ESCAP project on economic co-operation through foreign investment among Asian and Pacific countries; and to New York and Hawaii, to discuss Phase III of the project;

(g) To Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, to investigate participation of the Pacific island countries in the interlinked country model system project;

(h) To France, to exchange views with OECD officials about the possibility of collaboration in the implementation of the work programme of the Development Planning Division;

(i) To India and Pakistan, to hold consultations with government officials on recent economic developments and issues concerning the special topic of international trade in primary commodities;

(j) To Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, to discuss with government officials issues concerning the special topic of international trade in primary commodities;

(k) To the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to discuss with the concerned authorities current activities of ESCAP relating to least developed countries and future requirements, including follow-up on the Training Course on Planning Techniques and Project Preparation and Planning, Vientiane, February-March 1987;

(l) To the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to discuss with officials of the Lao State Bank and the Ministry of Finance the convening of a workshop on mobilization of domestic savings to be held in Vientiane and, subsequently, to finalize the documents and timing for that workshop;

(m) To the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, to discuss with government officials issues concerning the special topic of international trade in primary commodities, as well as general economic conditions;

(n) To Malaysia, to advise the Macro-economic Planning Section, Economic Planning Unit of Malaysia on the construction of the LINK econometric model for Malaysia and on the specifications and structure of the model, estimation techniques and simulation and multiplier tests;

(o) To Moscow, to consult the Soviet planning authorities regarding future training courses to be organized in the USSR;

(p) To New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and Geneva to consult the University of Pennsylvania, the Department of State (Washington D.C.), and UNCTAD regarding the work of the project on an interlinked country model system for forecasting and planning of economic relations among ESCAP member countries.

10. The following technical publications and studies were produced:

(a) *Development Planning Newsletter*, No. 6, December 1986

(b) *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, vol. XXXVII, No. 2, December 1986

(c) *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1987*

(d) "ASEAN co-operation in issues concerning foreign direct investment"

(e) "Asian-Pacific Link modelling"

(f) "Australian direct investment in ASEAN: patterns and issues"

(g) "China's commodity trade problems with implications for national and international policy issues"

(h) "Distortions in international food trade and their impact on the ESCAP region"

(i) "Economic co-operation through foreign investment and trade with the Pacific island countries"

(j) "Economic co-operation through foreign investment with special reference to the textile industry in the Asia-Pacific region"

(k) "The impact of the external sector in Asian-Pacific models: a comparison of model simulations"

(l) "Industrial development, foreign direct investment and economic co-operation: a study of the electronics industry in the Asian Pacific"

(m) "International trade in primary commodities: South Asian countries"

(n) "Japanese investment in Asia"

(o) "New strategy for direct foreign investment in ASEAN: world product concept"

(p) "Policy and prospects for foreign investment in China"

(q) "Report of the Expert Group on the Feasibility of Establishing an Institute of Public Finance"

(r) "Short- and medium-term perspective for development in the Asia-Pacific region"

(s) "Short- and medium-term perspective for selected Asian-Pacific economies"

(t) "Stabilizing export earnings of primary producing countries: a policy framework"

(u) "Towards a revival of long-term development planning in the ESCAP region"

(v) "United States direct foreign investment in Asia's developing economies"

(w) "World agricultural markets and policy options for developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region"

11. Research activities continued in the development of national econometric models for economic projections and policy analysis and of a linking mechanism.

12. Further steps were taken as continuing activities to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, including special measures in support of such countries in the region as well as to report progress in the implementation and monitoring of the Programme in the region and inputs into the global review process.

13. Documents and studies were prepared on policies and issues facing the Pacific island countries in their economic and social development.

14. The secretariat conducted the 1987 ESCAP course in development economics at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

Transnational corporations

15. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

ESCAP/UNCTC/UNEP Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Aspects of Transnational Corporation Activities in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November 1987

ESCAP/UNCTC Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Monitoring Foreign Investment by Transnational Corporations, Guangzhou, China, November 1987

16. The Joint Unit provided inputs into:

(a) Commission on Transnational Corporations, thirteenth session, New York, April 1987;

(b) ESCAP Regional Workshop on Export Marketing for Women Executives, Bangkok, August 1987;

(c) UNCTC Seminar on Investment and Negotiating Strategies of Transnational Corporations, Kuala Lumpur, September 1987;

(d) UNCTAD Asian Seminar on Restrictive Business Practices, Bangkok, September-October 1987;

(e) UNCTC Workshop on Negotiating Joint Venture Arrangements with Transnational Corporations, Honiara, October 1987;

(f) ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies (Trade and Primary Commodities), Bangkok, October 1987;

(g) International Symposium on "Towards Restructuring of the Division of Labour in the Asian Pacific Region: Economic Relations of Japan, China, NICs and ASEAN in the Year 2000", Pattaya, Thailand, November 1987;

(h) ILO Sub-Regional Tripartite Symposium on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy for ASEAN Countries, Manila, December 1987;

(i) ESCAP Expert Group Meeting to Formulate Guidelines for an ESCAP Integrated Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, Tokyo, December 1987;

(j) Research, information and advisory activities undertaken by UNCTC; communication of requests for advisory assistance and technical co-operation to the Centre; and assistance to it in identifying consultants and experts from the region.

17. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

To China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, to assist the respective Governments with projects relating to transnational corporations.

18. The following technical publications were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Asia-Pacific TNC Review 1987*

(b) *Technology Transfer under Alternative Arrangements with Transnational Corporations*

(c) *Transnational Corporations from Developing Asian Economies: Host Country Perspectives*

(d) *Transnational Corporations and Environmental Management in Selected Asian and Pacific Developing Countries*

19. The following research activities were undertaken:

(a) Study on the fast food industry in Thailand;

(b) Studies under the project on transnational corporations and the environment.

20. The Joint Unit continued to collect, analyse and disseminate basic information relating to transnational corporation activities in the region, including information and research publications on: laws, regulations and general policies pertaining to them; foreign direct investment flows and non-equity arrangements; and data sources, research activities and information services pertaining to or carried out in the region. Activities to further the development of national information systems on transnational corporations and the establishment of a regional information network continued.

Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment

Industrial development

21. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Regional Forum on Industrial Policy and Structural Adjustment, Seoul, September 1987

Seminar on Promotion of Business Collaboration in the Metal Working and Agro-industries between Thailand and the Federal Republic of Germany, Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany, October 1987

Workshop on Human Resources Development Policy and Planning for Technology and Development, Seoul, October-November 1987

Regional Seminar on Forecasting, Planning and Development of Human Resources for Technology, Xiamen, China, November-December 1987

Evaluation Meeting of the Workshop on Human Resources Development Policy and Planning for Technology and Development, Bangkok, January 1988

Preparatory Meeting for a Colloquium on the Use of National Industrial Training Institutes for the Benefit of Developing Countries of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, February 1988

22. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To Bangladesh: (i) to review the industrial policy and identify growth sectors and to make recommendations regarding institutional support for the private sector; (ii) to advise and assist the Government during the investment forum organized in co-operation with UNIDO;

(b) To Bhutan, to advise the Government on formulation of foreign investment policies and overall industrial policy with respect to the forthcoming sixth five-year national development plan;

(c) To China, to advise on planning and policy issues for the development of small-scale industries, especially to the Science and Technology Commissions in Nanjing, Suzhou, Changshu, Taicang, Shanghai and Zhejiang;

(d) To the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to advise the Government on the development of agro-based small- and medium-scale industries;

(e) To Malaysia, to advise the Government on the development of the wood furniture and rubber industries;

(f) To the Republic of Korea, to advise on and assist in the regional forum on industrial policy and structural adjustment;

(g) To Sri Lanka, to advise the Government on promotion of foreign investment and joint ventures and the review of incentive packages for foreign investment;

(h) To Thailand, to advise the Government on identification of potential sectors for direct foreign investment and to assist in the preparation of project profiles for investment promotion;

(i) To Thailand and Viet Nam, to advise the Governments on the development of agro-based small- and medium-scale industries;

(j) To Viet Nam, to advise the Government on the possibilities of the establishment of joint ventures in the area of seafood-processing industries.

23. The following technical publications and studies were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Industry and Technology Development News for Asia and the Pacific*, No. 16

(b) *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, No. 22

(c) "Problems and prospects for development of small industries"

(d) "Regional review of industrial progress and policy issues in developing ESCAP member countries"

Science and technology

24. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Seminar on Successful Implementation of Joint Ventures with Foreign Partners in Thailand, Bangkok, June 1987

Roving Photovoltaic Installers' Training Programme, Maldives, June 1987

Roving Seminar on Acquisition of Foreign Technologies and Negotiation and Execution of Contracts, Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou, China, July-August 1987

Economic Development Board, Singapore/ESCAP Seminar on Successful Implementation of Technology Acquisition and Joint Venture Agreements, Singapore, August 1987

ESCAP/Commission of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, China, Seminar-cum-Consultation on Joint Ventures and Technology Transfer, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China, November 1987

Roving Training Course on the Applications of Solar Photovoltaic Technologies to Remote Area Telecommunications Systems, Hangzhou, China; Vientiane and Hanoi, November 1987

Workshop-cum-Study Tour on the Promotion and Application of Tribological Techniques in Industries, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, March 1988

Seminar-cum-Training Course on Solar Photovoltaic Systems in Developing Countries, Islamabad, March 1988

25. The secretariat worked jointly with APCTT in the following meetings:

Expert Consultative Meeting on the Technology Atlas, Tokyo, October 1987

Regional Workshop on Promotion and Transfer of Technology for National Development, Seoul, November 1987

Technical Advisory Committee of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (third session), Bangkok, December 1987

Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (second session), Bangkok, December 1987

Intergovernmental Meeting on the Technology Atlas, Bangkok, February 1988

26. The secretariat worked jointly with RNAM in the following meetings:

Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (twelfth session), Islamabad, February 1988

Governing Body of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (tenth session), Islamabad, February 1988

27. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To the Republic of Korea, to prepare acquisition, patent and trademark licence contracts;

(b) To Singapore, to advise on technology acquisition and joint venture contracts;

(c) To Thailand, to assist in the preparation of a variety of contractual arrangements in an international hotel joint venture;

(d) To Viet Nam, to advise on technology transfer legislation.

28. The following technical publications and studies were produced or were in preparation during the period under review:

(a) *Directory of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the Promotion of TCDC/ECDC*

(b) *Status and Activities of National Standards Bodies in Selected Developing Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region*

(c) *Study on Ways and Means of Strengthening Co-operation in Research and Development between Developing and Developed Countries*

Human settlements

29. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Second Congress of Local Authorities for Development of Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific, Nagoya, Japan, July 1987

First Working Group Meeting of the Participating Bodies in the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, Yokohama, Japan, July 1987

Regional Colloquium on Shelter Strategies as Follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, Bangkok, September 1987

World Habitat Day Forum, Bangkok, October 1987

International Symposium on Housing, Yokohama, Japan, October-November 1987

Regional Training Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Community Participation in Human Settlements Programmes with Emphasis on Community-based Housing Finance, Dhaka, March 1988

30. The secretariat participated in and/or provided technical inputs into the following activities:

(a) Sixth Meeting of the Co-ordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, Bangkok, April 1987;

(b) International Seminar on the Integrated Urban Development Programme: A Support Strategy for Housing Development, Bangkok, May 1987;

(c) Regional Workshop on Export Marketing for Women Executives, Bangkok, August 1987;

(d) Interagency Meeting on an Integrated Plan of Action on Human Resources Development for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 1987;

(e) Second Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region, Bangkok, December 1987;

(f) Commission on Human Settlements (eleventh session), New Delhi, April 1988.

31. The following advisory services and missions were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, for identification of special areas and modalities of co-operation to be incorporated in the work programme of the network of local authorities;

(b) To the Republic of Korea, to exchange views and obtain information on innovative approaches for promotion of employment-generating activities and the organizational framework in relation to rural centre and settlements planning;

(c) To Sri Lanka, to create awareness of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless through the provision by the regional focal points for the Year of photographs, illustrations and posters of shelter-related activities for the Ninth Anniversary Celebrations of the Village Re-awakening Movement of Sri Lanka, Katargama, July 1987;

(d) To Viet Nam, to advise central and local government officials on inputs required and necessary preparations for the Nagoya Congress, and to identify possible areas of co-operation in the context of a network of local authorities.

32. The following technical publications and studies were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Building Materials for Low-income Housing* (Technical papers), 1987

(b) *Building Materials for Low-income Housing - Report of a Symposium on Building Materials for Low-income Housing in Asia and the Pacific*, held at the United Nations Building, Bangkok, 20-26 January 1987

(c) *Human Settlements Atlas for Asia and the Pacific*, parts III and IV

(d) *Low-cost Shelter Projects in Sri Lanka - Report of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Low-cost Shelter Projects in Sri Lanka, Colombo, 29 September to 7 October 1986*

(e) *Managing Civic Services in Intermediate Cities - Proceedings of the Regional Forum on Managing Civic Services in Intermediate Cities, Bangkok, 27-31 October 1986*

(f) *Study on Human Settlements Planning in Disaster-prone areas: Management of Marginal Settlements*

(g) *Study on the Role of Informal Paratransit in the Socio-economic Development of Urban Areas*

(h) *Study on Subnational Area Planning in Countries of Asia and the Pacific*

(i) *Technical Leaflets on Promotion of Innovative and Appropriate Technologies in the Building and Construction Industry, 1987*

(j) "Report on the International Conference on Human Settlements with Focus on Finance and Management", Bombay, India, 22-25 January 1987

Environment

33. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Consultative Meeting of Environmental Journalists on Media and the Environment, Bangkok, April-May 1987

ESCAP/SPREP Subregional Coastal Resource Management and Protected Area Planning Course, Nuku'alofa, May 1987

ESCAP/UNEP/Commission of the USSR for UNEP, Training Seminar on Rangeland Improvement in the Arid and Semi-arid Zones and its Environmental and Socio-economic Aspects, USSR, May-June 1987

Inter-ministerial Symposium on the Coastal Environmental Management Plan for Bangladesh, Dhaka, June 1987

ESCAP/SPREP Subregional Planning Course on Coastal Resource Management, Federated States of Micronesia, July 1987

Regional Conference on Media and the Environment in Asia, Bangkok, January 1988

ESCAP/SPREP Training Course on Coastal Resource Management, Port Vila, February 1988

34. Technical inputs were provided to the following:

(a) Regional Research Seminar on Perspectives of Asia's Future, Bangkok, July 1987

(b) Fourteenth Meeting of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme Co-ordinating Group, Noumea, September 1987

(c) 1987 Hazardous Waste Disposal Conference, Kuala Lumpur, October 1987

(d) Second Meeting of Experts on the East Asian Seas Action Plan, Bangkok, November-December 1987

(e) Second Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region, Bangkok, December 1987

(f) Training Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment and Evaluation, organized by the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank, India, January 1988

35. Programme/financial support was provided to: (a) national forums of environmental journalists in Nepal and Sri Lanka, in support of their programme activities during 1987/88; (b) the Government of Tonga, in organizing the Training Seminar on Environment and Sustainable Development, Tonga, May 1987; (c) the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, in organizing an environmental seminar, Federated States of Micronesia, July 1987; (d) the Philippine Press Institute, in organizing the Workshop on Media and the Environment, the Philippines, 14-19 September 1987; and (e) the Government of Vanuatu, in publishing the proceedings of the Resource, Development and Environment Conference, Port Vila, September 1987.

36. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To Bangladesh, Pakistan and Tonga, to develop coastal environmental management plans for those countries;

(b) To Bangladesh and Nepal, to assist in promoting public awareness on environmental issues through their national forums of environmental journalists.

37. The following technical publications and studies were completed during the period under review:

(a) *Desertification in Asia and the Pacific - A Regional Review and Assessment*

(b) *Environmental and Socio-economic Aspects of Tropical Deforestation in Asia and the Pacific*

(c) *Environmental Management for Sustainable Socio-economic Development*

(d) *ESCAP Environment News* (quarterly)

(e) *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific*, vol. 1, *Summary*

(f) Audio-visual module entitled "Bangladesh: the precious wetlands"

(g) "Coastal environmental management plan for Bangladesh"

(h) "Environmental aspects of production, marketing and use of pesticides in the ESCAP region"

(i) "Environmental management of mountain ecosystems in Asia and the Pacific"

(j) "Feasibility study on the establishment of a regional mangrove research institute"

(k) "Guidebook on environmental reporting"

(l) "Proceedings of the Training Seminar on Rangeland Improvement in the Arid and Semi-arid Zones and Its Environmental and Socio-economic Aspects"

(m) "Sectoral environmental impact assessment guidelines"

38. The activities of the secretariat network of environmental focal points were further strengthened with the organization of meetings and consultations with the following divisions/units, with a view to strengthening environmental aspects in the overall work programme of the Commission:

(a) Agriculture Division, on preparing a regional study on the environmental aspects of production, marketing and use of pesticides;

(b) ESCAP/UNIDO Division of Industry, Human Settlements and Technology, on

developing a project on a training course on environmental pollution control for industrial managers and engineers;

(c) Natural Resources Division, on arranging a regional workshop on management of the environmental impact of water resources development projects, to be held in the USSR in July 1988;

(d) Social Development Division, for possible co-operation on the role of women in environmental management, and on youth and the environment;

(e) Transport, Communications and Tourism Division, on developing the outline of a study on tourism and the environment, and initiating environmental studies for the cyclone protection project in Bangladesh;

(f) ESCAP/UNCTC Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations, on organizing the ESCAP/UNCTC/UNEP Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Aspects of Transnational Corporation Activities in the ESCAP Region, November 1987.

39. As one of the campaigns for environmental awareness among students, youth and active citizens, painting and poster competitions were organized for two target groups (aged above 15, and aged 15 and below) in the region.

40. Close co-operation was maintained with other United Nations organizations and agencies, particularly with UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and WHO, in the implementation of the work programme of ESCAP in the field of the environment. Active co-operation was also maintained with the subregional environment programmes, media and non-governmental organizations.

Committee on Natural Resources

Energy resources

41. The following meetings, seminars and training courses were held during the period under review:

Meeting of Senior Experts Preparatory to the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on Natural Resources, Bangkok, May 1987

Tripartite Review Conference of the Regional Energy Development Programme, Bangkok, August 1987

Workshop on Energy Conservation Policy and Measures for Energy Demand Management, Bangkok, October 1987

Photovoltaic Training Course: Systems Design and Telecommunications Applications, Hangzhou, China, November 1987

Interregional TCDC Training-cum-Workshop in Biogas Technology, Hangzhou, China, November 1987

Training Course on the Applications of Solar Photovoltaic Technologies and Remote Area Telecommunication Systems, Hanoi and Vientiane, November 1987

Regional TCDC Workshop on Energy Conservation and New and Renewable Sources of Energy Utilization in Tobacco Curing, Chiang Mai, Thailand, December 1987

ESCAP/UNESCO/KMIT (King Mongkut Institute of Technology)/AIT Workshop Discussion on Biomass Conversion Technology Development and Transfer, Bangkok, February 1988

Seminar-cum-Training Course on Solar Photovoltaic Systems in Developing Countries, Islamabad, March 1988

42. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To China, to present lectures on: (i) energy conservation, at training workshops organized by the State Economic Commission and the Chinese Academy of Science; and (ii) energy demand and supply, at Hangzhou Regional Centre, on Small Hydro Power;

(b) To Malaysia, on energy auditing in industry;

(c) To Mongolia, on the development of renewable sources of energy;

(d) To Thailand, on energy conservation in selected industries;

(e) To Tonga, on power generation and utilization.

43. The following missions were undertaken:

(a) Preparatory consultations on organizing meetings/training courses in China, Indonesia, the Lao People's

Democratic Republic, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam;

(b) Consultation on TCDC co-operation with India and Maldives in the field of solar photovoltaics.

44. The Energy Resources Section participated in the Operations Evaluation Unit missions on energy to the Republic of Korea and Thailand.

45. The following technical publications were produced during the period under review:

(a) *ESCAP Energy News*, vol. V, No. 1

(b) *New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Development* (Energy Resources Development Series, No. 30)

(c) "Role of new and renewable sources of energy in the Philippines"

46. The following technical reports prepared by the regional adviser on energy were submitted to the concerned Governments: (a) "Energy conservation issues in Solomon Islands"; (b) "Energy conservation in selected industries in Thailand"; (c) "Power generation and utilization in Kiribati"; (d) "Power generation and distribution in Tonga"; (e) "Solomon Islands - 1986 country review"; (f) Two sets of training materials on energy conservation, to the Government of China; and (g) "Renewable sources of energy for rural power supply in Mongolia".

47. The secretariat continued to provide technical support to the regional energy development programme (REDP) and the Pacific energy development programme (PEDP). The Regional Network on Biomass, Solar and Wind Energy, and PEDP helped service a training course on the installation, operation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems, Maldives, June 1987.

48. The secretariat attended and contributed technical papers to meetings and seminars in the field of energy development organized by non-governmental, international or intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, FAO, UNESCO, East-West Center, Renewable Energy Institute (Thailand), Institute of International Research (Malaysia), and the Institute of Energy Economics (Japan).

Mineral resources

49. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Expert Working Group Meeting-cum-Workshop on the Urban Geology of Coastal Areas, Shanghai, China, September 1987

Fifth Expert Working Group Meeting on Stratigraphic Correlation between Sedimentary Basins of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November 1987

Training Course for Senior Geologists on Management in Mineral Exploration, Ipoh, Malaysia, November-December 1987

Second Workshop on Kuroko-type Mineralization, Suva, February 1988

50. The secretariat participated in the nineteenth session of the Governing Board of the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre, held at Pattaya, Thailand in June 1987, and in the First Asia-Pacific Mining Conference/Exhibition held at Bangkok in February 1988.

51. The following advisory services and missions were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To China, to organize a symposium on volcanology and metallogeny of the Pacific rim and a workshop on small-scale mining and exploratory tunnelling;

(b) To Fiji, to assist the Government in organizing the Second Workshop on Kuroko-type Mineralization, held at Suva in February 1988;

(c) To Indonesia, to assess present and future gold exploration programmes, mainly in Kalimantan;

(d) To Malaysia, to provide advisory services to the Geological Survey of Malaysia on mineral exploration and development strategies;

(e) To Malaysia, to provide advisory services for gold exploration and reassessment of old gold workings in Peninsular Malaysia (mainly in the States of Kelantan and Perak), Sarawak and Sabah, and to review follow-up activities on earlier mission recommendations to the Malaysian Government;

(f) To Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to assist national geological agencies in assessing geologic hazards and provide in-house training for a preliminary analysis of the urban geology of Kathmandu; Colombo; Kuala Lumpur; and Quetta, Pakistan;

(g) To Nepal, to assist the Department of Mines and Geology in assessing base metals, gold and uranium prospects;

(h) To Pakistan, to provide advisory services and in-house training on exploration programmes and prospects of uranium resources development;

(i) To the Philippines, to provide advisory services to the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences on a geological/geochemical exploration programme for base and precious metals in the island of Luzon;

(j) To Viet Nam, with secretariat staff of the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, to investigate the ground-water resources of the Sarai region;

(k) To Viet Nam, to advise the General Department of Geology on mineral exploration and development strategies and to organize a workshop on geophysical exploration methods in tropical terranes.

52. The following technical publications and studies were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region*, vol. IV, containing an explanatory brochure with geological and mineral distribution maps of New Zealand;

(b) *Atlas of Stratigraphy*, vol. VII, *Triassic*, containing typical cross-sections of the Triassic period from 11 Asian and Pacific countries; in addition, stratotypes of the Triassic for Burma, Mongolia, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea were compiled;

(c) The new series entitled *Atlas of Urban Geology* commenced with the publication of the papers presented at the Seminar on Geological Mapping in the Urban Environment (Bangkok, October 1986). The second volume of this series comprised the papers of the Expert Working Group Meeting-cum-Workshop on the Urban Geology of Coastal Areas (Shanghai, September 1987);

(d) *Geology of Tin Deposits in Asia and the Pacific: Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region*, vol. 3 of the series;

(e) A desk study on non-metallic minerals potential in the region and the status of development in the industrial minerals sector was prepared by experts from the USSR.

53. The secretariat continued to provide technical support to SEATRADC, and the regional remote sensing programme.

Water resources

54. The following meetings/workshops were held during the period under review:

Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok (nineteenth session), July 1987 (twentieth session), December 1987

Typhoon Committee (twentieth session), Bangkok, October 1987

Regional Expert Group Consultative Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in Water Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, December 1987

Expert Group Meeting on Improvement of Flood Loss Prevention Systems Based on Risk Analysis and Mapping, Bangkok, January 1988

Panel on Tropical Cyclones (fifteenth session), Colombo, March 1988

55. The secretariat co-operated with WMO in organizing and servicing the fifteenth session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones. The secretariat continued its support to the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin by participating in the workshops organized by the Committee and by reviewing the documents for and participating in its twenty-fifth session, held at Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, in June 1987 and in its twenty-sixth session, held at Bangkok in February 1988.

56. The following advisory services and missions were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) Consultancy missions to China, Hong Kong, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam;

(b) The regional adviser visited Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand;

(c) Advisory services were provided to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration on prevention and mitigation of floods and a paper was presented at the International Workshop on Urban Flood Protection and Drainage in East and South-East Asia, Bangkok, June 1987.

57. The following technical publications were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Confluence* (semi-annual newsletter)

(b) *Water Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific: Some Issues and Concerns* (Water Resources Series, No. 62)

(c) *Water Resources Journal* (quarterly)

58. The secretariat is currently undertaking a project on flood risk analysis and mapping, funded by Japan, and another project on preparation of a manual and guidelines on comprehensive flood loss prevention and management, funded by UNDP. Information on training requirements of countries and training capabilities of institutes and agencies in the Phase I activities of the regional network for training in water resources development was prepared and disseminated.

Cartography and remote sensing

59. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region, Phuket, Thailand, May 1987

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the ESCAP/UNDP Regional Remote Sensing Programme (fourth session), Phuket, Thailand, May 1987

Workshop on the Application of High Resolution Satellite Data, Jakarta, October 1987

Working Group Meeting on Policy Administration and Financial Support of the Regional Remote Sensing Programme, Bangkok, November 1987

Training Course in Remote Sensing Applications to Urban Surveys, Dehra Dun, India, December 1987

60. During the period under review, assistance was rendered to the following technical co-operation exchange activities:

(a) An Australian team evaluated the photographic processing capabilities of the Indonesian and Thai ground receiving stations;

(b) Australia assisted in training two Indonesian and two Thai photographic technologists at the Australian Centre for Remote Sensing;

(c) Papua New Guinea and Thailand continued their exchange, which resulted in a national mapping programme of the forest cover of Papua New Guinea;

(d) Thailand continued to provide assistance in the selection and installation of remote sensing equipment for the Pakistan remote sensing ground station.

61. The following publications and technical papers were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on the Application of Remote Sensing Techniques to Coastal Zone Management and Environmental Monitoring, Dhaka, 18-26 November 1986*

(b) *Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on the Application of Remote Sensing Techniques for Geological Mapping and Mineral Prospecting, Moscow, June 1986*

(c) *Remote Sensing Newsletter* (quarterly)

(d) *Report of the Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region: including the Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the ESCAP/UNDP Regional Remote Sensing Programme*

(e) *Report of the China/Sri Lanka Pilot Study on the Application of Remote Sensing Technology to Geologic and Coastal Research, Colombo, November 1986*

(f) *Roster of Remote Sensing Scientists and Specialists in the ESCAP Region, 2nd ed., August 1987*

(g) "Report of the International Workshop on Urban and Regional Information Systems, New Delhi, 16-19 December 1986"

(h) "Report of the Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications in Vegetation and Land-use Classification and Mapping, Papua New Guinea, August 1987"

62. The status of the pilot studies during the period under review was the following:

(a) The forestry pilot study component by the Forestry Department was expanded to a national forestry mapping project with the assistance of Kasetsart University of Thailand. The component conducted by the University of Technology at Lae, Papua New Guinea, completed its research in using microcomputers for monitoring forest clearing;

(b) Viet Nam conducted a coastal zone pilot study as part of the coastal zone studies series initiated by Bangladesh, India and Thailand. Delays were caused by the late deliveries of the satellite imagery;

(c) A land-use pilot study was conducted in co-operation with the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin to investigate the potential of resources by providing resource data for various planning projects in the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

(d) China and Nepal conducted individual snow-line studies to determine the potential of using satellite high and low resolution data to monitor the water resources of their respective areas;

(e) Assistance was provided to the South Pacific countries by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to conduct a pilot study, at the request of several South Pacific countries, on the use of the NOAA/Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (NOAA/AVHRR) data for locating potential fishing areas.

63. The regional information services continued to collect information on remote sensing scientists and specialists, on remote sensing projects and facilities, and for the bibliographic data base for both regional and extraregional publications. The microcomputers of the programme were used to prepare the

computerized list, which now contains more than 900 references.

64. Questionnaires were distributed to establish the focal points for an education and an information network.

65. Questionnaires on the roster were also distributed to the alumni of the remote sensing training courses of the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), the International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences (the Netherlands) and the Remote Sensing Technology Center (Japan).

66. The project is now in its sixth year and completed its first phase at the end of 1986. The Commission at its forty-second session endorsed the second phase of the project and UNDP has approved further financial support.

67. The representatives of countries participating in the Fourth Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (Phuket, Thailand, May 1987), developed a new work plan and agreed to host the various activities of the project.

Marine resources

68. The following meeting was held during the period under review:

Training Course on Coastal Geology,
Guangzhou, China, November-December
1987

69. The secretariat participated in the following meetings:

(a) CCOP (twenty-fourth session) and its Technical Advisory Group (twenty-third session), Bangkok, October-November 1987

(b) Offshore Technology Conference, Houston, United States, April 1987

(c) Gorda Ridge Symposium, Portland, United States, May 1987

(d) Standing Committee of IOMAC (Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Co-operation) (second meeting), Colombo, September 1987

(e) Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC) and its Technical Advisory Group (sixteenth session), Lae, Papua New Guinea, October 1987

70. The following advisory services and missions were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To Burma, Malaysia and Pakistan, to assess the implications of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in those countries, as well as their needs for assistance in this field;

(b) To the CCOP/SOPAC technical secretariat, Suva, to provide technical advice in geological/geophysical exploration methods and technologies and on work programme activities of mutual concern.

71. The following technical publications and studies were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Mineral Sands Deposits in Asia and the Pacific* (Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region, vol. 4)

(b) "Report on the water resources and the mineral resources of the Republic of Maldives"

72. The secretariat continued to provide technical support to CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC.

Committee on Population

73. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Interim Meeting of the Study Directors on Emerging Issues of the Aging of Population, Bangkok, August 1987

Study Directors' Meeting on Analytical Frameworks for Population and Development Research and Planning, Bangkok, September 1987

Asia-Pacific POPIN Workshop on Writing for Population Publications, Jakarta, September-October 1987

Final Meeting of the Study Directors on Some Organizational Issues in Community Participation in the Context of National Family Planning Programmes, Chiang Mai, Thailand, October 1987

Regional Training Course on Sub-national Population Projections, Bangkok, November 1987

Training Course on the Use of Micro-computers for Demographic Analysis,

Survey Data Processing and Family Planning Evaluation, Bangkok, November 1987

National Workshop in Thailand on Training in the Use of Microcomputers for Demographic Analysis, Survey Data Processing and Family Planning Evaluation, Bangkok, November-December 1987

74. The following training activities were organized:

(a) Two library staff members of the Viet Nam Population Documentation Information Centre library took a special three-week course on resource base development at ESCAP, June-July 1987;

(b) Three editors from the China Population Information Centre took a three-week course on desk-top publishing at the Thomson Foundation and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), United Kingdom, September-October 1987;

(c) A senior researcher from the Sichuan Population Information Subcentre, China, undertook a 12-month non-degree programme in demography research at the Nihon University Population Research Institute, Tokyo, November 1987;

(d) Two demography researchers from Tianjin and Liaoning Population Information Subcentres, China, undertook a 13-month graduate programme in demography at the Australian National University, Canberra, November 1987;

(e) Two library staff members from the Thai Population Information Centre undertook a two-week special course on the applications of microcomputers with CDS/ISIS bibliographic software at ESCAP, December 1987;

(f) A two-week study tour programme on the management of national population information systems in Malaysia and Thailand was arranged for the Director of the Sri Lanka Population Information Centre, December 1987.

75. The secretariat participated in the following meetings:

Second General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Beijing, September 1987

Second POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee Meeting, Nairobi, November 1987

Third Regional Congress of the International Association of Gerontology: Asia/Oceania Region, Bangkok, November 1987

IUSSP (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population) Seminar on Biomedical and Demographic Determinants of Human Reproduction, Baltimore, United States, December 1987-January 1988

Tripartite Review Meeting (China Population Information Centre, ESCAP and UNFPA), Beijing, January 1988

Viet Nam Population Documentation and Information Centre Meeting, Hanoi, March 1988

IUSSP (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population) Seminar on Fertility Transition in Asia: Diversity and Change, Bangkok, March 1988

76. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To Bangladesh, on the development and strengthening of the national population information services;

(b) To Bangladesh, China, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, for the preparation of the report on organizational issues in community participation in the context of national family planning programmes;

(c) To Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand, to provide technical backstopping to country studies on analytical frameworks for population and development research and planning;

(d) To China, on library automation for the China Population Information Centre;

(e) To China, India and Pakistan, to consult with government officials on assistance in improvement of the management information system for family planning programmes;

(f) To China, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, to assist with a survey on the knowledge and attitudes of grass-roots-level family planning workers;

(g) To China, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, to monitor the country studies on emerging issues of population aging;

(h) To Indonesia: (i) to make preliminary arrangements for the Asia-Pacific POPIN Workshop on Writing for Population Publications; (ii) to provide technical assistance in organizing the Workshop; and (iii) to lecture at the Workshop;

(i) To Malaysia: (i) on analysis of the national health and population survey data of 1984; and (ii) on the integration of family planning with other development efforts;

(j) To Nepal, to provide technical assistance in project formulation for the National Population Information Centre;

(k) To Papua New Guinea, to lecture on demographic and social statistics;

(l) To the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, to advise on conducting research on a migration survey for a project on internal migration;

(m) To Sri Lanka: (i) to advise on conducting an internal migration study and migration tabulations; and (ii) to review the current status of the UNFPA-funded project on the Sri Lanka Population Information Centre and to prepare plans for technical backstopping for the period 1988-1989;

(n) To Viet Nam: (i) to lecture at training courses on demographic analysis; (ii) to advise on conducting the demographic and contraceptive prevalence survey; and (iii) to conduct training in demography.

77. The following publications and studies were produced or were being prepared during the period under review:

(a) Asian Population Studies Series Nos. 62-E-F, I, K and 78, 80, 82, 84 and 85

(b) *Comparison of Four Bibliographic Microcomputer Software Packages*

(c) *Directory of Population Experts in Asia and the Pacific: 1987 Supplement*

(d) *ESCAP Population Data Sheet 1987*

(e) *Patterns of Internal Migration in Selected Countries of the ESCAP Region*

(f) *The Asia-Pacific Population Information Network - A Profile* (brochure)

(g) *The Asia-Pacific Population Information Network - In Brief* (brochure)

78. Issues of the following periodicals were published:

(a) *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*

(b) *Asia-Pacific POPIN Newsletter*

(c) *Asian-Pacific and Worldwide Documents on Population Topics (ADOPT)*

(d) *Catalogue of ESCAP Population Publications Through 1987*

(e) *Population Headliners*

(f) *Population Research Leads*

(g) *Recommended Titles in Population*

Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications

Shipping, Ports and Inland Waterways Wing

79. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

ESCAP/UNDP Expert Group Meeting on Port Tariff Structures (second session), Bangkok, May 1987

ESCAP/FASA (Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations) Country-level Workshop on Energy Saving in Shipping: Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila and Singapore, May 1987; Kuala Lumpur, June 1987

Meeting of Chief Executives of Port Authorities (sixth session), Bangkok, May 1987

Subregional Seminar on Freight Forwarding, Bombay and Jakarta, June 1987

Country-level Seminar on Freight Forwarding, Singapore, June 1987

Seminar on Port Computer Usage in Containerization, Rotterdam, Netherlands, July 1987

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Seminar on the Port Management Information System (PORTMIS), Shanghai, China, September 1987

Workshop on Implementation of Model Port Tariff Structure, Melbourne, Australia, October 1987

Subregional Seminar on Non-Vessel-Operating Common Carriers for ASEAN Shippers, Bangkok, October 1987

Country-level Workshop on Maritime Legislation (fourth session), Shanghai, China, October 1987

Meeting of Chief Executives of National Freight Forwarders' Associations (second session), Singapore, November 1987

Seminar on Seafarers' Training and Education, Manila and Tacloban, November 1987

Country-level Seminar on Training of Trainers for the Shanghai Maritime Institute, Shanghai, China, November-December 1987

ESCAP/UNDP Seminar on Port and Cargo Security, Bangkok, December 1987

Country-level Workshop on Maritime Transport for Shippers (Basic Course), Karachi, Pakistan, January 1988; and Dhaka, January-February 1988

Seminar on Maintenance and Improvement of Inland Waterways: River Training and Low-cost Dredging Techniques, Guangzhou, China, January-February 1988

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Port Development and Evaluation Policy in Developing Countries, Yokohama, Japan, and Manila, March 1988

Subregional Workshop on Shippers' Cooperation: Maritime Fraud, Manila, March 1988

Meeting of Chief Executives of National Shippers' Organizations (ninth session), Manila, March 1988

80. The secretariat participated in the following meetings:

(a) Fifteenth International Association of Ports and Harbours Conference, Seoul, April-May 1987

(b) Workshop on ASEAN Seafarers, Bangkok, May 1987

(c) Country-level Seminar on Freight Booking and Cargo Consolidation, Jakarta, June 1987

(d) ASEAN-COTAC (Committee on Transportation and Communications of the ASEAN Economic Ministers) Meetings, Malaysia, June and October 1987, and Second Meeting of Issues Committee VI, Malaysia, October 1987

(e) Executive Committee Meeting of FASC (Federation of ASEAN Shippers' Councils), Manila, August 1987

(f) China Portex '87, Shanghai, China, September 1987

(g) Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Shipping and Ports, Jakarta, October 1987

(h) *Ad Hoc* Working Group of FASC, Bangkok, October 1987

(i) Meeting of the Asian Working Group of Freight Forwarders, Singapore, November 1987

(j) Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of FASA, Phuket, Thailand, November 1987

81. The following assistance and advisory services were provided during the period under review:

(a) To Bangladesh: (i) on dredging activities, and (ii) in connection with a fellowship for training in modern port equipment management in Japan;

(b) To China: (i) to the Shanghai Maritime Institute, on establishing and strengthening of a maritime training centre; and (ii) in connection with two fellowships for training in modern port equipment management in Japan;

(c) To India, on the possibility of establishing a maritime training centre of excellence;

(d) To Indonesia, on the establishment and strengthening of the national freight booking and cargo consolidation centre;

(e) To the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on port project sites at Thanaleng and Lak Si in Vientiane and Keng Kabao in Savannakhet;

(f) To Malaysia, on dredging activities and port tariff structure;

(g) To Pakistan, on dredging activities and maritime legislation; and on the need to strengthen the secretariat staff of the Shippers' Council;

(h) To the Republic of Korea, on requirements for PORTMIS;

(i) To Singapore, on dredging activities;

(j) To Sri Lanka, on PORTMIS and port tariff structure and on the possibility of establishing a maritime training centre of excellence;

(k) To Thailand: (i) the Port Authority of Thailand, on PORTMIS, port tariff structure, port computerization and dredging; (ii) the Merchant Marine Institute, Chulalongkorn University, on the establishment of a maritime training centre of excellence; and (iii) the Board of Trade, on the establishment and strengthening of the freight booking and cargo consolidation centre;

(l) To South Pacific island countries: (i) to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, to determine needs and develop a programme of work in ports, shipping and ship users' co-operation; (ii) to Fiji and Niue, one fellowship to each country for training at the Auckland Harbour Board, New Zealand; and (iii) to Papua New Guinea, to assess the present situation and needs of the Shippers' Council.

82. The following publications were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Proceedings of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Dredging Operations, Planning and Training, The Netherlands, October 1985*

(b) *Report of a Country-level Workshop on Ocean Transport Planning and Shipping Management, Shanghai, China, 29 April-10 May 1985*

(c) *Report of the Meeting of Chief Executives of Port Authorities, sixth session, Bangkok, 7-8 May 1987*

(d) *Report and Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Design and Construction of Inland Waterway Craft, Bangkok, 14-18 July 1986*

(e) *Report and Proceedings of the Seminar on Classification of Inland Waterways, China, 18-27 September 1986*

(f) *Report of the Project on Energy-saving Measures in Shipping, and of the Country-level Workshop on Energy-saving in Shipping, held in ASEAN Capitals, 7 May-9 June 1987*

(g) *Report on the Seminar on Ship-owners' Liability and Insurance, Tokyo, 29 September-4 October 1986*

(h) *Report of the Subregional Workshop on Shippers' Co-operation for the Pacific Island Countries, Port Vila, 8-16 July 1986*

(i) *Report and Technical Papers on the Subregional Workshop on Shippers' Co-operation: Impact on Containerization for ASCOBIPS Countries, Karachi, Pakistan, 17-19 December 1985*

(j) *Review of Developments in Shipping, Ports and Inland Waterways in the ESCAP Region, 1986*

(k) *Use of Maritime Transport: A Guide for Shippers, Freight Forwarders and Ship Operators, vols. I and II*

(l) "Report on the intra-ASEAN shipping study, November 1987"

83. Studies/surveys were undertaken on the following subjects: (a) alternative fuel-saving measures for ASEAN countries; (b) computerization requirements of the Port Authority of Thailand; (c) intra-ASEAN shipping study; (d) survey of port computer software with potential to be used by the ESCAP region; (e) software programme for ship management and billing in the Port Authority of Thailand; (f) review of the PORTMIS implementation programme at the Port Authority of Thailand; (g) study on ASEAN fleet structure: its expansion and modernization; (h) study on effects of shipboard automation and applied computer technology on manpower planning and training; and (i) study on performance improvement of sail-equipped craft.

Transport, Communications and Tourism Wing

84. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Training Course on Excessive Rail/Wheel Wear and Derailment, Sri Lanka, May 1987; Beijing, September 1987

Training Course on Rehabilitation of Worn Components of Railway Turnouts, Indonesia, June 1987

Workshop on Improvement of Railway Productivity by Application of Modern Statistics and Computer Techniques, Kuala Lumpur, June-July 1987

Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group (Subgroup I), Kuala Lumpur, July 1987

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Cost-effective Road Construction and Maintenance through Marshy/Wet and Arid Areas in the USSR, August 1987

Meeting of National Experts on Integrated Transport Planning, Bangkok, September 1987

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Low-cost Mechanized Techniques for Construction and Maintenance of Roads in China, September-October 1987

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on the Role of Railways in Urban Transport, Japan, October 1987

Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group (fourth session), Bangkok, December 1987

Regional Seminar on Air Cargo Handling and Management, Kathmandu, January 1988

Seminar on the Planning of Rural Telecommunication Networks, Bangkok, March 1988

85. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, on environmental impact assessment of road transport development;

(b) To the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia and Vanuatu, to discuss various aspects of air transport;

(c) To India and Indonesia, to discuss the possibilities of utilizing road research institutes of the two countries for a rural road transport development project to be carried out by the secretariat;

(d) To Indonesia, Nepal and Viet Nam, to discuss various technical aspects of railway development;

(e) To the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to discuss the updating of Asian Highway statistics and preparation of a new Asian Highway route map covering that country;

(f) To Malaysia and Singapore, to survey and update the Asian Highway route map covering the two countries;

(g) To Maldives, to assist in the conduct of a study on the economic impact of tourism;

(h) To the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, to discuss the UNDP regional project on telecommunication networking of test and development centres, and to identify new areas of intercountry co-operation in improving telecommunication management and operation in the ESCAP region;

(i) To Sri Lanka, to provide advisory services on railway statistics and computers.

86. The following technical publications and studies were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Asian Highway Route Map for Indonesia*

(b) *Manual on Rural Road Construction* (Thai version)

(c) *Manual on Rural Road Maintenance* (Thai version)

(d) *Railway Statistics and Information for Asia and the Pacific, 1985*

(e) *Trends in the Development of Roads and Road Transport in Asia and the Pacific*, serial Nos. 1 and 2

(f) "An economically effective system of maintenance of electric rolling stock"

(g) "Increase of safety, effectiveness and productivity of operation of railways"

(h) "The main principles adopted by railways in the region for railway development planning"

(i) "Recent advances in signalling and communications"

(j) "Study on optimum investment policy in development of railway line capacity"

(k) "Study report on standardization for the Trans-Asian Railway specifically for container transport"

Committee on Social Development

87. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Workshop on Evaluation of Youth Leadership Training Courses, Nepal, May 1987

Regional Expert Seminar to Review Achievements at the Mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, Bangkok, June 1987

IUS (International Union of Students)/ESCAP Seminar on the Contribution of Asian and Pacific Students to the Development of their Societies, Ulan Bator, June 1987

Second Meeting of the Steering Group on the Establishment of a Standing Committee of Agencies and Non-governmental Organizations on Youth, Bangkok, July 1987

National Workshop on Project Administration for Women, Colombo, July 1987; Islamabad, December 1987; Dhaka, March 1988

National Workshop for the Development of Community-based Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Programmes, Kathmandu, August 1987; Gaylephug, Bhutan, December 1987; Vientiane, January-February 1988

Seminar on the Role of Women in Social and Economic Development with Special Reference to Rural Development, Tashkent, USSR, September 1987

International Training Course for Programme Managers and Associated Personnel on Skill Development for Out-of-school Youth, Kuala Lumpur, October 1987

Inter-agency Meeting on the ESCAP/WHO Project on Drug Abuse Rehabilitation in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October 1987

Ad Hoc Meeting of the Inter-agency Committee for Women in Development, Bangkok, October 1987

Expert Group Meeting to Review and Plan Youth Training Programmes in

the ESCAP Region, Thimphu, November 1987

Expert Group Meeting to Formulate Guidelines for an ESCAP Integrated Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, Tokyo, December 1987

Inter-agency Meeting on an Integrated Plan of Action on Human Resources Development for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 1987

Expert Seminar on the Promotion of National Infrastructures for Aging Populations in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 1987

First Meeting of the United Nations Standing Committee on Youth for the Asian-Pacific Region, Bangkok, January 1988

Third Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Inter-Organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns, Bangkok, February 1988

Workshop on a Standard Format for Drug Abuse Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation, Bangkok, February 1988

88. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Viet Nam, to assist in developing policies and plans for the integration of disabled persons in society;

(b) To the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, to assist in the strengthening of national structures and mechanisms, including national policies and programmes for the integration of women in development;

(c) To the Governments of Bhutan, China, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, to strengthen national efforts in mobilizing youth for development;

(d) To the Governments of China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, on improvement of programme management capabilities in the field of health and development;

(e) To the Governments of Fiji, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, on strengthening crime prevention policies and programmes;

(f) To the Governments of Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, on strengthening social development policies and programmes.

89. The following technical publications and studies were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in Asia and the Pacific*

(b) *Data Development for Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation in the ESCAP Region*

(c) *Directory of National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific*

(d) *Directory of Women Experts in Asia and the Pacific*

(e) *Guidelines on Social Measures for the Prevention of Crime among Youth and on Juvenile Justice: the Role of Youth Organizations in the ESCAP Region*

(f) *Handbook on Funding and Training Resources for Disability-related Services in Asia and the Pacific*

(g) *Health and Development in Asia and the Pacific: Two Studies*

(h) *Momentum*, Nos. 4-8

(i) *Regional Fellowship Programme for National Personnel Responsible for Planning and Organizing Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Services*

(j) *Report of the Regional Expert Seminar to Review Achievements at the Mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons*

(k) *Social Development Data Base*, parts A and B

(l) *Social Development Newsletter*, No. 14

(m) *Study on Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Activities in the ESCAP Region*

(n) *WINAP Newsletter*, vol. I, No. 1

(o) *Women's Economic Participation in Asia and the Pacific*

(p) *Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP)*

(q) *Young Women Workers in Manufacturing: A Case Study of Rapidly Industrializing Economies of the ESCAP Region*

(r) "Consideration of the overall scope and content of an integrated plan of action on human resources development"

(s) "Current and prospective human resources development activities of the ESCAP secretariat and other United Nations bodies and agencies in Asia and the Pacific"

(t) "Employment and manpower development aspects of human resources development"

(u) "ESCAP suggestions for amending the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking comprehensive multidisciplinary outline"

(v) "Selected country studies on the socio-economic impact of development programmes on low-income groups"

(w) "Integration of women's concerns into human resources development"

(x) "Quality of life aspects of human resources development"

(y) "Science and technology aspects of human resources development"

(z) "Social aspects of industrialization"

(aa) "Social development trends and strategies in Asia and the Pacific"

(bb) "Training manual on managing development programmes for women"

(cc) "Training manual on the transfer of technology among rural women"

90. Various other research studies and programme activities were under preparation or implemented during the period under review, including: (a) assistance to Governments on the development of national disability-prevention and rehabilitation programmes; (b) facilitation and co-ordination of human resources development in Asia and the Pacific; (c) projects on: (i) co-operation between government

agencies and non-governmental organizations in the delivery of social services for women; (ii) drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation; (iii) management of the women's information centre; (iv) policy and planning guidelines for human resources development; (v) promotion of legal literacy among women; (vi) a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond; (vii) women in agriculture in Asia; and (d) in collaboration with UNICEF, the preparation of the 1988 Asian and Pacific Atlas of Children in National Development.

Committee on Statistics

91. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

ESCAP/SIAP Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Education and Training, Bangkok, May 1987

ESCAP/SPC Pacific Working Group Meeting on the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme, Rarotonga, June 1987

ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Workshop on the International Comparison Project, Bangkok, October 1987

NHSCP Training Course on Electronic Data Processing, New Delhi, August-December 1987

92. Secretariat staff delivered lectures:

(a) at the NHSCP-related training course held in India on various aspects of data processing and use of software packages on microcomputers; (b) at a national workshop in Sri Lanka on women's contributions to the national economy; (c) at a SIAP training course, also in Sri Lanka, on microcomputers and basic programming; (d) in Pakistan on population and housing census planning; (e) at a training workshop in Indonesia for users and producers of data and indicators on economic activity of women; (f) at the APDC seminar/training course in Malaysia on energy related statistics; and (g) at training courses in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on statistics and planning techniques.

93. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea, to advise on various aspects of government information systems and

computerization, including their development, strengthening and co-ordination;

(b) To Bangladesh to review the progress of the household survey capability programme in that country, and to Brunei Darussalam and Thailand, to assist in developing survey procedures, including editing and coding of data and on the evaluation of social and economic data from household surveys;

(c) To Brunei Darussalam, the Cook Islands, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Palau, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, to assist in the planning, organization and analysis of population and housing censuses and demographic surveys, in the preparation and publication of census reports, and in improving the civil registration and vital statistics system;

(d) To China, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Pakistan and Solomon Islands, to advise and assist in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of energy statistics;

(e) To Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to assist in various aspects of population and housing censuses and demographic surveys, including the collection of data on economic topics through those inquiries, and training of personnel for the purpose;

(f) To Malaysia, Niue, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, to advise on various aspects of data processing, including production of census tables, use of various software packages for data processing, and assessment and evaluation of data processing facilities and needs;

(g) To seven countries in connection with the formulation of the project document for the ESCAP/UNDP project on improved government information systems proposed for funding during the UNDP fourth intercountry programme cycle, 1987-1991. The objective of the visits was to obtain an overview of developments in public sector computing in various countries, and to discuss possible areas for co-operation and joint activities under the proposed ESCAP/UNDP project.

94. The following regular publications containing statistical data for the countries of the region and other information of statistical interest were released during the period under review:

(a) *Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1988*

(b) *Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1981-1985*

(c) *Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific* (three issues)

(d) *Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region*, twenty-third report

(e) *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* (four issues)

(f) *Statistical Newsletter* (four issues)

(g) *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1986-1987*

95. In addition, a technical publication entitled *Fundamentals of Computer Processing for Statisticians* was released. A historical paper entitled "ESCAP conferences for regional statisticians" was also prepared for issuance as an occasional research paper.

96. The secretariat maintained its close collaboration in statistical activities with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations. It worked closely with the South Pacific Commission in co-ordinating the statistical programmes relating to the development of censuses and demographic statistics in the Pacific countries. The secretariat also presented a paper entitled "Development of statistical capability within official statistical agencies in the ESCAP region" at the forty-sixth session of the International Statistical Institute, held at Tokyo in September 1987.

Committee on Trade

97. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Steering Committee for the Third Asian International Silk Fair (first session), Bangkok, May 1987; (second session), Amsterdam, January 1988

UNCTAD/UNDP/ESCAP Round-table Meeting on Regional Insurance Co-operation and Education in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, June-July 1987

Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries (special session), Bangkok, July 1987; (twelfth session), Pattaya, Thailand, February-March 1988

Trade Facilitation Training/Workshop for the Developing Pacific Island Countries, Port Vila, August 1987

Regional Workshop on Export Marketing for Women Executives, Bangkok, August 1987

Regional Workshop on Computerized Library and Documentation Services for Trade, Bangkok, September-October 1987

Workshop on Export Promotion and Export Development for the Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November-December 1987

Regional Workshop of TIS Co-ordinators for Development of the Trade Information Service for Trade Expansion, Bangkok, December 1987

GATT/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Bangkok, March 1988

98. The following advisory services were undertaken during the period under review:

(a) To Bangladesh: (i) on identification of needs and designing the trade information service plan of development for the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Export Promotion Board; and (ii) to assist in the preparation of required information and requested lists for the negotiations under the Bangkok Agreement;

(b) To China: (i) on the new round of multilateral trade negotiations and the role of services in trade; (ii) to conduct mobile seminars in six cities on foreign trade policies and practices, marketing, export promotion and investment; and (iii) to assist the China Research Institute in the development of computerized trade information services;

(c) To China, Nepal and Thailand: (i) to assist in the installation of the computerized FAO Farm Analysis Package (FARMAP) to be used for collection and analysis of data for the study on costs of production and farm-gate prices of jute and kenaf fibres; and (ii) to train relevant national personnel involved in the exercise;

(d) To the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu: (i) on assessment of training needs for officials in developing Pacific island countries in

the field of trade facilitation; and (ii) to identify subjects to be covered in the training/workshop held at Port Vila;

(e) To India, on strategies for developing joint ventures and counter-trade among countries in the region;

(f) To Indonesia: (i) to assist the Export Support Board in the establishment of a trade information service for the promotion of exports; and (ii) to assist the National Agency for Export Development in building up data bases on exporters, foreign importers and statistics and in utilizing existing networks for information communication;

(g) To Pakistan, to advise on development of computerized trade information services;

(h) To Sri Lanka, to assist the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka Business Development Centre, Sri Lanka Export Development Board and Textile Board, in the development of their trade information services, including computerization of trade information;

(i) To the jute-producing countries of the ESCAP region, on their participation in sessions of the International Jute Organization Council and its Projects Committee.

99. The following technical publications and studies were produced during the period under review:

(a) *Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific*, 3rd ed.

(b) *Foreign Investment Incentive Schemes: 1. Republic of Korea*

(c) *Foreign Investment Incentive Schemes: 2. Sri Lanka*

(d) *Foreign Investment Incentive Schemes: 3. Philippines*

(e) *Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products* (monthly)

(f) *TISNET Trade Information Sheet* (23 per year)

(g) *Trade Profiles* (loose-leaf service)

(h) "TIS QUICK"

(i) "Trade information sources data bank" and its alphabetical index (card service)

(j) "Traders manual for Asia and the Pacific" covering Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

B. Other activities

100. In addition to the work of its legislative committees, the secretariat performed the following promotional and supportive activities of a substantive nature during the year.

Integrated programme on rural development

101. During the period under review, two meetings of the Interagency Task Force on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific were held to review implementation of ongoing inter-agency activities, consider new project proposals and maintain regular exchange of information among member agencies.

102. With the approval of the Government of Japan to make use of the savings of the inter-agency project on assistance to integrated area development in least developed areas in the Philippines, the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific provided assistance to the Government of the Philippines in the implementation of seven small-scale high impact projects.

103. The inter-agency project on the action plan for multiplication of participatory rural development experiences on a socially significant scale received financial assistance from the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands. The project, which aimed to assist four participating countries, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, in the multiplication of innovative experiments on participatory rural development on a wider scale, commenced in February 1988.

104. As part of the exchange of information and experience programme, the first issue of the compilation of information on integrated rural development programmes undertaken by various agencies was completed and distributed among the agencies and the national liaison officers. A compilation of the sections

of the proposed programmes and budgets of the United Nations agencies concerning rural development for 1988-1989 was made to promote co-operation in the planning and implementation of rural development activities in the region.

Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

105. The secretariat, using the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, supported the following operational TCDC activities during the period under review:

(a) With the Agriculture Division:

- (i) Mission to China to discuss the establishment of a multinational fertilizer marketing enterprise for Asia and the Pacific
- (ii) Specialized programme on logistics of fertilizer distribution
- (iii) TCDC training in the operation of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh

(b) With the ESCAP/UNIDO Division of Industry, Human Settlements and Technology:

Publication of *Directory of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the Promotion of TCDC/ECDC*

(c) With the International Trade Division:

- (i) Expert Group Meeting to Develop a Draft Pacific Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature and Schedules
- (ii) Regional Workshop of TIS Co-ordinators for Development of the Trade Information Service for Trade Expansion
- (iii) Publication of the *Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific*, third ed.

(d) With the Natural Resources Division:

- (i) Interregional TCDC Training-cum-Workshop in Biogas Technology

- (ii) Training Course on Coastal Geology

- (iii) Fifth Expert Working Group Meeting on Stratigraphic Correlation between Sedimentary Basins of the ESCAP Region

- (iv) Regional Expert Group Consultative Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in Water Resources Development in the ESCAP Region

- (v) Regional TCDC Workshop on Energy Conservation and New and Renewable Sources of Energy Utilization in Tobacco Curing

(e) With the Social Development Division:

- (i) International Training Course for Programme Managers and Associated Personnel on Skill Development for Out-of-school Youth

- (ii) Second workshop for finalization of the ASEAN Women's Programme Thesaurus for women and development

(f) With the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division:

Advisory mission to Sri Lanka as part of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group

(g) With the ESCAP/UNCTC Joint Unit on TNCs:

ESCAP/UNCTC Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Monitoring Foreign Investment by Transnational Corporations

(h) With TECHNUNET ASIA:

- (i) Study tour to explore technology transfer of automatic door-hinge manufacturing
- (ii) Workshop-cum-study tour of successful small entrepreneurs in the Philippines

- (i) With the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and TECHNET ASIA:

Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting on Small and Medium Business Improvement

- (j) With the Asian and Pacific Regional Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA):

Meeting of National Survey Co-ordinators concerning the activities of the Self-help Group

- (k) With UNESCO:

Publication of a study on TCDC developments and constraints in Asia relating to education and culture

- (l) With the CGPRT Centre:

Training programme on research on resource allocation and co-operative advantage for CGPRT crops

- (m) With CCOP:

TCDC support of Seismic Stratigraphy Workshop II

106. The increase in extrabudgetary resources allocated to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund in 1987 enabled the secretariat to support a larger number of operational TCDC activities of member countries.

107. Increased co-operation between the secretariat and other organizations, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, continued during the period under review.

108. TCDC publications, particularly the series on renewable sources of energy, were distributed on request.

109. Progress reports on the activities of the following regional projects, institutions and intergovernmental bodies were submitted to the Commission in separate documents:

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

Pacific energy development programme

Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

Regional energy development programme

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Typhoon Committee

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

110. In the field of energy resources development, close contact continued to be maintained with the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank and UNIDO concerning the regional energy development programme as well as the regional programme of action on new and renewable sources of energy. Information exchange with the Economic Commission for Europe and other bodies and mutual participation in activities took place on a regular basis. Co-operation also continued with ADB, as well as other regional/national institutes and agencies, such as the Asian and Pacific Development Centre and the Asian Institute of Technology.

111. In the minerals programme, the secretariat co-operated with the Commission for the Geological Map of the World, in the preparation of geological and mineral resources maps; the UNESCO International Geological Correlation Programme and the International Union of Geological Sciences, in the compilation of geological and thematic maps and in stratigraphic correlation between sedimentary basins of the region; UNDP, in technical reviews and monitoring of the activities of the UNDP-assisted regional mineral resource development project of SEATRADC, CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC; the United Nations Departments of

Technical Co-operation for Development and of International Economic and Social Affairs, on mineral resource exploration and development programmes in the region; and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

112. In the field of water resources development, co-ordination with other United Nations programmes was carried out at the regional level with the Inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, which held its nineteenth and twentieth sessions in May and December 1987. Close co-operation was maintained with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) and WMO in supporting the programme of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones. Similarly, the project on the Regional Network for Training in Water Resources Development was being implemented in close collaboration with the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNEP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and others.

113. Both the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and FAO were associate executing agencies for the UNDP-funded regional remote sensing programme.

114. With respect to the marine affairs programme, the secretariat co-ordinated its activities with the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at United Nations Headquarters in all aspects of the law of the sea. Close co-operation was maintained with CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC, at Bangkok and Suva respectively, in activities dealing with offshore prospecting for mineral resources. Contacts were maintained with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO to ensure that activities were not overlapping.

115. The secretariat maintained co-operation with other regional commissions, the World Bank, IMO, UNCTAD and ADB on matters concerning shipping and ports; the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea, ILO, IMO and UNCTAD on maritime legislation; and UNDP on shipping, ports and inland waterways.

116. In the statistics sector, a close working relationship was maintained with the United Nations Statistical Office in all areas of statistics, and in particular in its global National Household Survey Capability Programme where joint project formulation or review missions were undertaken. The Statistical Office participated in several meetings, including the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, and provided a resource person for the workshop on the International Comparison Project. The secretariat participated in the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in New York. Relevant data series for ESCAP publications were received from FAO, the World Bank and IMF. Inter-agency co-operation was maintained, particularly with UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO on statistical development issues; representatives of those organizations also participated in meetings of the Statistics Division. Exchange of methodological material and other publications was maintained with the statistics divisions of other regional commissions.

117. In the fields of transport, communications and tourism, the secretariat worked: with ILO on labour-intensive road construction methods; through the ESCAP/ILO Tourism Unit on tourism manpower development; with ICAO on the economic aspects of air cargo transport; with WTO on tourism development; with UPU on postal development; with ITU through the ESCAP/ITU Communications Unit; and with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity on telecommunication development.

118. In the field of international trade and development finance, the secretariat maintained close working relations in areas of mutual concern and interest with UNCTC, UNCTAD and its Special Programme on Trade Facilitation (FALPRO), FAO, the World Bank, IMF, GATT, ITC, the European Economic Community, the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), and the International Chamber of Commerce, as well as with other regional commissions and international agencies. Some of the activities of the secretariat were formulated and implemented in co-ordination with organizations such as UNCTAD, GATT, ITC and CCC.

Chapter III

FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

119. The forty-fourth session of the Commission was held at Jakarta, Indonesia, from 11 to 20 April 1988.

120. The session was inaugurated by His Excellency President Soeharto of the Republic of Indonesia at the Convention Hall, Senayan Jakarta.

Inaugural address by the President of the Republic of Indonesia

121. The President of the Republic of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Indonesia, welcomed those attending the session.

122. Indonesia attached great importance to the forty-fourth session of the Commission, not only because it was the second time that Indonesia was hosting the session but mainly because the question of human resources development, the theme of the current session, constituted one of the major problems facing Indonesia as well as other developing nations.

123. Indonesia was in the process of completing the final year of the Fourth Five-year Development Plan. In the Guidelines of State Policy recently decreed by the People's Deliberative Assembly, Indonesia had placed emphasis on the evolution of a strong development foundation in the Fifth Plan so as to ensure take-off in development by the Sixth Plan, with the aim of achieving the national aspiration of creating an advanced, prosperous, equitable and thriving society founded on the principles of PANCASILA.

124. Indonesia's resolve to enhance the quality of human life was in line with the development of human resources. Such development was indeed important for the Asian and Pacific region. With an average population growth rate of 1.8 per cent and a growth rate in the labour force of approximately 1.4 per cent annually, it was estimated that during the year 1988 the labour force in developing countries of the ESCAP region would increase by at least 22 million people. To address the issue of manpower and employment, a great challenge to development, it would be necessary to adopt an integrated policy on human resources development that covered various aspects and aimed at enhancing the

quality of life of the whole of society. There were great possibilities for regional co-operation in the field of human resources development.

125. The question of employment opportunities could only be resolved in a strong economic climate and in conditions of growth in the ESCAP region, and was also influenced by the world economic situation and developments. The world economy was currently going through a period of transition and had not yet recovered from the severe recession of a few years previously. The depressing and unpredictable circumstances were compounded further by declining prices of primary commodities, fluctuations in the exchange rates of the currencies of several major industrial countries and by constant high interest rates. The trade of developing countries had also experienced increasing difficulties owing to various forms of protectionism adopted by a number of advanced industrial countries. Such protectionist policies had greatly hampered the economic growth of developing countries.

126. The difficulties faced by a number of developing countries in repaying their external debts constituted another major problem. The debt issue had become a serious one for many developing countries because of the impact of developments in the world economy, which had limited the opportunities to increase their capacity to service their external debts. That impact was also reflected in the decrease in funds made available to the developing countries, mainly in the form of soft loans badly needed to maintain the momentum of development. The close inter-linkage of issues in the monetary, debt, trade and development sectors demonstrated the intricate link between the growth of the industrial countries and the development of the developing countries.

127. The reactivation of the world economy required concrete steps towards the creation of a new international economic order. It also required the political will of all members of the world community to take steps specified in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

128. Multilateral co-operation, therefore, continued to play an important role in the relationships among States. It was in that context that Indonesia supported the efforts for further trade liberalization in tropical and agricultural products within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

129. The Asian and Pacific region had, in the past year, performed satisfactorily with regard to political developments and economic growth. Although considerable differences still existed in the level of growth, the region had, in general, shown adequate resilience in facing various global economic crises.

130. Indonesia's experience in overcoming economic challenges in its national development had shown the importance of continued efforts to reinforce national resilience. In that context, the development of human resources needed to be viewed as a principal asset in strengthening such resilience in other countries of the region. It was therefore hoped that ESCAP would formulate an effective programme of work in the field of human resources development, oriented towards the widening of employment opportunities and the promotion of technology for development, with the aim of improving the quality of life for all peoples in the region.

131. Indonesia attached importance to the preservation of the environment and its natural resources in the implementation of development so as to benefit future generations.

132. He expressed the hope that at its forty-fourth session the Commission would reach agreement on implementing a programme of human resources development in the widest possible sense, at both the national and regional levels.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

133. In his message, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that the hosting of the forty-fourth session of the Commission by Indonesia represented a further indication of that country's commitment to the promotion of regional co-operation for economic and social progress. Despite an unfavourable international economic environment, Indonesia had been able to sustain its development momentum and had made particular gains in the fields of attaining self-sufficiency,

expansion of physical infrastructure and development of educational and health-care facilities.

134. The Asian and Pacific region had, in recent years, demonstrated remarkable vitality and dynamism, despite depressed commodity prices, rising debt burdens and protectionist measures, all of which continued to have adverse effects on development efforts. In particular, the least developed countries and Pacific island countries had recently been unable to achieve any significant economic growth, and still needed special support and assistance so as to accelerate their progress. Nevertheless, a sizeable number of Asian and Pacific countries had demonstrated remarkable resilience and capacity to adjust to a changing world economy. Their vigorous economic performances had been and continued to be a source of great encouragement for other developing countries.

135. It was encouraging to note that many developing Asian and Pacific countries were giving special attention to both the modernization of their physical infrastructure and the upgrading of human resources, which were priorities clearly reflected in ESCAP activities. The Commission's deliberations over the past two years would now culminate in the consideration of an integrated plan of action on human resources development for the region, in the implementation of which it was hoped that the entire United Nations system would co-operate.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

136. The Executive Secretary welcomed all the delegations to the session and expressed his gratitude to the President of the Republic of Indonesia for having consented to inaugurate the session and for his encouragement, which served as a reaffirmation of the commitment of Indonesia to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, to the objectives of ESCAP. He also thanked the concerned officials of the Government of Indonesia for making the necessary preparations for holding the session in Jakarta. The presence of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation underscored the importance of the occasion.

137. Since the Commission's fortieth anniversary session in 1987, the secretariat had been pursuing its tasks with rekindled vigour and a clearer sense of

direction and purpose. The Declaration on the fortieth anniversary of ESCAP adopted by the Commission at its forty-third session had conveyed a welcome plenitude of thoughtful advice for the future and those guidelines would be fully taken into account by ESCAP in fulfilling the needs and aspirations of its developing members and associate members.

138. At its forty-fourth session the Commission would consider a variety of economic and social issues demanding its urgent attention. One issue of particular importance was human resources development, the momentous challenge of making the region's vast population more productive and economically viable in an era of rapid change. Human resources development had been the Commission's major focus at its previous two sessions and at the current session it would consider a regional plan of action which, it was hoped, would be a crucial catalyst in shaping the dramatic transformation taking place in societies. Industry, agriculture, trade, transport, energy, water and mineral resources, the environment, population and social development were among other topics to be debated by the Commission.

139. There was a need to strengthen multilateralism by joining in an intensified pursuit of regional co-operation for development as set out in the mandates of ESCAP. In that regard, he expressed the hope that the Commission would examine regional possibilities and potential while adhering to the longstanding tradition of not allowing the discussions to diverge from the socio-economic issues at hand.

A. Attendance and organization of work

140. The first regular meeting, held at the Borobudur Inter-Continental Hotel, Jakarta, was opened by His Excellency Mr. Kwang Soo Choi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, acting as Chairman at the opening meeting in the absence of His Excellency Dr. Chirayu Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya, Chairman of the forty-third session.

141. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan,

Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Hong Kong.

142. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Czechoslovakia, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia attended. A representative of the Holy See also attended under Economic and Social Council decision 244 (LXIII).

143. The session was also attended by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and by other officials from United Nations Headquarters representing the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Regional Commissions Liaison Office.

144. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations World Food Council and World Food Programme.

145. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

146. Representatives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT also attended.

147. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries,

Association of South-East Asian Nations, Colombo Plan Council, Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas, Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, European Economic Community, Intergovernmental Committee on Migration, Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, International Jute Organization and International Pepper Community.

148. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in category I: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Organization for Standardization, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Union of Local Authorities, World Confederation of Labour, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Muslim Congress and Zonta International; and from the following organizations in category II: Bahá'í International Community, International Federation on Aging, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association and Rehabilitation International; Representatives of the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists and TECHNUNET ASIA also attended.

149. The final list of participants was issued on 20 April 1988.

150. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission at its 662nd meeting elected His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, as Chairman.

151. In view of the heavy agenda, it was proposed that the part of rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission providing for the election of 2 Vice-Chairmen be held in abeyance, and the following 18 Vice-Chairmen were elected: H.E. Mr. Mohammad A. Munim (Bangladesh), H.E. Mr. Liu Shu-qing (China), the Hon. Villiame S.J. Gonelevu (Fiji), H.E. Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari (India), H.E. Mr. Mahdi Mir Mo'ezzi (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Mr. Takujiro Hamada (Japan), H.E. Mr. Soubanh Srithilath (Lao People's Democratic Republic), H.E. Mr. Kasitah bin Gaddam (Malaysia), the Hon. Dr. Mohan Man Sainju (Nepal), the Hon. Mr. Akoka Doi (Papua New Guinea), H.E. Mr. Jose D. Ingles (Philippines), H.E. Mr. Kwang Soo Choi (Republic of Korea), H.E. Dr. Tay Eng Soon (Singapore), the Hon. Paul J. Tovua (Solomon Islands), the Hon. John Amaratunge (Sri Lanka), H.E. Sub. Lt. Prapas Limpabandhu (Thailand), the Hon. Mr. James Cecil Cocker (Tonga) and H.E. Mr. Tran Quang Co (Viet Nam).

152. Mrs. Saraswati Shrestha (Nepal) was elected Rapporteur of the plenary session.

153. For Committee of the Whole I, the Hon. Ms. Flora C. Eufemio (Philippines) was elected Chairman, Mr. Poseci Bune (Fiji) and Mr. P.B. Cormack (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Kh. Zaheer Ahmed (Pakistan) Rapporteur. For Committee of the Whole II, Dr. John Gee (Australia) was elected Chairman, Mr. Yasuo Nozaka (Japan), Mr. Hong Jae Im (Republic of Korea) and Mr. B. Mahadeva (Sri Lanka) Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Chua Pheng Siong (Brunei Darussalam) Rapporteur. The Commission decided to constitute an informal working group on draft resolutions to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. It elected Mr. Denis Vene (France) Chairman, and Mr. Danang D. Joedonagoro (Indonesia), Mr. Bagher Assadi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. Conrad J. van Tooren (Netherlands) Vice-Chairmen.

154. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen, constituting the Credentials Committee, examined the credentials of all the representatives. Two members rejected the credentials of a delegation. One member expressed its reservation regarding the credentials of the same delegation. Some other members held that the credentials of the aforesaid delegation were in order. With those views and reservations recorded, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen constituting the Credentials Committee found the credentials of all the representatives to be in order.

B. Agenda

155. At its 662nd meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening addresses.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.107/Rev.1, E/ESCAP/L.108 and Corr.1 and 2).
4. Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region:
 - (a) Review of the development of the ESCAP region and the work of the Commission (ST/ESCAP/585 (English only), ST/ESCAP/585/Add.1 (Chinese, French and Russian only), E/ESCAP/597 and Corr.1);

- (b) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy (E/ESCAP/598);
 - (c) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (E/ESCAP/599).
5. Human resources development in Asia and the Pacific: ESCAP integrated plan of action (E/ESCAP/600).
 6. International trade in primary commodities (E/ESCAP/601).
 7. Issues and programmes in various fields of activity of ESCAP:
 - (a) Reports of legislative committee meetings held since the forty-third session of the Commission, and selected issues in different sectors (E/ESCAP/591, E/ESCAP/592, E/ESCAP/593, E/ESCAP/594, E/ESCAP/595, E/ESCAP/596, E/ESCAP/602, E/ESCAP/603, E/ESCAP/604, E/ESCAP/605, E/ESCAP/606, E/ESCAP/607, E/ESCAP/608, E/ESCAP/609, E/ESCAP/610, E/ESCAP/611, E/ESCAP/612, E/ESCAP/613, E/ESCAP/614, E/ESCAP/615, E/ESCAP/616, E/ESCAP/617, E/ESCAP/643);
 - (b) Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994: review of progress of implementation (E/ESCAP/618);
 - (c) Progress reports on regional institutions, special regional projects and other regional bodies (E/ESCAP/619, E/ESCAP/620, E/ESCAP/621, E/ESCAP/622, E/ESCAP/623, E/ESCAP/624, E/ESCAP/625, E/ESCAP/626, E/ESCAP/627, E/ESCAP/628, E/ESCAP/629);
 - (d) Programme changes for the biennium 1988-1989, and extension and revision for 1990-1991 of the medium-term plan, 1984-1989 (E/ESCAP/630 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/631 and Corr.1-3, E/ESCAP/632 and Corr.1 and 2, E/ESCAP/633, E/ESCAP/634);
 - (e) Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries (E/ESCAP/635).
 8. The Commission's activities in the Pacific (E/ESCAP/636).
 9. Implementation of resolution 262 (XLIII) on in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields: legislative committee structure of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/637).
 10. Announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/638, E/ESCAP/639).
 11. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/641).
 12. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-fifth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/640).
 13. Admission of new members (E/ESCAP/642).
 14. Other matters.
 15. Adoption of the report of the Commission (E/ESCAP/L.109).

C. Account of proceedings

Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

156. The Executive Secretary reported that the developing Asian and Pacific countries had achieved an enviable 6 per cent average growth in 1987 despite various difficulties, an improvement of almost 2 per cent over 1986 and nearly double the growth rate of the rest of the developing world. However, that was an average figure and would have been reduced to 3 per cent had it not been for the strong growth of China and the three newly industrializing economies in East Asia. The performances of many member countries, especially the neediest ones, had been far below the 1987 regional average. In South Asia, which had been struck by both devastating drought and floods during 1987,

growth in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka had been slowed to about 2.5 per cent, though India's ability to avoid famine amid the worst drought in 60 years had demonstrated its recently reduced vulnerability to capricious weather. The ASEAN countries had averaged a moderate 4.3 per cent growth in 1987, mainly owing to renewed growth in the Philippines and Singapore and to the continuing robust performance of Thailand. Unfortunately, the growth performance had weakened perceptibly in 1987 in most of the least developed and Pacific island countries, although Bangladesh and Burma, newly designated as a least developed country, had managed to hold their own in overall terms of gross domestic product. For most of those disadvantaged nations, however, 1987 had been another difficult, disappointing year, with per capita income gains so marginal in many of them that there was little chance of their grim standards of living being raised significantly within a generation. The increase from 7 to 11 in the number of least developed countries in the region during the 1980s represented the opposite of development goals and spoke volumes about deteriorating conditions.

157. Foremost perhaps among the region's unresolved problems, when one pondered the region's progress and future needs and prospects, was the disturbing fact that social progress in most developing member countries had not kept pace with economic growth. Many overdue social changes, reforms and improvements were needed if the continued success of growth itself was not to be undermined. The outgrowth of that imbalance was mounting social tensions and such urgent new concerns as unemployed youth, rising crime and drug abuse as well as excessive rural-urban migration, inadequate welfare for the aged and a lack of academic and institutional readiness for the current technological revolution. Large pockets of poverty also persisted in the region. Although there had been significant accomplishments in certain fields in some countries, the widespread failure to consider adequately the human dimension of growth and to translate it into directly meaningful results for the masses was clearly reflected in numerous indicators of continued social neglect. Those indicators included low life expectancy and high infant mortality, chronic under-nourishment, substandard housing and unsatisfactory levels of educational attainment, labour utilization and productivity in some countries, particularly in South Asia. Male life expectancy remained

as low as 40 years in one least developed country, compared with an average of 72 years in the region's three developed countries.

158. Perhaps the most appalling blight on some of the region's societies, and one that could be avoided given serious and sustained efforts for even a few years, was that of massive and persistent illiteracy. At a time well after the colonial era, when mankind was probing the heavens, splitting the atom, breaking the genetic code and unlocking the very secrets of creation, it was all but preposterous that the region still had hundreds of millions of people who could not even read and write. Would artificial intelligence become a reality before those people were able to read and learned to worry about the eventual uses of human intelligence? When would the region experience the relative luxury of being more concerned about computer illiteracy? The fact that two thirds of the people in some member countries remained illiterate went some way to explain their ongoing under-development. The situation raised questions as to whether the uneducated could ever really participate in development, and whether their countries could ever be expected to generate enough skills to compete effectively in an increasingly sophisticated world.

159. Such critical concerns and the recognized need to put a human face on development had led the Commission, at its forty-third session, to decide that an integrated plan of action on human resources development should be drawn up for the region. Accordingly, the secretariat had prepared a draft plan focusing on the key problems of human resources development pertaining to employment and manpower development, science and technology, and the quality of life. It was felt that those three major themes constituted a comprehensive framework for flexibly and effectively planning and executing further human resources development for the region. The draft plan of action contained 33 broad policy recommendations and 106 specific proposals for action, formulated to reflect an integrated approach and concentrating on critical issues and specific target and enabler groups to help ensure effective implementation despite various constraints. Its major aims were to assist the region in preparing to cope with looming massive unemployment, to help the countries take advantage of advances in science and technology, and to hasten improvements in the region's quality of

life. While regional activities could play a useful supportive role in providing technical assistance, research and analysis and so on, the plan of action on human resources development would have to be implemented at the national level where the real responsibility lay. The plan of action was in essence a guide to the broad range of programmes and projects needed at the country level to upgrade effectively the region's vast human resources and integrate them into the development process. ESCAP stood ready to provide technical support.

160. Another serious challenge was to expand and modernize the region's basic infrastructure, most aspects of which remained inadequate for current levels of development, let alone future needs. Some member countries had seized the opportunity of the framework for stepped-up action provided by the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994. However, those countries that were unconvinced that the time for updating vital infrastructure had arrived risked being unable to keep pace with the considerable advances taking place in transport and communications. The region was already trailing behind when hundreds of millions of rural people had no access to telephones, or even motorized transport, and many railways were antiquated.

161. The prolonged slump in prices of most of the region's major primary commodities through most of the 1980s ranked as a problem of the utmost importance in many Asian and Pacific countries. There were also disturbing signs of a structural delinking between demand for primary products and the growth of the world economy. With those worrisome developments in mind, he pointed out that there now existed considerable room for fruitful regional co-operation on commodity issues, both among developing countries and between developed and developing countries. It was felt that the member countries could play a useful and effective role in promoting and reviving international interest in primary commodities, especially as the region was both a major producer and consumer. The secretariat had prepared a detailed study on the fall in commodity prices and their reduced export earnings as part two of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1987*.

162. A growing number of developing countries of the region faced serious problems in servicing their external debts amid mounting indebtedness and rising

debt-service ratios. Although the region's debt problems were still less critical than those of the other developing regions, there was no cause for complacency, with debt repayments running high and export prospects growing more uncertain in 1988. A related concern was falling levels of capital flows to many member countries, including private flows, export credits and official development assistance to the region's least developed countries. Between 1980 and 1986, those countries averaged only \$US 10 to \$US 11 per capita in Western and multilateral aid flows, about half the global average for the least developed countries. More serious consideration should be given to a proposal advocated by various distinguished scholars, including Mr. Saburo Okita, on the possibility of channelling the savings of surplus developed countries to developing countries in such need.

163. Amid weaker demand for primary commodities, growing debt burdens and declining resource inflows, many developing member countries needed to undertake economic restructuring or reshaping in order to generate new exports and reduce over-dependence on imports. Experience in efforts to adjust to a harsh external climate and changing patterns of comparative advantage showed that an economy's success in moving forward depended on its ability to make desired changes in its economic and institutional structure, in as organized a manner as possible. In fact, restructuring the domestic economy had become an increasingly vital policy response to shifts in the changing world economy. He cited China, the Republic of Korea and Thailand as successful examples of structural change in the region. He noted, however, that restructuring would be much facilitated by an improved trading climate and greater capital inflows. Without sufficient inflows, most of the region's developing countries would find it very difficult to undertake the significant investments needed better to harness their potential and increase the competitiveness of their economies.

164. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary referred to the importance of the forthcoming ESCAP/NGO Regional Symposium on Co-operation for Economic and Social Development, scheduled to be held at Bangkok in mid-June 1988. There had been little recognition that socio-economic development often received its main stimulus at the grass-roots level where the non-governmental organizations worked. By increasing co-operation and collaboration with non-governmental

organizations, a significant new dimension was being brought into ESCAP development efforts. Through increasing collective activities, he earnestly hoped that the ESCAP initiative on human resources development, for example, would yield more tangible grass-roots results and truly benefit the peoples of Asia and the Pacific.

Review of the development of the ESCAP region and the work of the Commission

165. The Commission commended the secretariat on the comprehensive and useful analysis of recent developments in the ESCAP region contained in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1987*. The high quality of the Survey was generally lauded by the Commission; one delegation, however, questioned the assumptions relating to the debt-equity swaps with special reference to his country and stated that the Survey contained some inaccurate data on the flows of foreign direct investment in his country.

166. The Commission expressed concern at the unsatisfactory performance of the world economy in 1987 and the continuing uncertainties in the international economic environment. Despite growing international interdependence, the scope of co-ordination of macro-economic policies remained limited to the developed market economies. So far, such co-ordination had not succeeded in substantially reducing the trade and other imbalances in the world economy. As a result, international economic activity had slowed further in 1987, aggravating the economic and financial constraints on developing countries through falling real prices of most primary commodities, increasing protectionist trends, instability in the foreign exchange markets, reduction in external resource inflows and heavy debt-service burdens. The stock market crash in October 1987 and the absence of any widespread upturn in commodity prices or lessening of protectionist pressures were identified by the Commission as being among the many other unfavourable elements clouding the prospects for any significant recovery in the world economy.

167. The Commission noted with concern the continuing decline in primary commodity prices in real terms, which was one of the major causes in the transmission of the world economic slow-down in an interdependent world economy. It emphasized

the urgent need for international co-operation to reduce large fluctuations in commodity prices, and for addressing some of the basic problems of the world commodity economy. Agricultural protectionism and fiscal subsidies in some developed countries had resulted in large agricultural surpluses, causing a significant fall in prices and export earnings for many agricultural producers in the region.

168. The Commission underscored the danger posed by protectionism to the growth of the economies of the region, as well as the world economy as a whole. Both developed and developing economies had a vital stake in a liberal international trading system, since access to markets of developed market economies constituted an important means for their continued growth. The Commission hoped that the Uruguay Round of the multilateral trade negotiations under GATT would be led to a successful conclusion, that the subjects which were of priority to the developing countries, such as safeguards, trade in tropical products, textiles and agriculture, would receive deserved attention, and that the assurances of standstill and rollback would be respected. It was also hoped that trade in services and intellectual property would be fully covered.

169. Some delegations expressed their apprehensions about the increasing tendency in certain developed economies towards the creation of large trading groups, which could have unfavourable implications for market access by developing countries. Other delegations provided clarification regarding those apprehensions.

170. The Commission noted with satisfaction the continued impressive economic dynamism of developing economies in the ESCAP region. Those economies had achieved, on the average, an enviable rate of economic growth in 1987 in spite of the difficult external economic conditions, as well as harsh climatic conditions. Economic performance, however, varied widely among the countries of the region. The rates of growth of the region in the natural resources-based and primary producing countries, constrained by unfavourable world prices, were more modest than those registered by the more diversified, manufactures-exporting economies.

171. The Commission noted the growing asymmetry in the region's economic development and expressed deep concern at the

generally slow growth and poor performance of the least developed and island economies of the region. Those groups of countries had suffered inordinately from the continuing fall in real commodity prices and were often afflicted by natural disasters. In addition, net capital inflows to many of those disadvantaged countries had stagnated or declined, causing severe difficulties in the implementation of their development programmes. Many countries stressed the need for a significant increase in official development assistance flows to low-income countries, particularly to the least developed and Pacific island countries. In that regard, the constructive role that could be played by foreign investment was noted.

172. The Commission stressed the continued need for sound domestic economic policies, better management of material and human resources, improved structure of economic incentives, and rationalization of industries and services in order to cope with the changing external environment and shifting comparative advantage. A number of countries outlined in some detail their plans and policies for economic reforms and restructuring to achieve greater domestic efficiency, structural adjustment and modernization. Several delegations pointed to the need for supportive policies and institutions which would improve the functioning of domestic markets, and provide incentives and motivation for private enterprises. A number of delegations from centrally-planned economies informed the Commission of the comprehensive economic reforms being carried out in their countries and pointed out the opportunities such reforms had created for the extension of mutually beneficial regional co-operation in various forms. They also expressed the view that the subsequent issues of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* should include general outlines of the social and economic developments in the centrally planned economies, including the USSR, taking into account restructuring processes in those countries.

173. The Commission noted that the task of eliminating the massive poverty and continuous misery that afflicted large sections of the population in the region remained daunting. Greater focus on the promotion of economic growth and social development as a means of alleviating poverty was needed. Many delegations referred to the increasing emphasis on the provision of basic facilities for health, education, nutrition, housing and energy

in their development strategies, policies and programmes.

174. The Commission emphasized the need for increasing South-South, regional and subregional co-operation in various fields. Among other co-operative endeavours, the Commission took note of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation, the Economic Co-operation Organization, and the South Pacific Forum as examples of fruitful co-operation among ESCAP member countries. While supporting subregional co-operation among ESCAP members and associate members, the Commission stressed that the character of ESCAP as a region-wide organization in the Asian and Pacific region should not be lost sight of. Several delegations from economically stronger developing countries indicated their desire to foster South-South co-operation, and to provide assistance to the less developed countries through ECDC and TCDC activities. Many delegations to the Commission welcomed the successful negotiations in Belgrade on the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries.

175. Several delegations, while stressing the importance of lasting peace and security for the well-being and prosperity of all States, referred to the improved international climate in recent months providing an environment conducive to greater international economic co-operation.

176. Some delegations stressed the importance of making world economic ties reliable, predictable and stable. They favoured the establishment of an integral system of mutual rights, obligations and guarantees of their observance which would ensure a favourable international economic environment. Several delegations asserted that there were interlinkages between development and practical measures in the field of disarmament in the context of providing additional resources for the solution of pressing social, economic and other problems facing the countries of the ESCAP region.

177. The Commission welcomed the initiative taken by the secretariat in convening the ESCAP NGO Regional Symposium on Co-operation for Economic and Social Development. As the close involvement of those organizations was vital for the attainment of development targets at the grass-roots level, it urged that they be given sustained support to help achieve the development goals and thus improve the quality of life of the people.

178. The Commission reviewed the work of the Commission since its forty-third session, as presented in document E/ESCAP/597 and Corr.1.

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy

179. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/598. The document contained a review and appraisal by the secretariat, in compliance with Commission resolution 212 (XXXVII) on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the new International Development Strategy. The secretariat had focused its review and appraisal on progress, issues and policies concerning industrial development in the region, in the light of the objective and targets set out in the Strategy.

180. The Commission emphasized the growing interdependence in the world economy and that progress towards the solution of problems of growth and development required an integrated approach and internationally concerted effort. In that context, some delegations emphasized the continuing need for an international development strategy and noted the recent General Assembly initiative for preparing a possible strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

181. The Commission noted with satisfaction several cases of successful industrialization in the ESCAP region. Several delegations expressed concern, however, that the objective of rapid industrialization of the developing countries as a basis of their self-reliant growth, and the particular target of a 9 per cent annual rate of growth in manufacturing output in the developing countries, including those in the ESCAP region, to be achieved during the Third United Nations Development Decade, to enable them to progress towards attaining a 25 per cent share of world manufacturing production by the year 2000, were unlikely to be fulfilled during the Decade.

182. The following were identified as some of the factors hampering the process of industrialization of the developing countries: reduced flow of external financial resources to the developing countries, and in some cases, net reverse flow from them to the developed countries; growing protectionism, particularly in the form of non-tariff barriers; restrictions on exports of manufactured products from the developing countries; and the

prevailing international economic situation characterized by slow economic growth, financial and exchange rate instability, and extremely low commodity prices.

183. A number of delegations noted with appreciation ESCAP efforts to assist in the implementation of the International Development Strategy in the region. They urged the secretariat to intensify its activities to encourage labour-intensive medium- and small-scale industries, as recommended in the strategy as a policy tool to promote industrialization of the developing countries, since such industries were efficient and generated employment opportunities.

184. Some delegations emphasized the need for a regional review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy, which should be carried out in the context of the global review and appraisal process. The need for deeper analysis of past failures and measures to provide new impetus for progress was also stressed.

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries

185. The Commission commended the secretariat's detailed analysis and description of the region's least developed countries in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1987*.

186. The Commission noted that progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries had been disappointingly slow. It noted with concern that in the ESCAP region the number of least developed countries had increased from 7 in 1981 to 11 in 1987, representing about half of the total population of the least developed countries of the world. The objectives and targets of the Programme had remained largely unfulfilled. The economic conditions of such countries, in general, had either stagnated or experienced unsteady growth. In per capita terms, GDP (gross domestic product) growth in many least developed countries in the region had been considerably lower than the target set in the Programme, and it had been significantly negative in some Pacific least developed countries. In the agricultural sector, which was predominant

in most of those economies, production had been adversely affected by the unfavourable weather conditions in many least developed countries of the region.

187. The Commission noted the low record of development assistance to the least developed countries of the ESCAP region. Neither of the two alternative aid targets set out in the Substantial New Programme of Action appeared to have any chance of being realized before the end of the decade. In current dollar terms, the net disbursement of official development assistance to the least developed countries of the region had fluctuated between \$US 1.16 billion in 1983 and \$US 2.25 billion in 1986. However, in constant dollar terms, ODA in 1986 amounted to only \$US 1.84 billion. Moreover, the average per capita flow of aid to the least developed countries of the ESCAP region was, for a variety of reasons, about half as much as the average per capita flow to those of the world as a whole. The Commission therefore called upon the international community to take appropriate steps towards the realization of the objectives set out in the Substantial New Programme of Action, as rapidly as possible.

188. The representatives of the least developed countries stated that a major problem faced by them was the local cost financing of the foreign-aided projects and programmes. Owing to the very low per capita income, those countries could not mobilize sufficient domestic resources to meet local costs. The representatives therefore urged donor countries to increase the financing of the local cost component of the projects funded by them.

189. The Commission noted that the General Assembly, in resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987, had decided to convene a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Paris in 1990. Besides reviewing the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, the Conference would consider and adopt national and international measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries for the next decade. In the resolution, the General Assembly also requested all the agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned to prepare a review of the implementation of the Programme within their fields of competence and proposals for further action, as input into the preparation for the Conference. The Commission requested the secretariat to undertake the necessary

preparatory work at the regional level, to ensure the success of the Conference.

190. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 271 (XLIV) on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. One delegation expressed its reservation with regard to the setting of specific assistance targets as reflected in paragraph 1 of the resolution.

191. The representatives of a number of developing members stated that within their ECDC-TCDC programmes, assistance had been extended to the least developed countries. They felt, however, that the developed countries and international financial institutions should do their best to provide increased resources so as to enable the developing members to intensify their assistance to the least developed countries within the framework of ECDC-TCDC.

192. The representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development informed the Commission about the activities of the UNCTAD secretariat regarding the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action. In particular, reference was made to the decision of the General Assembly in resolution 42/177 to convene a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990, to consider and adopt appropriate national and international policies and measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries. The UNCTAD secretariat would continue to work in close co-operation with ESCAP to ensure that adequate preparations were made for the Conference.

193. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme stated that in the regional assistance programme, the special needs of the least developed countries had received appropriate attention, and that preparations were in hand to organize the UNDP-sponsored round-table meetings for selected ESCAP least developed countries during 1988 and 1989.

Human resources development in Asia and the Pacific: ESCAP integrated plan of action

194. The President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Soeharto, in his inaugural address to the Commission, had highlighted the importance of human resources development as a major issue confronting developing nations. He had

cited the Indonesian State policy, which placed its central focus on human beings as both the subject and object of development. He had further referred to the abundance of human resources in the region and emphasized that the development of human resources was therefore a decisive element in the framework of strengthening the national resilience of ESCAP members and associate members to overcome the socio-economic challenge in national development. He had expressed the hope that the Commission would adopt an integrated plan of action and formulate an effective programme of work in the field of human resources development oriented towards the widening of employment opportunities and the promotion of technology for development aimed at improving the quality of life for all peoples in the region.

195. In his message to the Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had commended the Commission on its decision to focus special attention on the upgrading of human resources in the region. He had noted with satisfaction that the Commission's deliberations over the past two years had culminated in the consideration of an integrated plan of action on human resources development in the region.

196. Those views had been reiterated by the Director-General of the Department of International Economic Affairs, United Nations Headquarters, who had supported the draft plan of action on human resources development as a soundly conceived one. He had stated that it would serve as a means of raising public awareness and offering practical approaches to strengthening co-operation among the members and associate members of the Commission. The appropriate mobilization of domestic resources would be required to ensure the development of the region's human capabilities. He had attached particular importance to international and regional co-operation in those efforts, including co-operation among developing countries, especially through the exchange of expertise and policies to support such exchanges.

197. As a basis for its deliberations on the issue of human resources development, the Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/600, entitled "Draft ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development".

198. The Executive Secretary introduced the discussion on human resources

development by pointing out that the draft plan of action that was being presented for the Commission's consideration was the culmination of a long process of examination of the issue of human resources development by the Commission. That process had begun with the Commission's consideration at its forty-second session of the technological aspects of human resources development and its further consideration at the forty-third session of the social dimension of human resources development.

199. He pointed out that the results of those discussions and of the related activities of the secretariat had been brought to bear on the problem of integrated human resources development at an expert group meeting held in Tokyo in December 1987. The meeting, which had brought together 20 experts from 14 countries and representatives of 13 inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies, had formulated a comprehensive set of guidelines for an integrated plan of action on human resources development for the Asian and Pacific region. The meeting had been followed by an inter-agency meeting held at ESCAP headquarters, which had brought together representatives of nine United Nations bodies and agencies, reviewed the report of the expert group meeting and discussed possible inter-agency co-ordination mechanisms and specific agency activities in support of the guidelines formulated by the expert group meeting.

200. The secretariat had prepared a draft plan of action based on the findings and recommendations of those two meetings. The draft plan was framed in terms of the three complementary dimensions of human resources development: employment and manpower development, science and technology, and the quality of life. It contained 33 broad policy recommendations and 106 specific proposals for action that were classified, in turn, under six functional headings relating to policy and planning, institutional strengthening, education and training, research and analysis, information systems, and monitoring and evaluation. It was expected that the participating Governments, organizations and agencies would devise specific projects taking into account those recommendations and action proposals to ensure the plan's effective execution.

201. The Executive Secretary detailed the preparations which had taken place to

ensure the early and effective execution of the Commission's decisions with respect to the plan of action. An interdivisional task force on human resources development had been established to ensure the full and active participation of all secretariat divisions and units in the implementation of the plan. The secretariat was preparing a portfolio of project profiles on human resources development for the consideration of donor Governments and agencies. A new subprogramme on the facilitation of human resources development had been included in the draft extension to 1990-1991 of the medium-term plan, 1984-1989. Co-ordination at the inter-agency level had been initiated through informal discussions as well as through the aforementioned inter-agency meeting in preparation of the plan.

202. In addition to those preparatory activities, two important project proposals were under preparation by the secretariat. The first proposal was being formulated in close consultation with UNDP to ensure the early and effective implementation of the plan during its initial phase. That proposal included provisions to assist members and associate members in the establishment and strengthening of human resources development co-ordination mechanisms, human resources development policy and planning frameworks, and human resources development research and training institutions. A second proposal under consideration concerned the preparation of an analytical survey of the quality of life in the region. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 273 (XLIV) on a survey of the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific.

203. The Executive Secretary emphasized that a regional plan of action on human resources development, while opening a practical new avenue for regional co-operation, would have to be implemented primarily at the national level, where the ultimate responsibility lay and where the plan provided a basis for direct and concerted policy action. Regional activities could, of course, play a useful supportive role, including technical assistance, comparative analysis, co-operation among developing countries, and similar approaches to collective action. He noted that the proposed plan of action provided in essence a guide to the broad range of programmes and projects needed at both the national and regional levels to effectively upgrade the region's vast human resources and integrate them into

the development process. The challenge facing the Commission was to translate the region's human resources potential into reality and thereby ensure that the 2.7 billion people of Asia and the Pacific, expected to number 3.4 billion by the year 2000, would be able to meet their development aspirations.

204. The Commission expressed appreciation of the excellent work done by the secretariat in formulating the draft plan of action. The framing of the plan in terms of the themes of employment and manpower development, science and technology, and the quality of life was welcomed by the Commission as a means of highlighting the interrelated and mutually supportive nature of those themes as a matter of practical necessity.

205. The Commission endorsed the ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development as a general guideline, bearing in mind that considerations and proposals expressed at the current session by several delegations, in particular those which were not in a position to express their views at the expert group meeting in Tokyo, would be taken into account by the secretariat in the course of practical implementation of the integrated plan of action. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 274 (XLIV) on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. It called attention to the fact that specific courses of action would have to be formulated in terms of the unique circumstances prevailing in each member and associate member. It also called upon the secretariat to ensure the effective regional co-ordination of human resources development activities being undertaken within the United Nations system, and to monitor ongoing country efforts in order to facilitate technical co-operation in the widespread use of such approaches as were found to be most effective.

206. The Commission considered it appropriate to use human resources development as a core integrating concept in overall development planning and policy. It recognized that human resources development was both a necessary precondition for and the ultimate goal of national development. The themes of the Plan of Action were accepted as constituting an effective focus for the specification of a wide-ranging set of priorities, policy recommendations and specific proposals for action. Those priorities, recommendations and proposals provided an appropriate

basis for the formulation of human resources development policies and strategies suitable for the varying conditions which prevailed in the region.

207. A number of delegations expressed the view that the Plan of Action would serve as a useful guideline or check-list of policies, strategies and programmes from which countries could choose those approaches that would be most appropriate given their national priorities and development situations. Many delegations also stressed that the Plan was intended mainly for consideration and implementation by Governments at the national level, and that regional support should focus primarily on monitoring, technical assistance and promotion of regional co-operation, including the sharing of expertise and facilities and the exchange of information and experience concerning human resources development.

208. The Commission stressed the importance of a multisectoral approach to the implementation of the Plan of Action. Policy priorities needed to be spelled out in the various fields of human resources development with a clear specification of the means of implementation of those policies. That was reflected in the reports to the Commission concerning the socio-economic development plans of many developing countries, which gave special attention to the promotion of literacy, vocational and technical training, preventive and curative health care and the provision of infrastructure facilities aimed at the eradication of poverty, amelioration of the situation of disadvantaged groups in society and improvement of the material and cultural standards of the population at large.

209. The Commission recognized that education, training and skills development were a cornerstone of human resources development and a key to a better quality of life for the people. It noted with concern that many developing countries in the region continued to be hampered by high rates of illiteracy. In that regard, it stressed that the provision of primary education and other programmes to ensure literacy for the whole population should be given priority. Furthermore, it was necessary that the quality of education and training for skilled personnel be improved and sustained. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 266 (XLIV) on International Literacy Year.

210. It was also emphasized that, to ensure the success of national

industrialization plans, the developing countries of the region would need to expand their managerial and technical expertise in industry and agriculture. In that regard, the Commission noted that the challenges of the future would have to be met by a well-educated, flexible and adaptive labour force that was capable of acquiring new skills in an environment of rapidly changing technology.

211. The Commission expressed the view that such features highlighted in the Plan of Action as the closer co-ordination of education and training with employment requirements, increasing involvement of industry in training and greater emphasis on science and technology manpower development were particularly urgent aspects of human resources development. Those aspects would have to be given priority attention in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

212. The Commission noted the emphasis in the Plan of Action on the need for a more demand-oriented approach to human resources development. Alternative approaches focusing on supply constraints should also continue to be examined. The absolute poor, rural landless, urban slum dwellers, women and other disadvantaged groups, especially those in isolated and backward areas, confronted a wide range of economic, social, psychological and physical obstacles to the development of their human resources. The Commission therefore stressed the need for programmes to take explicit account of those institutional and structural obstacles to the participation of disadvantaged groups. It was further noted that human resources development should not depend solely on available domestic and external education and training opportunities. Rather, those supply conditions should be modified to fit national human resources development priorities and, where necessary, should be supplemented or replaced by appropriate human resources development opportunities to fulfil national development aspirations.

213. The Commission emphasized that human resources development was a two-way process in that beneficiaries needed to be properly motivated to participate actively and creatively in efforts to assist them. Popular participation was noted as a necessary condition to ensure adequate feedback to policy makers and planners so that appropriate adjustments could be made to increase the effectiveness of human resources development programmes. Several delegations observed that, by mobilizing community and private resources, popular

participation in programme implementation could also provide a valuable supplement to limited public resources. It was suggested that activities should be undertaken to encourage popular participation, especially by disadvantaged groups, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of human resources development programmes. In addition, such programmes should be designed to stimulate the active awareness of communities and individuals concerning their rights and responsibilities as participants in the development process.

214. The Commission noted that a proper delimitation of target groups for human resources development activities would have a strong and positive impact on development in the region. It was recognized that no comprehensive development plan could hope to have a direct influence on every individual, community and organization, especially in the presence of the severe physical and financial resource constraints prevalent in developing countries throughout Asia and the Pacific. Therefore, target groups would have to be selected on the basis of social cost-benefit criteria as well as the prospective linkage and multiplier effects of human resources development programmes directed at them. The Commission concurred with the view that the cost-effectiveness of human resources development activities aimed at different segments of the population was often highest among the poor and other disadvantaged target groups. It therefore called for priority attention to be given to disadvantaged groups such as the rural and urban poor, the landless, women and disabled persons, since such groups would respond strongly if given the benefit of effective human resources policies and programmes.

215. The Commission stressed the importance of activating the participation of enabler groups in human resources development capable of adapting continually to evolving needs and constraints. Just as target groups needed to be specified in order to optimize the impact and maximize the multiplier effects of human resources development programmes and projects under the plan of action, it was indicated that appropriate enablers of human resources development would have to be identified for much the same reasons. Such enablers included those individuals, groups and organizations whose active intervention could catalyse the human resources development process. Since the Plan of Action targeted the disadvantaged sections of

society for priority attention, it followed that the enablers should be selected from among those who came into direct contact with them. Those would include government officers responsible for local-level public administration, those responsible for the delivery of essential services at the local level, entrepreneurs and managers responsible for providing employment and for providing technological and other expertise, staff of non-governmental organizations whose voluntary efforts played an important role in encouraging popular participation and filling gaps in government efforts at the grass-roots level, and mass media personnel who staffed the increasingly powerful knowledge, information and communication networks indispensable to modern economic and social life.

216. The Commission recognized that while it was necessary to project human resources demand and supply conditions, such projections would necessarily be formulated in the context of uncertainty, thereby generating an inescapable degree of risk and associated costs. In that regard, the Commission emphasized the need for flexibility in human resources development policy and planning. It stressed that, over the medium to long term, the Plan of Action should limit its prescriptive content primarily to the development of human resources at the basic level. Over longer intervals, it should be mainly indicative in nature. It should have built-in capabilities to respond to change through a variety of programmes to enhance the adaptability of individuals and institutions and to strengthen their resilience in the presence of evolving development challenges.

217. The Commission called for studies in a variety of areas of relevance to human resources development. As global conditions with respect to technological progress were changing rapidly, the comparative advantage positions of developing countries in the region would need to be assessed to determine how they could best respond to those changes in terms of their human resources development efforts. Second, it was necessary to examine the problem of the brain drain to determine how it might evolve in the future and how that evolution might affect the member and associate member countries' human resources development positions, plans and programmes. Finally, the changing role of the non-formal sector, and the family as an economic unit, needed to be examined in terms of their

respective potential for employment generation and human resources upgrading.

218. The Commission endorsed the call for encouraging multisectoral research on human resources development issues. It was proposed, in that connection, that ESCAP consider establishing an award in recognition of exemplary research on human resources development which had exceptional practical region-wide application.

219. The Commission noted the different approaches, activities and accomplishments in human resources development already made by a number of members and associate members and the major tasks that were anticipated to lie ahead. The importance of promoting the exchange of experience in human resources development efforts among the countries in the region was emphasized as an important means of further assisting countries in their selection of alternative human resources development approaches.

220. The Commission was informed that in some countries national co-ordinating mechanisms to spearhead human resources development activities had been established and that they were being further strengthened. It recommended that Governments which had not done so should set up, where appropriate, such national mechanisms, and that those mechanisms needed to be linked by ESCAP with a view to establishing a regional human resources development network.

221. The Commission noted with appreciation the activities reported by various United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in support of national and regional efforts in the field of human resources development. It welcomed the critical assistance being extended by those organizations and expressed the hope that they would continue to give priority to and intensify their human resources development activities in accordance with identified national priorities. It emphasized the need to ensure the full co-ordination of those diverse activities and in that connection noted the role and responsibilities of ESCAP as team leader for the United Nations system in the economic and social fields in the region.

222. Although there was general agreement on the importance of government leadership in the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level, the contri-

butions that could be made by such other participants as the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local communities were emphasized. The convening of a meeting of non-governmental organizations by ESCAP in June 1988 was considered a most timely means of complementing efforts in the anticipated implementation of the Plan of Action.

223. Some delegations were of the view that a strategy emphasizing free market principles and privatization, which had been proved successful as a means of mobilizing human resources in a number of newly industrializing economies, should be considered by other countries in the region, where appropriate. That strategy was considered especially appropriate in the light of the limited resources available to Governments, the greater probability of sustained development based on self-reliance, and uncertainties as to the extent of foreign assistance forthcoming from donor countries and agencies. Some other delegations were of the view that the public sector had a central role in mobilizing human resources, particularly with regard to the disadvantaged sections of society.

224. Several delegations noted that the Plan of Action failed to consider the adverse effects of military expenditure on human resources development and the need for developing countries to focus their efforts and resources more fully on issues of peace and the normalization of international relations as a precondition for human resources development. Several others expressed their concern for the retention and fostering of the region's rich cultural traditions, which had sustained societies over the centuries. It was stressed that special efforts would be needed to preserve those traditions in the presence of rapidly changing scientific and technological situations in the region.

225. The Commission noted the suggestion of one delegation that the part of the Plan of Action entitled "Arrangements for implementation" should be considered separately from the other sections of the Plan in view of the need for further deliberations on the appropriate approach to regional co-ordination of human resources development and the manner whereby implementation of the Plan might be most suitably financed.

226. Several delegations called attention to the fact that implementation of the Plan of Action would require the

establishment of priorities and the delineation of financial implications. It was recommended that it would be necessary to focus on practical considerations within an operational framework to meet the policy objectives of the Plan.

227. The Commission noted the special human resources development problems faced by the least developed countries and by the small island countries in the Pacific. Those countries were characterized by limited natural resources, shortages of skilled manpower, disadvantageous location for international trade and frequent natural disasters. It was proposed that particular attention should be given to the specific human resources development needs of those countries.

228. The Commission recognized the advantages that could accrue from increased co-operation among developing countries in human resources development. The diverse development situation prevailing among the developing countries in the region suggested that South-South co-operation in various areas of human resources development would have beneficial results. The effectiveness of ECDC at the subregional level was expressed by the delegations of several South-East Asian countries which had developed various forms of co-operation within the framework of ASEAN. It was proposed that ESCAP might take into account the initiative adopted by the ASEAN Heads of Governments at Manila in 1987 to avoid duplication in future programmes and projects. The interest of South Asian countries in co-operative activities relating to human resources development within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was also noted.

229. The Commission heard with appreciation the expression of interest by a number of United Nations specialized bodies and agencies in ESCAP efforts to develop an integrated plan of action on human resources development. It welcomed their indications of intent to co-operate fully with ESCAP in assisting the members and associate members in their activities to promote human resources development.

230. The Commission acknowledged with gratitude the financial and other assistance that had been provided by the Governments of France, Japan and the Republic of Korea in support of the secretariat's work concerning human resources development. It also thanked

various international agencies and bodies, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, UNIDO and the Colombo Plan, for their expressions of commitment to undertake human resources development projects in the region and to co-operate with ESCAP in that regard.

231. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Japan to assist ESCAP in convening an expert group meeting in connection with the early implementation of the Plan of Action. It also welcomed the decision of the Government of the Republic of Korea to consider hosting a high-level workshop on human resources development in 1989.

232. In summing up the Commission's deliberations on human resources development, the Executive Secretary noted with appreciation the strong support for the Plan of Action expressed by many members and associate members. He proposed to the Commission that the participation of the whole United Nations system in the implementation of the Plan should be formally sought in the form of a resolution. He also suggested that, in order to maintain the momentum generated by the Commission in that field, a review of the implementation of the Plan of Action should be undertaken by the Commission every two years up to the year 2000. In conclusion, he urged members and associate members to take urgent action to implement the Plan so that the momentum that had been generated by the Commission might be maintained.

International trade in primary commodities

233. The Commission highly commended the secretariat's study on international trade in primary commodities contained in part two of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1987* and its report on the subject contained in document E/ESCAP/601. It found the documents to contain not only sound analysis but also a comprehensive discussion of policy issues relating to international trade in primary commodities.

234. The Commission noted that international trade in primary commodities was of critical importance to many countries in the ESCAP region, where it played a central role in their overall development. Many developing economies of the region were dependent on primary commodities as the principal source of income, employment, foreign exchange earnings, and the

overall well-being of the majority of their populations, especially the poorer sections.

235. The Commission expressed serious concern at the impact of adverse conditions of trade in primary commodities on the developing economies dependent on such commodities. Those conditions were characterized by low and declining trends in prices of and earnings from primary commodities, and by their instability, as well as by the deteriorating terms of trade resulting from the imbalance of demand and supply in the world market. Those factors created a generally adverse impact on investment income, employment and the overall well-being of a vast number of people throughout the ESCAP region.

236. The Commission identified the rise in protectionism, along with policies of subsidization of agriculture in some of the developed countries, which had the effect of augmenting production in those countries, limiting market access to developing country products and increasing supplies in the world market, as a major cause of market distortion in and falling prices of primary commodities. Among other causes, production-enhancing technological progress on the supply side, and product-saving innovations, including accelerated substitution of synthetic for natural products, were noted as factors contributing to the prevailing imbalance of demand and supply in recent years. The augmentation of supplies was also partly contributed to by developing countries through investment, the use of modern technological inputs and policy-induced incentives to producers. However, their production levels, especially of food, remained precariously balanced in many countries in relation to their basic food security needs and generally did not constitute a major factor in the glut in supplies.

237. The Commission paid the most serious attention to the ways of improving the conditions of international trade in primary commodities so as to remove or reduce the adverse impact of the prevailing conditions on the commodity-exporting countries, especially the developing countries. Many countries stated that the opportunity provided by the current Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations should be fully and effectively used to establish an agricultural trading system which would be free, fair and equitable to all parties concerned. It should be governed by a set of rules

which were open, transparent, and matched and reflected the international rules for trade in manufactured products. However, many delegations stated that the principle of special and differential treatment for the developing countries should be recognized in such rules. Many delegations also called for rapid progress and early results in the negotiations on tropical products, in which the principal beneficiaries were the developing countries. Some delegations also urged that substantial progress across a broad range of negotiating areas should be achieved by the time of the mid-term review of the Uruguay Round.

238. The Commission noted with satisfaction that there was a discernible degree of commitment on the part of some countries to liberalization of trade in commodities, and even some degree of actual liberalization in some countries. It was, however, recognized that difficult negotiations lay ahead before success could be achieved in removing distortive measures and establishing a free, fair and equitable trading system in primary commodities, and that the establishment of free trade would not by itself solve all the problems afflicting primary-commodity-dependent developing countries.

239. The Commission emphasized, therefore, that other concerted international measures based on co-operation between producers and consumers should be vigorously pursued. Some delegations stressed in that regard that international co-operation in primary commodity trade should take into consideration the position of the developing countries dependent on imports of primary commodities. Many delegations recommended that intensive efforts should be made to implement the Integrated Programme for Commodities elaborated at the initiative of UNCTAD and bring into operation the Common Fund for Commodities as the central element of that Programme. In that connection, the Commission noted the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its seventh session and the useful work done by the UNCTAD secretariat relating to trade in primary commodities. Many delegations expressed satisfaction at the encouraging prospect of the Common Fund coming into operation soon, as a result of the practical steps taken by some countries to join the Fund. Several delegations stated that the Common Fund should operate in its full volume while some other delegations stated that the emphasis should be placed on the Fund's second account. Many

delegations pointed out that the international commodity agreements incorporating producer-consumer co-operation had not outlived their usefulness. Some delegations believed that existing commodity agreements should therefore be improved and strengthened, and new ones negotiated. It was noted that negotiations for establishing new agreements on some commodities, such as cotton and tea, were in progress. The view was expressed that it was inappropriate, in principle, to seek commodity arrangements which attempted to control or circumvent market forces as determinants in price movements. That view was, however, contested by many delegations who deemed it unacceptable in the context of the widespread prevalence of trade-distortive national government measures affecting commodity trade.

240. Other measures for alleviating the problems of primary-commodity-dependent developing countries stressed by some delegations were the necessity of expanding and strengthening compensatory financing facilities, such as the IMF Compensatory Financing Facility and the STABEX scheme of the European Economic Community, special preferential and favourable treatment for the least developed countries on a non-reciprocal basis in trade negotiations with both the developed and other developing countries, through financial facilities and assistance for research, product development and diversification.

241. Many delegations stated that while in the medium and long term international measures might be successfully negotiated and might produce substantial results, in the short term the developing countries would need to depend on their own individual and collective efforts to mitigate the problems besetting their commodity production and trade. The Commission noted the efforts that many developing countries were making at the national level to diversify away from traditional export commodities, process more products domestically, improve product quality standards and further develop marketing infrastructures. Those efforts deserved the support of the international community.

242. It was agreed that there was considerable scope for regional co-operation among the countries of the ESCAP region in the field of primary commodities. Regional co-operation could cover such broad areas as marketing improvement, a market intelligence system, technological improvement, product

diversification, and research and development. Some delegations stressed that producer co-operation and collaboration to ensure greater stability in the market could be established. Boosting intra-regional trade through minimizing trade barriers by the expanded and effective use of agreements such as the Bangkok Agreement, the ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements, or the Global System of Trade Preferences currently being negotiated in the context of increasing South-South trade co-operation, was also stressed as possible strategy. The countries in the region were also urged to co-operate and co-ordinate their negotiating positions in global forums, such as GATT and UNCTAD.

243. The Commission urged the secretariat to intensify its efforts to establish regional co-operation in primary commodities, ESCAP being the most relevant agency for the purpose. Some delegations offered specific suggestions for work in the following areas: setting up a data bank for collection and rapid dissemination of information; examining the feasibility of setting up a commodity exchange for commodities of major interest to the region; assisting in the setting up of producer associations aimed at better collaboration among producers to ensure greater stability in the market for commodities; and undertaking studies on the prospects of ESCAP member countries giving prior consideration to purchases from within the region of their primary commodity import requirements.

Issues and programmes in various fields of activity of ESCAP

244. The Commission considered the reports of the legislative committees which had met during the year prior to the forty-fourth session, sectoral issue papers and the progress reports on the implementation of relevant resolutions.

245. In his opening statement, the Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted the major issues in the various fields of activity of ESCAP presented in the documents. Attention was drawn to the two dominant themes of regional co-operation and human resources development. The sectoral papers provided background information concerning the major issues on which the Commission's views were sought.

246. The Commission reviewed the issues in the various sectors as reflected below.

Issues in various fields of activity

Food and agriculture

247. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/594 and E/ESCAP/602.

248. It appreciated the efforts of the Committee on Agricultural Development at its seventh session in examining the work undertaken by the secretariat and in providing specific guidelines for future activities in the field of food, agriculture and rural development.

249. The Commission fully endorsed the report of the Committee on its seventh session, and called for expeditious implementation of the Committee's recommendations. The secretariat was commended on its interesting and useful documentation.

250. The Commission emphasized the continued key role played by agricultural and rural development in the developing countries of the region. In that connection, it commended the secretariat on undertaking a practical type of activities in a multi-sectoral manner, particularly those addressed to the disadvantaged rural populations.

Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific

251. The Commission expressed overwhelming support for the ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) in promoting the balanced and judicious use of fertilizers through advisory services, training programmes, workshops, study tours and timely dissemination of reliable fertilizer-related information. Those services had contributed significantly to the development of the fertilizer sector in the member countries in a cost-efficient manner. FADINAP was regarded as a well co-ordinated and successful example of inter-agency and intercountry co-operation. It continued to be one of the most competent sources of comprehensive fertilizer information in the region.

252. The effort of FADINAP in undertaking a study on port handling of mineral fertilizers in selected countries of Asia was commended. The Commission urged the Network to take action on the findings of the study and in particular to conduct training on the subject with the aim of improving fertilizer distribution. FADINAP

was urged to further concentrate its activities on fertilizer logistics, marketing, promotion, quality control, advisory services and human resources development under TCDC arrangements. The Commission endorsed the work of FADINAP in the field of fertilizer trade information and urged continuation of that service.

253. The Commission noted the work so far undertaken by FADINAP with regard to the proposed establishment of a regional fertilizer marketing corporation. Some delegations supported the idea in principle, and requested the secretariat to make further efforts in that regard.

254. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress of the Network of Fertilizer Information Systems (NFIS) initiated by FADINAP. Thirteen countries were currently participating in NFIS activities, including an increased volume of information-sharing among the Network members. The Commission commended several activities in that regard, such as the adoption of a specific computer software programme to produce a bibliographic data base and the *RISS, Regional Information Support Service* which was an abstract journal on fertilizer-related subjects. The representative of Japan informed the Commission of his Government's decision to contribute \$US 127,000 to FADINAP. The representative of the United Kingdom announced his Government's continued support of the establishment of national fertilizer information centres; the Government was considering a proposal to provide the services of additional consultants over a period of three years.

255. The Commission commended FADINAP sponsorship of participants from several countries to attend training programmes, which included training on marketing and distribution of fertilizer, organized by the Fertiliser Association of India.

256. It expressed satisfaction at FADINAP efforts in promoting TCDC through sending a group of Thai participants to study and observe the fertilizer bagging and distribution system in Indonesia. Indonesia had participated in a group study tour for fertilizer retailers in Thailand to observe fertilizer retailing. The activity was funded by FAO and co-ordinated by FADINAP.

257. The Commission was informed of the survey mission undertaken in early 1988 by the regional fertilizer distribution and marketing adviser, at the request of

the Government of Tonga. The representative of Tonga requested further assistance in that area, in addition to fertilizer trade information.

258. The Commission expressed sincere appreciation to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, for providing generous financial assistance to FADINAP. It also thanked the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland and the United Kingdom for the assistance provided for various activities of FADINAP. It noted with satisfaction the technical assistance and significant staff support received from FAO. The Commission also appreciated the provision by UNIDO of an associate expert.

259. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to secure adequate staffing for FADINAP, including the provision of regular budget posts, so as to ensure the continuing conduct of many important activities.

Agro-pesticides

260. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP) had continued its efforts to publish pesticide information and promote safe handling and efficient use, in spite of funding constraints. It particularly commended the publications produced by ARSAP.

261. Several delegations expressed appreciation of the translation of the illustrated pesticide safety guide into nine national languages, for training of farmers and retailers. The representative of Viet Nam acknowledged the recent assistance of ARSAP in translating the guide into Vietnamese, and requested that more copies be made available. Requests for translation into other languages were under consideration.

262. The representative of the Netherlands informed the Commission that funding would be provided for the preparation of an updated edition of the training manual *Agro-pesticides: Their Management and Application*.

263. The Commission noted with appreciation the increased contribution made by the Government of France to ARSAP in the form of experts and equipment. Those efforts had led to the preparation and publication of the *Regional Agro-pesticide Index* on the Philippines and Thailand in

1987. The 1988 edition of the index was under preparation and would include several more countries.

264. The representative of the USSR informed the Commission that technical literature was provided by the relevant USSR organization to the secretariat on biological pest control and that further information and publications would be sent on a regular basis.

265. The Commission strongly endorsed the proposal for the establishment of a pesticide safety, training, information and communication network for Asia and the Pacific (PESTNAP). The proposal had been jointly developed by the International Health Development Foundation (IDHF) of the Netherlands, in co-operation with the International Co-operation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) of France and ARSAP. The Commission was informed that IDHF and CIRAD were actively pursuing the allocation of funds for the project by the European Economic Community (EEC).

266. The view was expressed that the proposed PESTNAP project should consolidate the various efforts made by other United Nations agencies, such as FAO, on pesticide safety and that ESCAP should fully co-ordinate those efforts when PESTNAP was established.

Agricultural development plans and programmes

267. The Commission recognized the adverse impact of low agricultural commodity prices on the economy of many developing countries of the region. The depressed agricultural export prices had affected the producers negatively and caused serious concern among member countries whose national economies depended on the export of such commodities.

268. The Commission fully endorsed the secretariat's project proposal to undertake a detailed study of the impact of low agricultural export prices on the socio-economic condition of farmers and agricultural workers. Many delegations stated that they were looking forward to the results of the proposed study for possible use in their agricultural planning. Some delegations suggested that the respective Governments be consulted in the selection of the commodities as well as in identification of institutions for undertaking the study. The Commission expressed deep

appreciation to the Netherlands for funding the project.

269. The Commission recognized the need for improving agriculture under dryland and rainfed conditions to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people living in those areas. It endorsed the proposed project on the economic dimension of dryland and rainfed farming, together with the improvement of training and information exchange in that field. It also welcomed the recommendation of the Expert Consultation on the Economics of Dryland and Rainfed Farming, held at Dhaka in 1986, that a co-ordinating mechanism be established for relevant research in that field at the regional level.

Agricultural information and farm broadcasting

270. The Commission commended the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the field of agricultural information. It recognized the beneficial role played by the *Agricultural Information Development Bulletin* in disseminating useful information, and urged the secretariat to continue its publication. It noted the secretariat initiative to apply multimedia approaches for effective transmission of agricultural methodologies among member countries on a TCDC basis.

271. The Committee called upon the secretariat to further improve the quality of the *Bulletin* and to pay more attention to news from the region. It was suggested that information on innovative rural development strategies and corresponding field experiments should be included. The suggestion was made that the *Bulletin* should be published under the regular budget, or by introducing a subscription fee or accepting commercial advertisements.

272. The Commission welcomed the organization of a regional symposium on farm broadcasting in November 1988. It was pointed out that besides personnel of broadcasting organs, those from agricultural extension agencies should also be brought in to participate in such a symposium.

273. It was suggested that in implementing the farm broadcasting project, the secretariat should give priority in assisting the least developed countries. The representatives of two least developed countries, Afghanistan and Nepal, requested assistance under the

project. The representative of Viet Nam also requested support for conducting farm broadcasting training. The Commission expressed appreciation to Japan for funding the farm broadcasting project.

Food supply and distribution

274. Considering that the agricultural production of most countries of the region depended on the vagaries of nature, the Commission supported the implementation of the secretariat's satellite crop monitoring project in co-operation with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The project would go a long way in improving the early warning system and disaster management capabilities of several member countries. The Commission strongly urged UNDP and other donors to provide the necessary funding.

275. The Commission was informed that to mitigate the problem of food shortages which often emanated from poor weather conditions, the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) countries had decided to establish an emergency food reserve.

Integrated rural development

276. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the different activities of the secretariat in the field of integrated rural development. The issue of alleviation of rural poverty had become more complex and it was recognized that the problem had to be addressed through an integrated, multi-sectoral and spatial approach. In that regard, the recent merger of the multi-sectoral inter-agency programme on rural development with the food and agricultural programme of the secretariat was endorsed. It was emphasized that the merger should not decrease the importance of the integrated rural development strategy. It was urged that close co-operation should be maintained with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific.

277. The Commission recognized that the ESCAP/ILO non-farm employment project contributed significantly towards the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor. Continuation of the project until its full benefit could be realized was urged. The representative of Viet Nam requested his country's involvement in the project.

278. The Commission supported the view that local-level planning should be adopted as an important approach in the implementation of rural development. To ensure the effectiveness of the approach, the target groups should be systematically prepared to participate in the development process.

279. The Commission welcomed the offer made by China to host a regional workshop on the linkages between township enterprises and rural development in China in 1989. In the light of the key role played by the township enterprises in improving rural economic conditions, it was felt that the workshop could provide an opportunity to observe the Chinese experience and for exchange of relevant information among the participants. It was suggested that the secretariat should make early preparations to hold the workshop.

280. In view of the serious energy problems in rural areas, particularly among the disadvantaged groups, the Commission urged the secretariat to continue and expand the activities related to the utilization of agricultural residues as an energy source. It was informed about a proposed seminar-cum-study tour on the utilization of agricultural residues and other biomass respectively in China and the Republic of Korea.

Development planning

281. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/603, concerning the feasibility of setting up an institute of public finance in the Asian and Pacific region. It appreciated the work carried out by the secretariat and the report presented to the Commission.

282. The Commission endorsed the view of the expert group appointed by the secretariat that the setting up of a new, fully-fledged regional institute of public finance was not necessary. That conclusion was based on a number of considerations, including the perception that adequate facilities for research and training in public finance existed at the national level in many countries of the region and that the setting up of such an institute would give rise to considerable financial and management problems.

283. The Commission expressed strong support for a regional programme of research and training in selective areas of public finance. It recommended that such a programme should be organized

through a networking of institutions actively engaged in research, training and consultancy in public finance, coordinated by either an existing regional organization/institution, such as the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC), or by the ESCAP secretariat.

284. With regard to the contents of the regional programme, the tentatively identified areas of resource mobilization, budgetary policy and control, public enterprise evaluation, financial accountability and review, and debt management, received the Commission's general endorsement. It was suggested by some representatives, however, that the programme should be highly selective, in view of the fact that a considerable amount of work was already being carried out in many countries in such areas as resource mobilization and debt management. It was also suggested that public enterprise evaluation should be expanded to cover issues such as privatization and the form of budgetary support. It was also recommended that budgetary policy and control, and financial accountability and review, should pertain not only to national government finance but also to local government finance. The Commission endorsed the expert group's recommendation that an interdisciplinary approach should be maintained in the programme.

285. The Commission urged the secretariat to explore further with the national, regional and international institutions and organizations the issues concerning the organization and launching of the programme, and requested it to report to the appropriate committee at its next session.

286. The secretariat informed the Commission that extrabudgetary funds would be required to carry out the above task and that their availability would to some extent also determine the choice of the locus of the programme.

Transnational corporations

287. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/604.

288. It noted recent changes in global and regional economic structures which were affecting the extent and pattern of transnational corporation activities and their implications for foreign direct investment in the developing Asian and Pacific economies. It also focused attention on the role of transnational

corporations in the primary commodity and service sectors of developing countries in the region in the light of recent developments relating to depressed world markets for primary commodities and the growing trend towards internationalization of service industries.

289. The Commission observed that although, in terms of their numbers and value of investments, transnational corporations might not appear significant, they nevertheless played an important role in economies of several developing Asian and Pacific countries. Several delegations agreed that transnational corporations had assisted their host countries in supplementing the capital resources of those countries, facilitated technology transfer and provided market access abroad. However, some delegations noted that transnational corporations could exert a negative impact on developing countries in the region and urged those countries to maintain constant vigilance on the activities of such corporations, especially in the light of recent changes in the international economic environment. In that connection, the view was expressed that there was continued need for a balanced view on the economic and social costs and benefits generated by transnational corporation activities.

290. The Commission recognized that recent major changes in the global and regional economic structures might have significant implications for foreign direct investment in developing Asian and Pacific countries. Such changes included the prolonged stagnation of the global economy, the international debt crisis, the realignment of major currencies, the worsening imbalances in international trade and the emergence of new technologies. The Commission further noted that, as a result of the above changes, the international investment climate had become more competitive as both developed and developing countries increased their efforts to attract foreign direct investment. The Commission expressed the view that the above development might intensify as long as official development assistance continued to stagnate and international bank lending maintained its downward momentum.

291. The Commission observed that in their efforts to attract foreign direct investment, several developing Asian and Pacific countries had generally adopted a relatively more liberal and less restrictive policy towards transnational

corporations. In addition, the Commission noted that several countries had also provided more attractive facilities and additional fiscal incentives in an effort to attract more foreign direct investment. Along with those measures, the Commission observed that several developing countries in the region had taken measures to privatize State enterprises in order to increase private sector participation.

292. Apart from recognizing the emergence of a more competitive international investment climate, the Commission also noted that recent developments had contributed not only to the emergence of new investors from two major developed countries, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan, but also to the emergence of some developing countries as outward direct investors. The Commission noted that such countries included Brazil, the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

293. The Commission acknowledged that the emergence of new transnational corporations might provide added impetus to the proliferation of new forms of transnational corporation investment, such as licensing and international subcontracting. It agreed that such new forms of investment might serve as vehicles for many small and medium-sized firms to internationalize their activities.

294. The Commission drew several implications from the recent changes in the global and regional economic structures for foreign direct investment in the region. Several delegations agreed that instead of engaging in an incentive war to attract foreign direct investments, developing Asian and Pacific countries should further liberalize and simplify their investment and regulations procedures. The Commission also agreed that, in view of the growing importance of the new forms of investment, policy makers in the region should pay closer attention to the long-term advantages and disadvantages associated with such investment.

295. The Commission recognized the continuing importance of primary commodities in the economies of many developing countries and the active role of transnational corporations in primary commodity trade. It was pointed out that many developing countries depended on the beneficial effects on income employment, linkages and foreign exchange generated by activities surrounding the production and distribution of primary commodities.

However, although significant improvements had been made by developing countries in retaining a greater share of the profits from the international commercialization of primary commodities, many delegations observed an imbalance in the distribution of gains in favour of transnational corporations and considered some measures that could be taken to redress that imbalance.

296. The Commission recognized that abusive transfer-pricing practices of transnational corporations in primary commodity trade could result in non-remunerative prices for exporting countries and agreed that there was scope for host developing countries to increase their gains from the international trade in primary commodities by monitoring and regulating such practices. One delegation stated that, to minimize the possibility of such practices, its country had adopted several measures encouraging further downstream operations. Another delegation suggested that further work was needed in that area, including the holding of workshops and seminars on abusive transfer-pricing practices.

297. The Commission, while observing the contributions of transnational corporations to the development of the primary commodity sector through technology transfer and the provision of marketing and management expertise, agreed that transnational corporations generally played a dominant role in primary commodity markets. Its attention was drawn to measures adopted by developing countries to improve their market positions through State trading organizations, commodity groupings and joint marketing efforts. However, while some inroads had been made in terms of technical and market information sharing, the Commission felt that further measures were required to enhance the developing countries' countervailing market power vis-à-vis transnational corporations in primary commodity trade. Those would include strengthening the negotiating capabilities of primary commodity producing countries.

298. The Commission noted the growing importance of the service sector in the region and the world economy as a whole. Most delegations observed that transnational corporations, equipped with the latest technologies, huge financial assets, managerial expertise and access to global markets, played a dominant role in a wide range of service "industries", including shipping, trading, finance and

banking, tourism, insurance, data, advertising, accounting, consultancy and engineering.

299. While it felt that the collaboration of transnational corporations in the service sector was an essential element, the Commission underlined the importance of considering carefully the development of local industries, the employment effect of new service technologies, the socio-cultural implications and the need to strengthen national capabilities in interacting effectively with transnational service corporations. Furthermore, the Commission noted the difficulty in separating trade and investment issues related to the internationalization of the service sector and the lack of an international framework for foreign direct investment in services compared with that which existed for trade.

300. The Commission was informed that many countries in the region were currently in the process of considering carefully the implications of free international trade in services as well as of further opening of their service industries to transnational corporations. In that regard, it was felt that exchange of information on regional experience with respect to transnational corporation participation and operations in the service sector and their impact would be likely to prove valuable. Furthermore, the Commission agreed that research and information exchange through seminars could help in understanding the role and impact of transnational corporations in the service sector and in identifying measures at the national, regional and international levels for attracting transnational service corporations in the region, and for improving the regulating and negotiating capabilities of host countries on matters relating to transnational corporations in the service sector.

301. Finally, the Commission acknowledged the imperative need for regional and international co-operation to ensure that developing countries in Asia and the Pacific were able to respond adequately to the challenges arising from the new patterns of foreign direct investment and the changing role of transnational corporations. Several delegations reconfirmed their interest in continuing work on a regional information system on transnational corporations which had been approved at the previous session of the Commission. The Commission also urged the early adoption of the United Nations

code of conduct on transnational corporations. Most delegations welcomed initiatives by international organizations, such as the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and the International Finance Corporation, to increase the flow of foreign direct investment to developing countries.

302. The Commission expressed appreciation to the ESCAP/UNCTC Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations for the informative and useful documentation which it had prepared for the session as well as for its research, information and advisory activities. Several delegations expressed the view that the training programmes and advisory services offered by ESCAP and UNCTC had assisted their Governments in their efforts to promote and regulate foreign investment. The Commission expressed its strong support for the continuation of the services provided by the Joint Unit in order to assist developing countries in maximizing the net contributions of transnational corporations to socio-economic development.

Industry, technology and human settlements

303. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/592, E/ESCAP/605, E/ESCAP/606 and E/ESCAP/607.

304. It commended the secretariat on the excellent and comprehensive documentation prepared for its deliberations, and endorsed the report of the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment.

Industry

305. The Commission considered that the secretariat's activities relating to the promotion of engineering industries, such as the organization of a workshop/study tour on the development of battery-operated electric vehicles for urban applications, and one on machine tools, were timely, useful and provided a beneficial opportunity for participants from developing countries to become acquainted with relevant technologies and process engineering. It felt that the proposed ESCAP/UNIDO/TECHNONET ASIA workshop on computer-aided design/manufacturing (CAD/CAM) in medium-scale industries was opportune. Such an activity would provide a unique opportunity for developing countries to become aware of the benefits of modern technologies for industrial growth and higher industrial productivity.

306. The Commission recognized that in several countries of the region, agro- and allied industries occupied an important place in the overall industrial structure and therefore required special attention for their further development. In that respect, it expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's activity dealing with the prefeasibility studies of the agro- and allied industries in the lower Mekong basin. It further urged the secretariat to strengthen its activities for the development of agro-based industries by undertaking studies aimed at greater processing of agro-products for higher value added and increased productivity. It held the view that agro- and allied industries should receive priority, not only because they accounted for a significant share of the total manufacturing value added in the developing countries of the region but also because the development of such industries would lead to spatial distribution of industrial activities. The Commission also emphasized that the secretariat should provide special assistance to the least developed and island developing countries of the region in the development of agro-based industries.

307. The Commission recognized that small- and medium-scale industries occupied a very important place in the overall industrial sector of almost all the developing countries of the region. While expressing satisfaction with the secretariat's activities in that regard, it emphasized the need to initiate new measures aimed at the development of entrepreneurship, the improvement of management techniques, the upgrading of technological levels of small- and medium-scale industries, and the study of linkages between small- and large-scale industries. In that respect, the Commission felt that the secretariat, in close co-operation with other relevant United Nations and international organizations, especially UNIDO, could organize training programmes, workshops and study tours aimed at assisting the member States in such critical areas as skill upgrading and technology acquisition. It also emphasized the need for the sharing of experience, both among developing countries themselves and with developed countries, in the establishment of small- and medium-scale industries producing high-value goods through the adoption of new technologies. In that respect, the Commission noted with appreciation that the secretariat would be undertaking an activity dealing with the transfer of technology in small- and medium-scale industries, with the generous assistance of the Republic of Korea.

308. The Commission felt that the *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, regularly published by the secretariat, was of high quality and noted that issue No. 22, dealing with "Human resources development for small and medium enterprises" was of significant interest to developing countries of the region. It also noted that issue No. 23, with the theme, "Promotion of export-oriented small- and medium-scale industries", would be published shortly. It recommended that the main theme for issue No. 24 of the *Bulletin* should be "Investment promotion for the development of small- and medium-scale industries", and should deal with various aspects of investment promotion measures, such as the provision of incentives, financing and other support facilities.

309. The Commission emphasized that the least developed and island developing countries of the region had faced several constraints in the field of industrial development. While expressing satisfaction with the secretariat's activities aimed at assisting such countries in industrial development, the Commission emphasized the need to further strengthen activities such as technical advisory services in policy formulation and reorientation, project identification and feasibility studies, establishment of linkages among small, medium and large industries and the promotion of export-oriented industries.

310. The Commission appreciated the secretariat's activities in the field of energy conservation in small- and medium-scale industries. It emphasized that such activities, which had shown tangible results, should be undertaken on a regular basis. The secretariat should attempt to organize such activities by involving more countries and industries. In that respect, the Commission urged donors in a position to do so to provide extra-budgetary assistance to the secretariat in order to enable such activities to be undertaken.

311. The Commission emphasized that efforts at the national level should be strengthened to achieve greater dispersal of industrial activities. That would not only lead to increased employment opportunities in non-metropolitan areas but also result in an equitable distribution of income. In that respect, it urged the secretariat to initiate activities in designing policy packages, and identifying viable projects in non-metropolitan areas and incentive mechanisms for industrial promotion in rural areas.

312. The Commission appreciated the advisory and technical services provided by in-house advisers and experts of the secretariat. It especially noted with satisfaction the advisory services provided in the fields of industrial policies and review, joint ventures, technology negotiation and transfer arrangements for industrial development, and industrial training. It emphasized that such activities should be geared more towards assisting the least developed and island developing countries.

313. The Commission emphasized the need for greater dissemination of the secretariat's technical studies and reports. It also urged the secretariat to collect and disseminate information regarding policies and strategies of member States with the aim of assisting various developing countries in policy reformulation and reorientation.

314. The Commission felt that the analysis of issues related to industrial restructuring in Asian and Pacific developing countries, as contained in document E/ESCAP/605, was concrete and highly relevant, and supported its conclusions. In that regard, it noted with interest the individual perceptions of the member States regarding the degree of deregulation suitable to their own requirements.

315. It noted that several countries had now moved progressively towards outward-looking strategies with emphasis on export promotion of manufactured goods. The newly industrializing economies and the middle-income countries, in particular, had strengthened their efforts in that respect. However, the continuing global recession, slow recovery of economic growth in industrialized countries, stringent protectionist measures and decreasing international capital flows to developing countries had adversely affected various economic and industrial policies and programmes adopted by the developing countries. It therefore felt that a critical review and close examination of the manufacturing structure, taking into account the global economic environment and likely future developments, were desirable.

316. The Commission noted that although several developing countries of the ESCAP region had advanced significantly in industrial development, their progress in science and technology and technological innovations, as well as in effective adoption of imported technologies, was still limited.

317. The Commission, while recognizing that developing countries of Asia and the Pacific had enacted measures to attract domestic as well as foreign private investment to accelerate the pace of their industrial and economic development, emphasized that the institutional framework, along with the availability of appropriately skilled staff, needed to be further strengthened.

318. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the fact that some countries of the region had achieved remarkable progress in industrial development and exports, and had been able to achieve structural change in manufacturing, while the majority of the developing countries were still heavily dependent on agro-based industries. Therefore, the latter group of countries needed to strengthen their efforts towards intensified processing of their raw materials and products through improvement in technologies.

319. The Commission held the view that increasing challenges were expected during the 1990s in terms of technology developments for industrial production, market access, price structures and capital flows. Therefore, the developing countries of the ESCAP region, collectively and individually, should try to anticipate those developments well in advance, and arrange increasing industrial co-operation among themselves.

320. The Commission requested the secretariat to undertake further studies on the industrial restructuring process, keeping in view the global and regional industrial comparative advantage and prospects for both short-term and long-term exports from developing countries. The studies should also deal with joint venture possibilities, industrial complementation prospects and other measures for industrial and technical co-operation among developing countries.

Technology

321. The Commission noted that a crucial factor in achieving rapidly the goals of socio-economic development was the application of science and technology for development. It therefore expressed appreciation of the wide range of activities carried out by the secretariat in the technology sector and endorsed the general orientation of those programmes. It directed the secretariat to continue its work in those areas. Some delegations

noted with appreciation the benefits their countries had received from various technical assistance programmes, and requested the secretariat to continue to provide assistance in several areas, including new and emerging technologies, science and technology policy and planning, human resources development for technological progress, and transfer of technology.

322. With respect to human resources development, the Commission stressed the need for regional co-operation in the development of a mechanism or system of providing manpower to cope with the rapidly changing national technological situations in member countries, especially in areas of new and emerging technologies, such as fibre optics, new industrial materials, biotechnology, informatics, micro-electronics, and so on. It urged the secretariat to conduct appropriate studies to determine possible modalities for effecting such co-operation.

323. The Commission also expressed appreciation of the activities of the secretariat on the subject of standardization and quality control, and stressed the need for exchange of experience and strengthening of co-operation among developing countries of the ESCAP region in that field. In that connection, it noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host a training course on that topic, at Seoul later in 1988, in collaboration with ESCAP and urged the secretariat to intensify its efforts to provide more assistance to member States in that sphere.

324. The Commission commended the progress made with respect to the technology atlas project, noting the completion of the draft of the first volume. It also emphasized the need for the early completion of the project and for efforts by ESCAP towards effective utilization of the atlas as a policy-making tool before proceeding to the next phase of the activity.

325. The Commission stressed the importance of disseminating information on technology commercially available in the region for the promotion and development of small-scale industries, as well as of the development of consultancy services within the region, and called upon the secretariat to take appropriate steps to compile and circulate such information widely as soon as possible. In that connection, it noted the reiteration of

the intention of the Government of India to share the resources of its consultancy service centre and to host a regional seminar on consultancy development.

326. The Commission noted with interest that the regional Workshop-cum-Study Tour on the Promotion and Application of Tribological Techniques in Industries, organized by China and ESCAP, had been held at Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, in March 1988. It commended the Government of China on its past and current efforts at promoting South-South co-operation through the regional seminars it had organized in collaboration with ESCAP, and on the generous financial contribution which had made them possible. It called on the secretariat to continue to provide assistance to member States in that area and to mobilize efforts to implement the recommendations of the regional Workshop.

327. The Commission accepted the offer of Viet Nam to organize another workshop on tribological techniques in industries in Viet Nam in 1991.

328. The Commission noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on policy guidelines for the harmonization of activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in science and technology for development (E/ESCAP/607). The Commission believed that to be not only timely but also a step in the right direction, since it provided a more co-ordinated and efficient service to the developing countries of the region through numerous United Nations bodies. It, furthermore, supported the view that co-ordination at the national and regional levels was important and stressed the need for the medium-term plans and programme budgets of the relevant United Nations organizations to contain joint activities designed to strengthen the technological capabilities of member States in the acquisition and transfer of technology and science and technology policy-making and planning. It was also stressed that funding arrangements for the various related science and technology activities should be co-ordinated and rationalized. The Commission also emphasized the fact that regional commissions should act as executive arms of United Nations Headquarters to enable them to carry out their assigned mandates.

329. The Commission noted with interest the various activities initiated by member States, such as the establishment of science and technology infrastructure, promotion of technological innovations,

formulation of strategic policies, and enactment of appropriate laws to promote the development of indigenous capabilities in science and technology. In that connection, the efforts of member States in emphasizing the development of biotechnology and genetic engineering, computers and electronics, fibre optics, metallurgy, and new industrial materials were recognized. The Commission urged the intensification of collaborative efforts among member States in those areas in order to increase awareness, to exchange experience and information and to provide training. It therefore called upon the secretariat to mobilize resources to the extent possible for the provision of external technical assistance to member States in those areas.

330. In that context, the Commission commended the secretariat on the useful information provided in the *Directory of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Institutions in Asia and the Pacific for the Promotion of TCDC/ECDC* and requested the secretariat to take appropriate steps to expand the Directory.

331. The Commission noted with appreciation the reiterated commitment of the Government of India to organize, in collaboration with ESCAP, a seminar on the development of powder metallurgy in India in 1988, and urged the secretariat to initiate the necessary action.

332. The Commission supported the view that the transfer of appropriate technology to least developed countries of the region could play a crucial role in stimulating their overall development. In that regard, the Commission stressed the importance of appropriate and timely provision of technological information to facilitate the absorption of such technologies. The Commission urged the secretariat to play an effective role in the co-ordination and dissemination of such information, on request, to least developed countries.

333. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat towards strengthening the technological capabilities of member States through the organization of national training courses in several areas, including licence negotiations and technology transfer arrangements and solar photovoltaic systems. As those areas were of major importance in the efforts of developing countries to build indigenous capacities for science and technology, the Commission requested the secretariat to continue to provide such

services in the future. The delegation of Viet Nam requested the secretariat to help organize a national training course on licence negotiations and technology transfer arrangements in 1989.

334. The Commission noted that developing countries were confronted with the problems of the high cost of foreign exchange for energy. The Commission therefore fully supported the secretariat programmes designed to promote energy conservation at the national level. However, it emphasized the need for continuous dissemination of information on energy conservation to countries of the region and called upon the secretariat to facilitate the provision of such information.

335. The Commission noted the special interest of the Philippines in secretariat activities, particularly in the area of new and emerging technologies, and the research, development and demonstration project in municipal waste utilization.

336. The Commission noted with interest the programmes being undertaken by UNESCO in comparable fields, such as new and emerging technologies, technological research and higher technical education, and welcomed its offer to collaborate with ESCAP in those areas.

Human settlements

337. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Regional Colloquium on Shelter Strategies as Follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless held in September 1987. The Commission in particular stressed that member countries should give serious consideration to the "New agenda for human settlements" which recognized human settlements as a framework for development. It noted with appreciation that a number of countries, notably Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, had incorporated human settlements as an integral part of the productive sector of the economy. It also emphasized the need to develop national shelter strategies, bearing in mind the development stage in each country, in line with the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/191, in the annex to which it was stated that "The regional commissions of the United Nations should encourage and assist in the formulation of shelter strategies in their respective regions and the exchange of information thereon".

338. The Commission noted that conventional strategies for human settlements development had not achieved their objectives and that a new approach was emerging based on the application of enabling strategies, including provisions of incentives and new perceptions regarding relationships between government, people and resources. It urged Governments to formulate and introduce shelter policies along the lines of the new agenda for human settlements and the guidelines of the Global Strategy, and adopt a package of approaches to support enabling strategies for more efficient integrated development. It stressed that the importance of employment and income generation should be adequately recognized in the formulation of shelter policies so as to increase the ability to provide shelter, as exemplified by the experience of Indonesia and Sri Lanka. It also stressed that shelter strategies should promote a partnership between the government and the people, with actual physical supply of shelter devolving on individuals and the private sector, and facilitated by the Government through progressive legislation and incentives. It requested the secretariat to monitor those trends and advise member countries on appropriate strategies to be pursued through advisory services, information dissemination and human resources development.

339. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 268 (XLIV) on shelter strategies towards the year 2000.

340. The Commission encouraged Governments to demonstrate their commitment by influencing the factors that affected the housing process: by making land delivery more efficient; facilitating training; promoting the utilization of appropriate materials; developing local financial institutions; providing infrastructure and services in urban and rural areas; promoting community organization; establishing appropriate co-operation with the private sector; and providing planning frameworks that would put housing in its cultural context and take spatial aspects into consideration. Where pressure of migration to metropolitan cities was creating problems, the Commission recommended that policies should be aimed at developing rural centres and intermediate cities, with enough employment opportunities, supporting infrastructure, and comparable urban services. It requested the secretariat to assist member countries in that area and also appreciated the value of extending the project related to rural

centre planning currently being implemented with the assistance of the Netherlands.

341. In the crucial area of land, the Commission noted that government policies needed to be reviewed and the question of subsidies addressed in order to enable the poor to obtain land for housing with secure tenure. Land registration also needed to be streamlined. In that connection, it noted with appreciation that a comparative in-depth study on metropolitan fringe land development had been completed by the secretariat and that a workshop, scheduled to be held at Bangkok in June 1988, was to discuss the policy implications of the study, and it expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for its financial support. It noted with appreciation the target set by the Government of Pakistan of providing 2.2 million plots for the low-income group by March 1990 and that the actual progress towards that goal had been satisfactory. It suggested that the application of new technologies, such as computers, in planning, land registration and so on, should be promoted.

342. Given the importance of human resources development, the Commission recognized that training, research and information dissemination were pervasive aspects of all human settlements activities. It recommended that the secretariat should organize training and technical assistance programmes in human settlements with the aim of exchanging knowledge and improving skills and management capacities at the national and local levels, based on the TCDC concept.

343. The Commission observed that areas where positive facilitating measures should be made by Governments included building legislation to promote the introduction of new technologies, and reformulation of obsolete and inappropriate regulations to enable development of the indigenous building materials industry for the fulfilment of dwelling needs, particularly for low-income households. In that connection, it expressed appreciation of the secretariat activities with regard to promotion of innovative and appropriate materials and technologies being implemented with the assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany, and urged that those be followed through with training for both men and women participants at the national level.

344. The Commission saw considerable scope for the establishment of community-based housing finance systems and for closer links between public and private financial institutions in order to expand the access of poor people to housing finance, and appreciated the secretariat's efforts to organize seminar-cum-study tours to examine and develop innovative approaches to housing finance and credit. It was pleased to note that a five-day seminar-cum-study tour organized in Bangladesh in March 1988 had shown fruitful results, and expressed appreciation to the Grameen Bank and the Government for providing local facilities, and to the Government of the Netherlands for financial support. It recommended that those efforts should be continued in the form of national training seminars. It also welcomed the interest expressed by France in supporting activities related to innovative community-based housing finance and credit systems for low-income households, and to application of updated, modular co-ordination rules adapted to local conditions.

345. The Commission thanked the city of Nagoya for hosting the Second Congress of Local Authorities for Development of Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific in July 1987. It endorsed the Nagoya Declaration establishing the Regional Network of Local Authorities for Management of Human Settlements with 26 local authorities and non-governmental organizations and institutes as its initial members. It noted with appreciation the intent of the cities of Seoul and Pusan, of the Republic of Korea, to join the Network. It endorsed the recommendations and work programme adopted by the First Working Group Meeting of the Participating Bodies in the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, held at Yokohama, Japan in July 1987, and expressed appreciation to UNDP of its financial support to Network activities. The Commission noted with satisfaction the initiatives already demonstrated by many member cities and organizations of the Network, in both developed and developing countries, to host and finance various activities under the Network on a TCDC basis. It urged Governments to assist and facilitate Network members in their countries in organizing, implementing and participating in those activities.

346. Recognizing the crucial role that women could play in human settlements, the Commission further endorsed the emphasis placed by the secretariat on

community participation as an essential ingredient of enabling strategies. It also recognized the contribution made by community-based organizations to the provision of shelter and recommended that the secretariat should continue to incorporate a strong element of human resources development, benefiting both men and women, in its human settlements activities.

347. The Commission underlined the essential role played by non-governmental and community-based organizations in improving the quality of life in human settlements at the local and grass-roots levels. It appreciated the secretariat's efforts in organizing exchange programmes and study tours, essentially on a TCDC basis, among non-governmental and community-based organizations working with people on low-income housing and settlement development, and was grateful for the generous contribution of \$US 50,000 from the Government of Japan to further strengthen the exchange programme for non-governmental organizations and community leaders in the field of human settlements. It welcomed the fact that the secretariat planned to organize a symposium for non-governmental organizations in June 1988 and recommended that such activities should be further expanded; it urged the Governments to support the initiatives by non-governmental organizations for sharing of experience with others.

348. In the context of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, several countries had embarked on major programmes for the improvement of shelter, which included: the formulation by Bangladesh of an integrated national human settlements policy, and its national programme of providing "addresses for addressless people", that is, shelter for people without shelter; China's goals for the provision of adequate shelter by the year 2000, and its success in containing the growth of primate cities and in promoting the growth of small and intermediate cities and townships; India's proposed national housing policy, including development of a specialized housing finance system, the setting up of a national network of building centres, and its advances in mud architecture and technology and new building materials based on agricultural and industrial wastes; Indonesia's national policy for human settlements development to promote a coalition of government and non-government institutions, the formal and informal private sector, co-operatives and community groups, including women, in the

provision of shelter; Pakistan's recently formulated national human settlements, housing and city management policies, its building code and manual for infrastructure development and establishment of a national housing authority; Sri Lanka's Million Houses Programme, placing people at the centre of the development process and creating a new relationship between the State and its people with minimum State intervention and maximum support, letting groups within a community serve as contractors; Thailand's promotion of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community groups and co-operatives, and proposed revision of housing standards and land development regulations; and Viet Nam's recently-promulgated law on land use and management.

349. The Commission, while acknowledging the continuing efforts of UNESCO in the field of low-cost housing and the conservation of traditional values in building, appreciated its contribution to the Symposium on Building Materials for Low-income Housing in Asia and the Pacific organized by ESCAP/CIB (International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation) and RILEM (International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures) and held at Bangkok in early 1987.

350. The Commission noted the requests of Bangladesh and Viet Nam for assistance in the field of human settlements.

Implementation of resolutions 247 (XLII), on forecasting, planning and development of technological human resources, and 256 (XLII), on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions

351. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/608.

352. It expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's activities related to the implementation of the resolutions on human resources development adopted by the Commission at its forty-second session. The Regional Seminar on Forecasting, Planning and Development of Human Resources for Technology, organized in China in November-December 1987, dealing with themes such as technology and development; new and emerging technologies and their impact on demand for new skills; planning and development of technological human resources; forecasting methodologies for technological manpower;

and regional co-operation in human resources development, was considered timely and appropriate.

353. The Commission felt that the Seminar's conclusion emphasizing that the formal education system alone was not capable of meeting the training and skill needs in the developing countries was significant, but that it required further examination. It felt that human resources development programmes in several countries of the region were implemented in a fragmented manner, resulting in an unbalanced structure of skill formation, and therefore required a co-ordinated approach at the national level. It further noted that several developing countries were moving towards wider use of new and emerging technologies, especially micro-electronics, informatics, biotechnology, new industrial materials and genetic engineering, which required new approaches and strategies in the development of human resources. The Commission felt that those new and modern technologies represented an advancement aimed at improving products and productivity and that they had important implications for the demand and generation of new technical skills and expertise.

354. The Commission, while endorsing in principle the recommendations of the Seminar, emphasized that regional co-operation measures to improve the methodologies for human resources planning and forecasting should be strengthened. It also recommended that efforts should be further geared towards sharing of experience through exchange visits of:

- (a) scientific and technical personnel;
- (b) trainers in technical areas; and
- (c) policy makers in technical education.

355. The Commission also recognized the need for organizing regional workshops on entrepreneurship development, designing a technical manpower information system and providing technical and advisory services in data base improvements for manpower forecasting and overall human resources planning.

356. The Commission appreciated that the secretariat, in line with the proposed integrated plan of action on human resources development, was preparing a series of project proposals in the area of human resources development for technological progress. It emphasized that such activities should be undertaken on a tripartite basis by involving developing and developed countries and with ESCAP playing a catalytic role. It also urged

the secretariat to maintain close co-operation with other United Nations and international agencies in designing and implementing such programmes.

357. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of China for the generous assistance provided to the secretariat in its organization of the Seminar.

358. The Commission commended the secretariat on the various activities undertaken in implementing resolution 256 (XLII) on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions.

359. The Commission was of the view that the Workshop on Human Resources Development Policy and Planning for Technology and Development, held at Seoul in October-November 1987, dealing with technology and development, technology and human resources development, technology and human resources development in the Republic of Korea; and technology and human resources development in Japan, had provided a unique opportunity for policy makers at senior and middle levels to become acquainted with new concepts and approaches in overall human resources planning and development for technology. The Commission appreciated that the Workshop had discussed extensively the possibility of ECDC/TCDC for the development of human resources for technological progress. The exposure to the experience of Japan and the Republic of Korea in such development was felt to be of significant interest to other countries of the region.

360. The Commission further stressed that in future activities of that kind the secretariat should attempt greater ECDC/TCDC by using the expertise and institutional facilities available in developing countries, whenever possible.

361. It requested the secretariat to undertake follow-up action based on the recommendations of the Workshop. It noted with appreciation the offers made by the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea of possible assistance in the implementation of follow-up action.

362. The Commission urged that such programmes be organized on a tripartite basis. It also requested the secretariat to strengthen its efforts in enlisting the participation of as many developing countries as possible.

363. The Commission appreciated the generous assistance of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea in the organization of the Workshop.

Environment

364. In the field of the environment, the Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/592 and E/ESCAP/609.

365. The Commission decided to convene a ministerial-level conference on the environment for the Asian and Pacific region in 1990 to review the state of the environment in the region, to examine the problems and prospects of environmental management, to consider long-term environmental problems, and to suggest further measures for strengthening regional co-operation and efforts to achieve a better quality of life and environment.

366. The Commission generally endorsed the time schedule and agenda of the proposed ministerial-level conference on the environment. However, a number of delegations suggested that the role of non-governmental organizations and international funding agencies should be included in the agenda item relating to regional co-operation. Some delegations expressed the view that the secretariat should have further consultations with the Governments so as to prepare a well-structured agenda for the conference. With regard to the frequency of such ministerial-level conferences, a number of delegations felt that they should be held as and when member Governments considered it necessary.

367. The Commission commended the initiative undertaken by the secretariat to prepare a second regional state of the environment report. It considered that the report should be based on comprehensive and updated information and data for presentation to the ministerial-level conference in 1990. It was suggested that the secretariat should prepare a draft outline of the report and circulate it to the member Governments for their comments and suggestions. It was also suggested that more specific projections of environmental conditions and trends for the next 15 to 20 years should be made so that clear policy guidelines and well-conceived measures could be recommended. In that regard, the Commission noted with appreciation the support provided by the Government of France for the preparation of the second regional state of the environment report.

368. With regard to strategies for environmentally sound and sustainable development, the Commission welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/187 on the subject. It considered that the objective of improving the quality of life was closely related to the need for a development process that was sustainable in the long run and would ensure the ability of the countries to meet their current demands for natural resources and environmental amenities without sacrificing the needs of the future generation. It endorsed the major findings and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission and expressed its support for the efforts made by the secretariat for regional follow-up activities, keeping in view the need for continuing close co-ordination with UNEP to avoid duplication. In that regard, it suggested that, based on the recommendations of the World Commission, the mandate, policies and programme of work of ESCAP should be reviewed in line with the requirements of sustainable development. It was suggested that the selection of a theme topic for the forty-fifth session of the Commission might provide an opportunity for ESCAP to include that important multidisciplinary approach in its total work programme. Accordingly, the Commission urged its members and associate members to adopt a long-term strategy for environmentally sound and sustainable development and recommended further strengthening of the environmental dimensions of the programme of work of ESCAP. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 267 (XLIV) on the adoption and implementation of the principle of environmentally sound and sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region. Two delegations informed the Commission that they had expressed their views on certain recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development at the time of its adoption at the General Assembly.

369. The Commission recognized the importance of political interest in and awareness of sustainable development and suggested that the secretariat should work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing activities for members of parliament of the region.

370. The Commission expressed its support for the ESCAP/UNDP project on the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in

Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP), which had been established as a result of the recommendation of the intergovernmental meeting held in September 1986 and the decision of the Commission at its forty-third session. The Commission noted with interest the progress in the implementation of the DESCONAP project, which was being undertaken in close co-operation with and with support from interested Governments, UNDP and UNEP. It expressed its appreciation to UNDP for providing initial funding support for implementation of the DESCONAP project and urged UNDP to continue to provide its support for a project which dealt with one of the most severe environmental problems of the region. The Commission was also informed of activities undertaken to commemorate 1988 as the Year of the Trees for Asia and the Pacific.

371. Several delegations expressed interest in participating in the DESCONAP project and informed the Commission of specific activities undertaken or proposed to be undertaken in response to the Commission's decision to establish DESCONAP and to celebrate 1988 as the Year of the Trees for Asia and the Pacific. The delegation of the USSR offered to host the first regional consultative meeting in Ashkabad. It also informed the Commission that a meeting of the Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification would be hosted in late April 1988 in the USSR. The delegation of Viet Nam offered to provide host facilities for a regional seminar-cum-study tour on desertification, deforestation and degradation of forest land and suggested that international funding for such an activity should be provided from the DESCONAP project. The delegation of India informed the Commission of his Government's willingness to host a training workshop for local government officials involved in desertification control activities, to be held jointly with ESCAP in 1988. An offer to provide host facilities for training, research, demonstration and study tours on soil conservation, land improvement and remote sensing applications was made by the Government of Thailand.

372. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme expressed serious concern about the increasing dimension of the desertification problem in the Asian and Pacific region, which, he stated, was the basis for attaching high priority to the DESCONAP project, for which UNDP had provided programme

support amounting to \$US 400,000 to complement the contributions already pledged by the participating Governments for the implementation of phase I of the project.

373. The Commission noted with satisfaction the convening of the Regional Conference on Media and the Environment in Asia, held at Bangkok in January 1988. It considered that the Conference had been most productive, not only in promoting environmental awareness among journalists but also in disseminating the findings and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

374. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists. It also noted with interest the formation of national forums of environmental journalists in several countries of the region, and the possibility of such forums being formed in other countries in the near future. It realized the important role of the media in promoting public awareness in the field of the environment and recommended further co-operation between the Asian Forum of Environment Journalists, national forums and ESCAP.

375. The representative of the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists informed the Commission of its objectives, current and planned activities, such as the exchange of information and training programmes, and difficulties with which environmental journalists were confronted in the region. He urged the Governments and international organizations, including ESCAP, to extend their co-operation and assistance, particularly during the initial period, until the Forum could become self-supporting.

376. The Commission stressed the importance of environmental education, and noted with satisfaction the various activities on the subject conducted in the countries of the region. It suggested that the secretariat should undertake activities in that area, particularly for developing environmental education curricula at the elementary and secondary school levels, besides preparing a similar course for training teachers and trainers.

377. The delegation of Bangladesh expressed its appreciation to ESCAP for providing support to develop the coastal environmental management plan for Bangladesh. In that regard, the delegation requested further assistance from the secretariat in undertaking follow-up

activities of the plan's recommendations in the form of concrete projects.

378. The representative of the Philippines, expressing the need for the protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems in his country, requested the secretariat to provide programme support for developing coastal environmental management plans in the Philippines, and indicated interest in being a recipient of technical assistance in industrial and marine pollution control. He also stated that the newly established Regional Mangrove Information Network in Manila could be the first step towards the implementation of a network of mangrove research activities in the Asian and Pacific region.

379. The Commission expressed concern at the depletion of the ozone layer and the problem of the rise in sea level, and suggested that those issues should be raised at the proposed ministerial-level conference, with the objective of developing regional strategies and inputs to grapple with those problems. A number of countries urged members and associate members to support the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It was also suggested that the secretariat should monitor and follow up the progress of the global studies on the rise in sea level and the depletion of the ozone layer and report on them to member countries through *ESCAP Environment News*.

380. The Commission emphasized the importance of environmental impact assessment as an integral part of the planning process and urged close co-ordination with UNEP to avoid duplication. In that regard, it noted with interest the information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands on the International Independent Audit Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment. It noted with appreciation the financial commitment of the Government of the Netherlands for conducting a regional study on environmental impact assessment of development projects. It also welcomed the announcement of an extrabudgetary contribution of \$US 89,000 for 1988 by the Government of Japan for a project on training of middle-level administrators for environmentally sound planning in the Asian and Pacific region.

381. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran drew the attention of the Commission to the continuous and recent disregard of concern expressed by

most delegations to the Commission at its forty-second session on the use of chemical weapons and their negative effects on the environment in the ESCAP region, with a view to requesting the Commission to undertake a technical study on such effects in the context of the environment. It proposed a draft resolution on the subject. The Chairman of the Commission, after having listened to the report of the Chairman of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions, noted that the deliberations in the Working Group on the draft resolution on the "effects of the use of chemical weapons on the environment in the ESCAP region" showed a lack of consensus in the Working Group on the matter; furthermore, in the light of the question posed by the concerned delegation as to the competence of ESCAP to consider the draft resolution, the Chairman of the Commission stated that as there was no consensus on it in the Working Group, the concerned delegation had three options in the plenary: (a) to withdraw the draft resolution; (b) to press for further action; or (c) not to press for further action. The concerned delegation subsequently announced that it would not withdraw the draft resolution but would agree to the third option.

382. The Commission recognized the need for transfer of relevant environmental technology and for the development of suitable technologies for safe treatment of industrial wastes. It was suggested that the secretariat should pay greater attention to regional environmental issues concerning pollution of the atmosphere and oceans. Such activity might include regional studies to identify long-range pollutants and their impact, and the exchange of expertise and information on prediction technologies utilizing scientific modelling.

383. Several delegations, while expressing their satisfaction with and appreciation of the technical assistance provided by the secretariat, requested the secretariat to continue to extend the required assistance to interested Governments, particularly in the areas of training of administrators and government officials, environmental impact assessment, urban, industrial and marine pollution control, coastal environmental management and promotion of public awareness on environmental issues, especially in view of the financial constraints which checked their initiative to implement a comprehensive programme in that field.

384. The Commission commended the work of the Environmental Co-ordinating Unit of the secretariat during the period under review, despite the resource constraints which it was facing under the regular budget. In that regard, the Commission noted with appreciation the extrabudgetary assistance provided by various donor countries and agencies, including Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and UNDP.

385. The Commission reiterated the importance and usefulness of co-operation and co-ordination with other United Nations bodies and agencies, such as UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. It suggested that co-operation and collaboration with UNEP would be particularly useful in the area of long-term, global environmental problems, such as those related to the depletion of the ozone layer and the rise in sea level.

386. The representative of the World Health Organization expressed his keen interest in the environmental issues of the region and informed the Commission of the existence of a close working relationship between his organization and ESCAP in the field of the environment. He particularly commended the secretariat on the convening of the Regional Conference on Media and the Environment in Asia, and considered it to be an important step in the follow-up action to the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

387. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization informed the Commission of UNESCO activities, especially the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme and its programme on marine science.

International trade

388. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/610.

389. It noted that though some ESCAP members, particularly developing countries in the region, had generally displayed economic growth, the external environment continued to be uncertain and the economic growth of countries was constrained by depressed commodity prices, large payments imbalances and high external debt burdens, decline in net capital inflows, and erosion in their terms of trade.

390. It was noted that trade conflicts, continuing infringement of the rules of the international trading system and the

increasing resort to protectionist measures was undermining the pace of development of the region.

391. The Commission reiterated the need to strengthen an open and free multilateral trading system and recognized the importance of the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations for achieving greater trade liberalization. It noted the statements made by a number of countries regarding action taken by them towards restructuring their economies and improving access to their markets.

392. The Commission took note of the importance of trade in agricultural products within the Uruguay Round and expressed the hope that specific problems of that sector which were adversely affecting the trade of the producing countries in the region would be satisfactorily resolved. Many delegations emphasized the need for a standstill on and rollback of protectionist measures and the importance they attached to meaningful implementation of special and differential treatment for developing countries. Some other delegations referred to the importance of reaching agreement in other sectors such as services, protection of intellectual property and trade-related investment measures, which they felt would facilitate negotiations under the Uruguay Round.

393. The Commission noted that the mid-term review of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations was to be held later in the year and that progress in negotiations towards trade liberalization would have a beneficial impact on the trade of countries in the region.

394. Keeping in view the complexity of issues under negotiation within the Uruguay Round, the Commission, noting that ESCAP was assisting countries in the preparation of studies on the role of services in the economy, called upon the secretariat to continue to provide appropriate technical and advisory services to developing countries in the region and to conduct appropriate studies and disseminate relevant and useful information for the negotiations, which might enable the crystallization of a regional input to the negotiations.

395. The Commission noted with appreciation the activities undertaken by ESCAP to implement the decisions taken by the Ministers of Trade at their Meeting held in June 1986 and urged that further action as necessary be taken expeditiously

to implement fully the Declaration of the Ministers with regard to trade in manufactures, technology transfer, investment opportunities and joint ventures.

396. The Commission observed with concern that the continued depression and instability of most primary commodity prices was retarding the growth and development of many countries in the region, particularly developing countries which were primarily commodity exporters. Noting with appreciation the activities undertaken by ESCAP and those undertaken through the existing co-operative arrangements for jute, silk and tropical timber, as well as the utility of enlarged regional co-operation in the area of commodities, many delegations underlined the importance of dealing with commodity issues within the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities and emphasized the importance of the early launching of the Common Fund for Commodities.

397. The Commission took note of the statement of the representative of the International Jute Organization (IJO) reviewing the work undertaken by the organization. It urged international institutions and donor countries to provide financial assistance to IJO. It also urged the secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance and advisory services to member countries and to the regional commodity communities/associations.

398. Recognizing the importance of the growth of intraregional trade in the development of the region, the Commission noted that the third session of the second round of trade negotiations under the Bangkok Agreement would be held in May 1988. It also noted that in pursuance of the decision of the Ministers of Trade, the secretariat had commissioned a high-level mission to visit China, Pakistan and Thailand. Urging more developing countries to join the Agreement, the Commission noted the statement of the representative of China that the issue of membership of the Bangkok Agreement was under consideration by his Government and that it would participate as an observer in the forthcoming session of the second round.

399. The Commission heard the statement of the representative of the Asian Reinsurance Corporation. It was noted that while substantial reinsurance business was continuing to flow out of the region, ARC had steadily increased

its underwriting reinsurance business, for example, through the Asian and Pacific Aviation Pool. In that connection, it urged other developing countries to join ARC so as to broaden its capital base and enable it to better serve the interests of the region. The Commission was of the view that lack of know-how in the field of insurance and reinsurance was one of the obstacles in the development of national insurance markets. It therefore requested the secretariat to organize training courses in co-operation with ARC for the insurance personnel of the developing countries of the region and in that context noted, with appreciation, the statement of the representative of India, offering facilities for training personnel from developing countries of the ESCAP region.

400. The Commission commended the activities of the secretariat in the field of trade promotion. It took note of the progress made in the organization of the Asian International Silk Fair '88, which should stimulate trade in silk and silk products through improved buyer-seller contact. It urged the secretariat to continue and intensify to the extent possible its activities in the field of trade promotion, including market studies, updating of trade directories and holding of commercially-oriented trade fairs for other products. The Commission noted that countries had found the activities of the Regional Consultative Group on Silk to be useful and felt that meetings of the Group should be convened regularly.

401. The Commission noted that progress had been made in the preparation of the traders' manual for Asia and the Pacific. It also noted with appreciation the statement of the representative of Japan that his Government would provide further financial assistance for the completion of the manual.

402. The Commission reiterated that skilled human resources in the field of international trade continued to be inadequate and requested the secretariat to intensify its activities in that area, paying particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries of the region. It took note of the statement of the representative of the Republic of Korea that his Government would explore possible avenues to fund an ESCAP project for human resources development in the field of international trade.

403. The Commission welcomed the consultations undertaken by the secretariat with

the China Asian-Pacific International Trade Research and Training Center and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, whose facilities had been offered by their respective Governments with a view to developing a regional training programme. It noted that the matter would be considered further by the Committee on Trade at its twenty-sixth session to be held in November 1988.

404. Recognizing the importance of trade information, the Commission requested the secretariat to intensify its activities in that field and assist developing countries of the region in building their computerized trade information infrastructure.

405. The Commission commended the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the field of trade facilitation, and expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for financing the implementation of trade facilitation activities. Recognizing the importance of those measures as an effective instrument for trade expansion, particularly in the context of recent technological developments through electronic data interchange and automatic data processing, the Commission urged the secretariat to further intensify its activities in that field by assisting developing countries in adopting appropriate trade facilitation measures, including training of trade officials.

406. The Commission noted the great importance attached by the developing Pacific island countries to human resources development in the field of trade facilitation and that activities conducted in that regard had proved to be very beneficial to them. Noting that projects for further expansion of trade facilitation activities were proposed by the secretariat, the Commission urged UNDP and donor countries to extend full support to the secretariat activities in that important sector. Those activities, in effect, should contribute greatly to cutting the cost of paper work in international trade and making such trade smooth and cost-effective.

407. The Commission noted that the generalized system of preferences had facilitated market access for the exports of developing countries and that those countries attached importance to the continuance of the system.

408. The Commission further took note that negotiations were continuing under the

Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries, in the Group of 77, directed towards co-operation in trade among its participants.

409. Recognizing the special problems of the least developed countries of the region, the Commission stressed the need for special attention to be given to the developmental and technical assistance requirements of those countries.

410. The Commission further noted the special developmental problem of land-locked countries and urged that meetings of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries should be convened regularly with a view to developing appropriate recommendations and programmes for their development and trade expansion. Some countries urged strengthening the United Nations Special Fund for the Land-locked Countries for necessary assistance to the countries concerned.

411. The Commission noted the close co-operation between ESCAP and other United Nations agencies and international organizations in the field of international trade, and called for the continuation of such co-operation. It urged UNDP and donor countries to support the activities of the secretariat undertaken in pursuance of the decisions taken at the Meeting of Ministers of Trade held at Bangkok in June 1986 so as to enable the complete implementation of such decisions.

Natural resources and energy

412. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/593 and E/ESCAP/611.

413. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourteenth session.

Energy resources

414. The Commission commended the work of the secretariat in the field of energy. In particular it was emphasized that the sectoral demand analysis approach of the secretariat to energy management, as well as the harmonization of energy plans, represented an important initiative for the benefit of all participating countries.

415. Several delegations expressed their appreciation of particular energy activities, such as training in photovoltaics

and in other fields, and indicated their continued participation and support for energy-related activities. The Commission noted the availability of Australian expertise in fields related to coal mining and utilization for the benefit of developing countries of the region interested in expanded coal utilization. France offered an expert on energy management and operational activities.

416. The inclusion of explicit environmental references was emphasized in the light of the need for sustainable development, while the continued need for alternative and renewable energy and rural energy programmes was also stressed. Requests were made for continued assistance in those fields beyond 1991, when the current UNDP funding cycle would end. The importance of large-scale systems, resulting in lowest costs, was also emphasized by one delegation, especially with respect to coal, gas and electric power. Another delegation emphasized the need for reforestation studies.

417. A proposal for a human resources and manpower planning co-ordination agency for the energy sector was introduced by the delegation of Indonesia, urging that further studies in that field should be undertaken in co-operation with UNDP and ILO/ARTEP (Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion).

418. The working group concept for regional co-operation was supported and the effective use of the results of the project on biomass, solar and wind energy was urged. In that connection, Mongolia requested further assistance in the solar photovoltaics and wind energy fields.

Mineral resources

419. The Commission noted with satisfaction the general improvement in mineral market conditions and the price improvement for several minerals and metals, which was leading to a significant increase in mineral exploration activities in the region and worldwide. It urged that in future mining developments due concern for environmental quality should be encouraged and that the ESCAP programme of work should reflect that.

420. It noted that the countries of the ESCAP region possessed significant mineral potential and that the region's share in global mineral production was showing a marked increase. It was emphasized, however, that mineral exploration should be regarded not only as an

essential forerunner of mineral development but also as a planning tool in industrial development and land-use planning, and that exploration should therefore figure prominently in the resources policies of Governments and receive constant attention and priority in terms of funds and time.

421. The Commission noted that different policy options to achieve that could be used. In some countries the efforts of the public sector had been successfully used, while in others mining legislation and incentives had been tailored to attract private investment.

422. In general, the Commission recommended that the establishment of a total resources base within the next decade or so should receive serious consideration and that for those countries where that was financially not possible and where market or other conditions precluded private investments, ESCAP should continue to play its useful and catalytic role, either by providing direct assistance through the regional mineral resources development programme or by identifying multilateral and bilateral assistance for operational exploration projects.

423. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the substantial progress achieved by the secretariat in the implementation of the programme of work in the mineral sector, particularly the training activities in various areas of mineral resources exploration and development. It specifically commended the secretariat on the high professional standard and quality of the studies and publications in the two atlas series, on stratigraphy and on mineral resources, and the new series on mineral concentrations and hydrocarbon accumulations in the region. It expressed appreciation to the Governments of Australia and the USSR for their recent valuable contributions to that series. It was recommended that a map series should be prepared by the secretariat which would reflect the mineral potential of the region and facilitate long-term planning of mineral resources development. The USSR offered to provide the secretariat with a list of the maps to be prepared.

424. The Commission supported the progress made in the regional mineral resources development programme and noted with appreciation the pledge made by Indonesia to support the programme in 1988 with a contribution of \$US 15,000 while urging other members and UNDP to support the

programme also. It noted that Japan would provide \$US 75,000 for the first phase of the programme, on epithermal gold.

425. Many delegations supported the secretariat's activities in the area of urban geology and recommended that ESCAP find ways and means to ensure the continuation of the advisory services in that field. They expressed appreciation to the Governments of China and the Netherlands for their generous funding of the Expert Working Group Meeting-cum-Workshop on the Urban Geology of Coastal Areas, which had been hosted by China at Shanghai in September 1987. The Commission urged the secretariat to follow up the important recommendations of the Working Group, which would lead the urban geology activities into the logical next phase: the improvement of understanding and contacts between geoscientists and urban planners.

426. The Commission noted that several ESCAP member countries had made substantial progress in mineral resources development and mining and that those countries were willing to share and had been sharing their knowledge and experience with other countries in the transfer of technology and human resources development co-operative programmes.

427. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the offers made by a number of delegations to host and organize training activities and working groups: by China, for an international symposium on the exploration for base metals and gold in the volcanic terrains of the circum-Pacific belt and a workshop on small-scale mining and tunnelling, both in 1989; by India, to resume the post-graduate training course for geologists; by the USSR, to sponsor and organize a seminar on modern methods of mineral exploration in 1989, and a training activity in the application of geodynamic analysis in mineral exploration in 1990; and by Viet Nam, to host a workshop on geophysical exploration methods in the tropics in 1988.

428. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Fiji, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands and the USSR, and to UNDP for their assistance in funding, for the provision of host facilities for various training/activities and for the provision of experts.

Water resources

429. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work of the secretariat in the field of water resources. In particular, it commended the missions of the regional adviser, ESCAP/Typhoon Committee missions on flood risk analysis and mapping in flood loss prevention and management, and the report on rain-water harvesting techniques and prospects for their application in island developing countries.

430. The Commission endorsed the proposed activity on urban flood loss prevention and mitigation and expressed strong support for its implementation. Many delegations indicated their willingness to co-operate in undertaking that project.

431. The Commission discussed the issue of shared water resources. One delegation strongly reiterated its consistent view that a report on shared water resources development in various regions of the world should be prepared, on the grounds that "the recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session, which were just, fair and equitable, had not been reversed either at the forty-third session of the Commission or at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources." The same delegation observed that "the Conference of the Council of Ministers for Asian Economic Co-operation, held at Kabul in 1970, had adopted the Kabul Declaration which had supported studies such as the one proposed." One delegation strongly supported the undertaking of such a study and another endorsed it.

432. Some delegations observed that certain issues were best suited to resolution by the countries concerned. One delegation strongly reiterated its consistent view that the proposal to prepare the report was such an issue and urged that the proposal be dropped from further consideration by the Commission. That delegation pointed out that at its fourteenth session, the Committee on Natural Resources had, *inter alia*, noted in its report that "there was no conclusion in the absence of consensus" and further that "there was neither conclusion nor consensus on the subject of shared water resources." That delegation further stated: "It has been, is, and will remain, fundamental to the functioning of ESCAP that decisions be taken on the basis of consensus and that we should recognize the reality that there has been no consensus on this issue."

433. Another delegation urged that the Commission not enter into a question on which there was no consensus. Some delegations observed that there was no consensus on the proposal. Many delegations urged that decisions by ESCAP should continue to be taken on the basis of co-operation and consensus. The Commission decided that, as of now, there was no consensus to proceed with the proposed study.

434. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Japan and the USSR for their continuing financial support to the water resources programme of ESCAP and expressed the hope that such support would continue well into the future. It also noted with appreciation the readiness of China to host a workshop on water quality monitoring once that activity had received the necessary extrabudgetary funding. Indonesia reiterated its proposal for the establishment of an international water board, and its offer to host the board after its establishment was gratefully noted.

Cartography and remote sensing

435. The Commission underlined the importance of satellite remote sensing for inventory and evaluation as well as the development and management of natural resources and monitoring of the environment. It noted that that technology was now widely applied and accepted in the ESCAP region and that a number of countries already possessed good remote sensing data reception and analysis facilities. In that context, the Commission expressed its deep appreciation of continued UNDP funding of the regional remote sensing programme, which was in its second phase and continued to play a major and catalytic role in the advancement of remote sensing in the region.

436. The Commission expressed support for the findings and recommendations of the Working Group Meeting on Policy Administration and Financial Support of the Regional Remote Sensing Programme, specifically that the programme should continue beyond 1991 and that it should continue to function under the umbrella of ESCAP as part of its regular programme.

437. The Commission noted that the Remote Sensing Information System was being implemented. It reiterated that while such a computerized information service was important, the implementation of that component should not adversely affect

remote sensing activities, which should rather be strengthened.

438. The Commission considered the need for the secretariat to strengthen its capabilities for implementing a cartography and remote sensing subprogramme and for backstopping the regional remote sensing programme, and requested that ways and means be explored for the redeployment within the secretariat of a Professional post to serve that subprogramme.

439. The Commission recommended that full use should be made of national training facilities and that the proposal for a network of training centres should be examined in depth. The secretariat should also promote study tours and exchange visits of scientists engaged in remote sensing.

440. The Commission expressed concern over the increasing cost for developing countries of obtaining remote sensing data, and requested the secretariat to explore possibilities to assist its member countries in obtaining such data at more reasonable prices.

441. The Commission was informed that India had now successfully launched a remote sensing satellite and was ready to share its experience in space applications through training programmes.

442. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the offer by Australia to share its experience in remote sensing and image analysis systems with other members through co-sponsoring, subject to suitable funding arrangements with other co-sponsors, a training course on the application of remote sensing for agrometeorology and hydrology and a course on the use of the "Microbrian" image analysis systems developed in Australia and the appointment of an Australian remote sensing expert to the ESCAP/UNDP regional remote sensing programme. The Commission also noted with appreciation the offer of Indonesia to host the second training course on toponomy in 1989.

Marine resources

443. The Commission noted that one of the important implications of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea had been the proclamation by most coastal States of sovereign rights over a 200 nautical mile zone and that that implied the need for changes in attitudes and policies of coastal and maritime States.

It also noted that countries were now proceeding to harmonize their national laws and regulations with the Convention through legislative acts on such subjects as exclusive economic zones, fisheries and environmental protection.

444. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the secretariat under its marine resources programme to complete study missions to interested ESCAP countries in order to keep the programme of work in line with the changing needs of members. It noted that several missions had been completed and that a further programme of study missions in the Pacific was in progress. The financial support of France for those missions was acknowledged with appreciation.

445. The Commission recognized the need for the integration of the secretariat's sectoral activities relating to marine affairs in order that the work programme could be successfully achieved with respect to the provision of information and advice to member countries on integrated policy planning in the field of marine affairs and technical assistance on specific issues in areas not dealt with by other organizations.

446. The Commission recognized the essential role which the secretariat was playing in the execution of the technical support projects for CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC. It acknowledged with appreciation the substantial UNDP support for those projects.

447. In general, the Commission expressed appreciation of the ongoing programme of work and specifically of the proposed study tour on marine geology and geophysics and the seminar on the removal of offshore hydrocarbon production installations. It urged donor countries to facilitate the implementation of those activities.

Population

448. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/591 and E/ESCAP/612.

449. In endorsing the report of the Committee on Population on its fifth session (E/ESCAP/591), the Commission emphasized that there had been a significant change in the age structure of the population in the region as a result of past high fertility and falling mortality. The changing age structure had several implications: first, there was an increase in the proportion as well

as absolute number of women of child-bearing age, leading to a rising birth rate; second, there was an increase in the absolute number as well as the proportion of persons aged 60 years and over; and third, there was an increase in the proportion as well as in the absolute number of the population in the labour force. The Commission urged the secretariat to assist the members and associate members in dealing with the problems of rising birth rates, the aged and the increasing size of the labour force by undertaking appropriate studies, technical assistance and advisory services. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 272 (XLIV) on a study on the implications of demographic changes for the development of human resources.

450. The Commission expressed concern that infant mortality remained high in some countries of the region, and stressed the importance of reducing infant mortality in order to improve the expectation of life. The Commission therefore urged the secretariat to initiate studies on infant mortality and its relationship with human resources development.

451. The Commission observed that population problems needed to be seen in the larger context of the social, political and economic realities of the countries. It therefore emphasized the need to integrate population issues into overall socio-economic development. It urged the secretariat to take the necessary measures to identify the key factors and the appropriate mechanism for such integration.

452. The Commission noted the suggestions made for improving the effectiveness of family planning programmes. They included integration of family planning with health care, development of self-reliant programmes at the local level, improvement of information, education and communication campaigns and expansion of services to reach younger couples. It urged the secretariat to assist members and associate members in their endeavours to improve the effectiveness of family planning programmes.

453. The Commission noted that information, education and communication were essential components in the effective implementation of national population policies and programmes, and that those activities were also being used to promote values beyond family planning to strengthen family life and promote a better quality of life for the people. Recognizing that a range of communication

strategies was needed to provide a link between population information producers and users, the Commission urged the secretariat to make available the experience gained in the region in the use of mass media and interpersonal communications to raise awareness and promote the adoption of small family norms. It further urged the secretariat to take appropriate measures to assist members and associate members in designing more effective information, education and communication programmes.

454. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in carrying out research studies and disseminating the findings in order to assist the member countries in policy formulation, programme development, and implementation and evaluation activities. It urged the secretariat to continue and to expand the scope of those activities.

455. The Commission recognized the importance of a reliable management information system as a management tool. It appreciated the efforts of the secretariat to assist some member countries in improving their management information system for family planning programmes and urged the secretariat to expand the scope of activities to provide similar assistance to other countries and areas, upon request.

456. The Commission recognized the important role played by the non-governmental organizations in dealing with population problems. In that regard, it identified the emerging role of the non-governmental organizations in involving the local community in achieving self-reliance in population activities. It urged the secretariat to assist members and associate members in designing effective co-operation and collaboration between government and non-governmental organization programmes.

457. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in carrying out very useful short-term and long-term training programmes in various population-related matters. It observed that those efforts were considered to be beneficial to the country programmes. It further observed that the various seminars and workshops organized by the secretariat were timely and much needed, and those activities needed to be continued.

458. The Commission noted with appreciation the technical assistance, back-stopping, and advisory services provided

by the secretariat in the population field, and urged the secretariat to continue and expand those activities.

459. The Commission recognized the importance of holding an Asian and Pacific population conference every 10 years, and therefore endorsed the proposal for holding the fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 1992. It urged the secretariat to take the necessary measures to prepare adequately for the Conference.

460. Recognizing the important role of TCDC in meeting the trained manpower requirements of national population programmes, the Commission noted with appreciation the generous offers of several ESCAP developing members to share their experience and training resources with others in the region on a TCDC basis. Reaffirming its catalytic role in promoting technical co-operation activities, the Commission urged the secretariat to expand its offers to facilitate the exchange of programme experience, the transfer of knowledge, and training programmes within the framework of TCDC.

461. The Commission commended the secretariat on its role in the development of national population information centres and networks in the region and noted with satisfaction the continuing development of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN), a decentralized regional network of such national information centres. It appreciated the close co-ordination between Asia-Pacific POPIN and the Health Literature, Library and Information Services (HELLIS) network of WHO, and further urged the secretariat to strengthen co-ordination with subregional population information counterparts in ASEAN and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

462. The Commission commended the secretariat on the scope and quality of its publication programme in the area of population, recognizing in particular the *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* as an important instrument for the dissemination and utilization of population data and information in the region.

463. In considering document E/ESCAP/612, entitled "Population distribution and development: implications for policy decisions", the Commission commended the

secretariat on its comprehensive analysis of urban growth in the region. It noted that in spite of the rapid increase in the urban population over the past quarter of a century, the level of urbanization in the region had increased rather slowly. It observed that because rural population growth rates remained high in most countries of the region, the slightly higher urban growth rate had caused only a small shift of population in the urban sector.

464. The Commission observed that urbanization was a complex problem and it should be dealt with in relation to social and economic development. In that context, it emphasized the importance of the linkages between population, migratory movement and urbanization on the one hand and socio-economic development on the other. It urged the secretariat to take into account various activities in the field of migration and urbanization undertaken at national and subregional levels and to undertake further study on the relationship between rural development and urbanization.

465. The Commission expressed concern regarding the high concentration of population in large cities and metropolitan centres, and noted that population increase in individual urban areas posed a challenge to many countries. It emphasized the importance of measures to curb further concentration, such as encouraging urban-to-rural migration by providing the urban poor with a resettlement allowance and expanding employment opportunities for them in regional growth centres.

466. The Commission noted that in general two broad types of population distribution policies were being considered in many countries of the region: direct policies designed by Governments to induce internal shifts of population and deliberately redistribute population through land settlement and other measures; and indirect policies which affected spontaneous migratory movements and were designed to improve both urban and rural living conditions. It further noted that, for balanced growth of the urban and rural population, integrated rural development was a practical and effective strategy.

467. The Commission observed that national policies to reduce primacy, to strengthen intermediate cities, or to promote rural development, pursued in isolation might not be effective. In that connection, it

emphasized the importance of integrated population distribution policies taking into account national settlement hierarchies and noted that an integrated approach to population distribution would require development of intraregional and interregional transport and communication networks.

468. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the work of the secretariat in studying issues concerning urbanization and socio-economic development in the ESCAP region. It noted that another study by the secretariat would investigate social aspects of urbanization as well as macro-level economic trends and rates of urbanization. It recommended that the secretariat should monitor the progress of urbanization in the countries or areas of the region, and develop guidelines for the formulation of spatial distribution policies and programmes.

469. The Commission expressed gratitude for the extrabudgetary support provided to the secretariat for the implementation of its work programme by the Government of the Netherlands and by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In view of increasing demand for secretariat assistance from members and associate members, the Commission urged the donor countries and agencies concerned to provide support for the population programme commensurate with its needs. It noted with satisfaction the offers of assistance made by the Governments of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the USSR.

Shipping, ports and inland waterways

Maritime sector development: initiation of the regional strategy option projects

470. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/616.

471. It reiterated its concern that shipping and ports in the region were going through a period of profound structural change, against a background of a volatile supply and demand situation. As many countries of the region were facing major investment decisions in the maritime sector, it was important that those decisions were made on an informed basis. It therefore commended the regional strategy option projects, and endorsed the aims of the regional maritime strategy study to provide, *inter alia*, management tools for maritime developments

over the longer term. It noted that that approach had become possible because of recent developments in computer technology. It supported the establishment of an expert advisory group consisting of representatives of donor organizations and selected developing countries of the region to guide and advise the secretariat on the progress of the study.

472. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom, to UNDP for the inputs which had been made available for the study, and to the Asian Development Bank for its co-operation.

473. The Commission agreed to the suggestion that the secretariat add the words "and helpful to national fleet-planning exercises" in paragraph 10, output (3) of the project framework in document E/ESCAP/616.

474. The Commission agreed to the secretariat's request for member countries to nominate a representative through whom matters relating to the study could be channelled, to assist in obtaining data and information on such areas as trade and national economic growth forecasts at the commodity level; fleet data, particularly relating to flag shares and information on fleet development plans; port data, ideally at the commodity, port-to-port level with seasonal fluctuations; the inland distribution network, including a broad description of infrastructure and port hinterlands, and some estimation of distribution costs.

475. The Commission noted that the project management team would be visiting selected countries of the region in 1988 for data collection and policy assessment tasks.

476. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer by the USSR to sponsor a seminar in 1989 on a shipping topic of interest to the developing countries of the region, and that a workshop, sponsored by the USSR and UNCTAD, would be held in May 1988 in preparation for the review conference on the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences.

477. It expressed its appreciation to the Governments of China, France and Japan for their offers of continued assistance in the activities of the secretariat relating to shipping and ports, and to the Government of Japan for the provision of financing for two seminars in the past

year, as well as of two experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis to the Division of Shipping, Ports and Inland Waterways.

478. The Commission took note of the statement by the representative of the International Maritime Organization relating to the major IMO objective of improving the safety of international shipping and the prevention of pollution from ships. It also noted the assistance provided by IMO to countries of the region in the form of expert missions, equipment, fellowship training, educational material, seminars and workshops and a range of associated advisory services to developing countries. It noted with appreciation that IMO continued to maintain full co-operation with ESCAP.

Establishment of a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh

479. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/643.

480. It recognized the importance of inland water transport and the urgent need to develop the technology of such transport suitable to the economic and technical conditions of the countries of the region. In that respect, the Commission noted the project generously funded by UNDP and the clarification given by its representatives, in response to a query, that the UNDP project was to enable the secretariat to implement a programme of specific activities as a first step in the task of rehabilitating inland waterways as a major form of transport in the region.

481. At its forty-second and forty-third sessions, in 1986 and 1987, the Commission had unanimously endorsed the programme of work on the development of inland water transport recommended in the report of the Meeting of Experts on Inland Water Transport held at Bangkok in November 1985. However, the Commission had been unable to reach a consensus regarding the establishment of the regional inland water transport centre at Dhaka, *inter alia*, for two main reasons: first, the lack of institutional support, and second, the financial constraints and crisis within the United Nations system itself. Some countries had felt it necessary to seek assurances before the centre was established that long-term funding of the centre would be made available.

482. At its forty-third session, the Commission had suggested that the secretariat examine and advise on the viability

of the proposed centre as well as of the alternatives, namely, the use of existing ESCAP resources or the establishment of a network of national institutions.

483. The Commission noted that the question of the establishment of an inland water transport centre had first been raised at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission in 1978, and that the suitability of Dhaka as the site for such a centre had been examined in the reports of missions mounted in 1978, 1980 and 1985. In that respect, attention was drawn to the recommendations of the report of the Meeting of Experts on Inland Water Transport.

484. In response to a question regarding the role of the centre, the secretariat advised that the role and functions had been described in the report of the programming mission, which also outlined the projects to be undertaken that would enhance and support the work of national institutions.

485. One delegation stated that the establishment of the centre at Dhaka was essential on the grounds that it was needed for the development of inland water transport of the region and for the well-being of the people living in the riverine areas. Many delegations that spoke on the subject supported, in principle, the establishment of the centre, some of whom supported its establishment in Bangladesh. One delegation stated that its Government would support the centre, and another delegation stated that its Government would reconsider its position regarding support for the centre, if the Commission decided that it should be established.

486. Many delegations that spoke on the subject raised two main issues: the financial viability of the proposed centre, and the need to examine cost-effective alternatives to the proposed centre. A number of delegations expressed the view that, owing to the current restructuring and financial crisis of the United Nations system, the financial viability of the proposed centre should first be examined before any decision was taken in that regard. For those reasons, one delegation stated it had grave doubts as to whether that was the opportune time to establish the centre. One delegation reiterated the guidelines for the Commission that financial support for the institutional costs of the centre should be the direct responsibility of the host and recipient countries, while donor

countries should take the burden of programme support. A number of delegations also stated that more information was needed on the viability and cost-effectiveness of the proposed centre as well as the alternatives of strengthening the secretariat or using the networking approach. The Commission noted that a study specially addressing the above issues, including the question of the availability of funds to ensure the viability of the centre, would be needed to enable a decision to be reached. However, the secretariat advised that for such a study to be undertaken the provision of additional resources would be required. The Commission urged the secretariat to seek to obtain the funds to enable the study to be carried out.

487. In view of the above considerations, the Commission decided that there was no consensus at that time on the establishment of a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh. However, with regard to the study as mentioned in paragraph 486 above, the Commission requested the secretariat to report on the matter at its forty-fifth session.

Transport, communications and tourism

488. The Commission considered and endorsed the report of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications (Transport, Communications and Tourism Wing) on its eleventh session (E/ESCAP/596).

General transport planning

489. The Commission noted that integrated transport planning was an important exercise in bringing the transport planning system into overall national socio-economic planning. It was felt that feasibility studies of transport investment projects and priorities in comparison with other sector projects, should be made in terms of the socio-economic aspects. In that context, the Commission took note of a suggestion that guidelines for the most rational and efficient transport investment should be produced for developing countries in the region because considerable investments had been and would be made in the construction and development of transport infrastructure.

490. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Republic of Korea to share its knowledge, information and data and to consider exchanging appropriate experts on a TCDC basis with other

countries in that field of activity. The Commission supported the work being carried out by the secretariat in that field under the project "Integrated transport planning in Asia and the Pacific". It also noted that national surveys in integrated transport planning were being carried out by a number of countries in the region.

491. Considering the negative environmental impact of road transport development, the Commission supported the secretariat's activities in that field. It was also felt that there was a need to consider the cost-benefit aspects of environmental management in road transport development as a part of medium- and long-term development planning.

Urban transport

492. The Commission attached great importance to the problems of urban transport planning. It supported the proposed preparatory assistance missions to be undertaken by the secretariat to examine the situation in urban areas of some selected countries of the ESCAP region. That was felt to be an essential step in the process of dealing with the urban transport crisis. The Commission took note of the desire expressed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to be included in the proposed preparatory missions. It also took note of a suggestion that planning and development of urban transport systems for the future, appropriate to particular cities in the region, should be undertaken as soon as possible. In consideration of the massive cost of some types of urban transport infrastructure solutions, the Commission took note of a suggestion that special consideration should be given to low-cost types of mass transit. It noted that funds were being sought for that activity.

Facilitation of international traffic

493. The Commission took note of the suggestion that a project should be drawn up by the secretariat in the future to reduce barriers to international transport in terms of costs and volume of documentation and solutions to facilitation problems in international transport. It also felt that the secretariat should initiate a meeting of concerned parties to discuss in some detail the draft of an Asia-Pacific agreement concerning compulsory insurance against civil liability in

respect of motor vehicles, with initial activities confined to Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Roads and road transport

494. The Commission placed special emphasis on the importance of improving rural road infrastructure for socio-economic development, as the ESCAP region was primarily rural. Rural road construction and appropriate maintenance were a basis of economic and social development. In that context, the Commission supported the activities of the secretariat in developing road research and training institutes as part of the human resources development programme. It noted that video training modules constituted an efficient method for training road specialists in rural road construction and maintenance techniques. ESCAP, in close collaboration with ILO, would produce 12 video training modules in India, the Philippines and Thailand in 1988-1989.

495. The Commission welcomed a new project which was being initiated by the secretariat on the development of rural road infrastructure and was designed to strengthen the training as well as research and development capacities of selected road research institutes in the region, to provide specific research and training inputs that were commensurate with the expansion of the rural road network and related transport development. That project was being considered for funding by UNDP.

496. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of China for hosting the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Low-cost Mechanized Techniques for Construction and Maintenance of Roads in China, held in September-October 1987, and to the Government of the USSR for hosting the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Cost-effective Road Construction and Maintenance through Marshy/Wet and Arid Areas in the USSR, in August 1987.

497. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should continue to intensify its activities in road accident prevention and road traffic safety, as the rate of road accidents had been increasing rapidly owing to the increase in the number of automobiles, and therefore traffic volume, in the developing countries. It was imperative that all of the measures for road accident prevention should be studied and the most suitable introduced in the region.

498. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government of Japan for holding, in October 1986, the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Road Traffic Accident Prevention. One of the recommendations of the Seminar had been to urge Governments to establish high-powered national road safety councils to prepare a long-term policy framework for road safety, to ensure co-ordination between concerned agencies and to provide adequate budgetary support for increasing road safety. It was noted that the Government of India had established road safety councils at national and state level to advise, monitor and implement road safety measures. The Commission also noted that the United Kingdom had established a road safety plan through which it intended to reduce the number of accidents by one third by the year 2000. A copy of the plan could be made available to the secretariat.

499. The Commission noted the secretariat's efforts to promote energy conservation measures and the substitution of gasoline and diesel fuels, identifying compressed natural gas (CNG) as an economical and environmentally clean substitute. In addition to macro-economic benefits, the advantages of CNG-fuelled transport included lower fuel cost, lower toxic emissions and less maintenance. At the same time, there were several disadvantages, such as the comparatively high cost of conversion and difficulties for inexperienced drivers. The Commission therefore urged ESCAP to act as a clearing-house for exchange of study reports on the use of CNG in different countries.

500. The Commission stressed the importance of enlarging the Asian Highway network and completing it. It urged non-member countries of the network to join the project. It welcomed the request of China that its national highway route 107 connecting Beijing to Shengzhen through Wuhan and Guangzhou be included in the Asian Highway network, and entrusted the secretariat with the tasks necessary to implement it.

501. The Commission noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Asian Highway countries to improve sections which were still below standard and congested by increased traffic. It urged those countries to improve the Asian Highway and particularly to encourage the construction of the missing parts of the network. The Commission recognized the efforts of the secretariat in arranging

the revision and publication of six Asian Highway Route Maps, especially the latest edition of the Map covering the Philippines, in 1986, and that covering Indonesia, in 1987.

502. The Commission noted with appreciation the decision of Japan to finance a seminar-cum-study tour on the toll road system in Japan, to be held in 1988.

503. The Commission also expressed appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan for their continued assistance in providing experts to the secretariat on a non-reimbursable loan basis, and support for other important ESCAP projects in the field of roads and road transport.

Railways and railway transport

504. The Commission supported the development strategy for railways and railway transport as a realistic attempt to address railway problems in the region. It noted with satisfaction that progress had been made without necessarily resorting to high-cost solutions.

505. It noted that the following problem areas were of common interest in the region for improving the efficiency of systems:

(a) Better utilization of existing assets and improvement of maintenance;

(b) Rehabilitation and modernization of railways and technology transfer;

(c) Training of manpower;

(d) Adoption of commercially-oriented measures to improve financial performance;

(e) Improvement of management.

506. The Commission was also of the view that the modernization and improvement of railways should be in accordance with the economic and social development plans of those countries, and cost-effective solutions should be given priority. Integrated railway development planning was noted as an area of particular interest and importance to the railway administrations in the region.

507. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should continue its activities on transfer of modern railway technology, including: railway electrification; application of computers and automated systems to improve the safety and

operational efficiency of railways; railway container transport; and heavy haul operations. It noted the request of Indonesia, for assistance from ESCAP to produce a master plan for computerization of the Indonesian State Railways; of Pakistan, for a study on the possible application of modern techniques to the rehabilitation or improvement of old railway bridges in the developing countries; and of Malaysia, for assistance for intermodal planning of its railway system.

508. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should continue to organize seminars, study tours, workshops and training courses as effective means of training and transfer of new railway technology. It expressed its gratitude to: (a) the Government of Japan, for hosting the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on the Role of Railways in Urban Transport in October 1987; provision of a long-term expert; provision of resource persons for the railway workshops held at Kuala Lumpur, in July 1987; and ESCAP advisory missions to Sri Lanka in November 1987 and Indonesia in March 1988; provision of financial assistance to Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group programmes on railway statistics and information systems in 1987/88 and a number of research studies carried out at the request of ESCAP; (b) the Government of France, for providing short-term railway experts in September and December 1987 and the offer to host a seminar-cum-study tour on electrification of guideway transport in 1989; (c) the Government of Malaysia, for providing host facilities for a railway workshop in June-July 1987; (d) the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, for provision of a railway expert and financial and expert support to railway training courses in China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand; and (e) the Government of the USSR, for the provision of 35 fellowships annually; a short-term expert in January-February 1988; a number of research studies carried out at the request of ESCAP; and the offer to conduct a seminar-cum-study tour on railway integrated development planning, together with an expert meeting on the Trans-Asian Railway and the Asian Railway master plan, and a meeting of the subgroup on international railway transport of the Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group, in August-September 1988.

509. With regard to the Trans-Asian Railway and the Asian Railway master plan, the Commission recommended that: (a) more emphasis should be placed on the

development of cross-border railway traffic between neighbouring countries; (b) increased attention should be given to the development of rail-cum-sea transport, particularly between the ECE and ESCAP regions and such projects should be given high priority during the Transport and Communications Decade; (c) more emphasis should be placed on the development of railway linkages between Europe and South Asian countries and between Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand; and (d) increased attention should be given to the development of container traffic. It also recommended that in dealing with the Trans-Asian Railway projects, the main emphasis should be placed on modernization of existing lines and optimum utilization of existing assets, and that detailed studies of likely demand and cost/benefit analysis should be produced in all cases, particularly where heavy capital costs were involved. One delegation noted with satisfaction the increasing emphasis on projects aimed at realistic improvement of domestic railway services rather than on schemes such as the Trans-Asian Railway or the Asian Railway master plan.

510. The Commission expressed its appreciation to UNDP for financial assistance to the projects on modernization of railway systems and on the demonstration of cost effective railway signalling and the telecommunication systems to be implemented between 1988 and 1991.

Air cargo transport

511. The Commission noted that air cargo traffic had continued to develop rapidly in many countries of the ESCAP region and had become an important mode of transport for both domestic and international freight. It noted, however, that not all the countries of the region had benefited from that growth. The land-locked and island developing countries, which had the greatest need for air transport, had not gained significantly.

512. The Commission was informed that the Regional Seminar on Air Cargo Handling and Management had been organized in Nepal in January 1988 with the co-operation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. It noted that preparations were under way for a proposed seminar on the economic aspects of air cargo in France in 1988 or 1989.

513. The Commission noted that there was a need to reassess the physical capabilities of existing facilities to accommodate the

increased trade brought about by the improvement in air cargo transport services. It also took note of a proposal to facilitate the exchange of information on tariff formulation for air cargo transport among ESCAP member countries, and of the request of Indonesia for ESCAP assistance in drawing up a plan for improving that country's air cargo transport system.

514. The Commission took note of a statement by the representative of ICAO on the current status of air cargo development in the ESCAP region. It noted with appreciation the harmonious relationship between ESCAP and ICAO in air transport activities.

515. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government of France for providing an air transport expert to the secretariat, and to the Government of Nepal for hosting and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for financing the above-mentioned Regional Seminar held in Nepal.

Containerization

516. The Commission noted the increasing role of containers in interregional, intraregional and domestic transport. It endorsed an integrated approach to the development of container transport in the ESCAP region which encompassed the following activities of the ESCAP secretariat:

(a) Study on inland and rail-cum-sea transport routes from Europe to South and South-East Asia;

(b) Study of the potential and constraints for transport of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) containers, with particular attention to those 9' and 9'6" high;

(c) Study on main inland container transport routes in the region;

(d) Study on container trans-shipment technology and its adaptation to local conditions in the developing countries of the region.

517. The Commission noted the serious concern over the implications of changes in existing standard dimensions and increasing weight of containers, which could require massive investments for many countries in the region. It recommended that the secretariat should study those aspects with reference to the conditions in the countries of the region

and organize seminars to discuss those aspects further.

518. The Commission recommended that in undertaking the studies on the development of container transport, the main objective should be to provide developing countries with information on the costs of the necessary development/improvement of transport infrastructure, such as bridges, tunnels, trans-shipment facilities, and advise on routing for container traffic and the development of container transport on a step-by-step basis for each type of ISO container having a height greater than 8'3".

519. The Commission felt that the member countries might give priority to developing facilities initially for 8'3"- or 8'6"-high ISO containers, where appropriate, to facilitate both interregional and intraregional flows of traffic. It noted that the time frame and resources required for those adjustments were of vital concern.

520. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should give more attention to a study on the potential use of containers in local services as part of the overall container transport in the region.

521. The Commission also recommended that the secretariat should study the role of containers for the development of air-cum-sea and air-cum-rail/road transport.

522. The Commission requested financial assistance from UNDP and donor countries to carry out relevant studies and infrastructure improvement programmes. It expressed its gratitude to the Government of France for assistance in carrying out the study on standardization in relation to the Trans-Asian Railway, with special reference to container transport.

Telecommunication and postal services

523. The Commission took note of the recommendations emanating from the Asia and Pacific Telecommunications Development Conference held at New Delhi in February 1988 in which ESCAP was requested to take appropriate action at the policy level in the region to follow up the relevant recommendations of the report, *The Missing Link*, leading to higher priority being given to telecommunication development; regional and subregional co-operation; endeavours on research and development; common standards and specifications and collective procurement and local manufacture of equipment.

It was also recommended that ESCAP should use its forums to stress the need for development and improvement of telecommunication in national and regional networks to enhance socio-economic development. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 270 (XLIV) on adoption of measures in the Asian and Pacific region to support follow-up of the report *The Missing Link* on telecommunication.

524. Realizing that telecommunication and postal services were essential elements in the development of all sectors of the economy, the Commission felt that higher priority should be given to those sectors, particularly during the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994. Concern was expressed about the widening gap that existed between the developed and developing countries in those sectors.

525. The Commission noted with satisfaction that efforts had been made by ESCAP, ITU and APT (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity) collaborate and co-ordinate their activities in the field of telecommunication to avoid duplication of efforts.

Tourism

526. The Commission, in reaffirming the increasingly important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of developing countries, urged the secretariat to intensify its activities in that field. It emphasized that tourism was important as a means of earning foreign exchange and increasing employment and that it could be an effective vehicle for fostering international understanding and friendship.

527. The Commission endorsed the basic policy of assisting developing countries in improving their tourism development policies by conducting a methodical appraisal of the socio-economic impact of tourism.

528. The Commission recognized that the crucial obstacle to a greater contribution by tourism was a lack of data on the scope and extent of its economic impact. It requested that ESCAP intensify assistance to member countries by measuring the economic impact of tourism.

529. The Commission stressed the importance of recognizing the broader role of tourism and its close linkage with transport and other infrastructure as well as various industry sectors. It recognized that in dealing with tourism

development issues it was necessary to take a multidisciplinary approach.

530. The Commission endorsed the project entitled "Maximization of socio-economic benefits from tourism development", which consisted of:

(a) Case studies and workshops on the economic impact of tourism in some selected member countries;

(b) An expert group meeting on the measurement of the economic impact of tourism by input-output analysis;

(c) A seminar on tourism promotion;

(d) Research studies on tourism development issues with emphasis on the maximization of socio-economic benefits;

(e) Publication of the ESCAP tourism review;

(f) Advisory services.

531. In implementing the above project, the secretariat was requested to place emphasis on: (a) practical specific country projects corresponding to the particular needs of member countries; and (b) data collection and dissemination of information.

532. Many countries expressed their willingness to be associated with those activities. In particular, the Commission noted the requests of Malaysia and Thailand to be included in the study on the economic impact of tourism.

533. The Commission also noted the request of Thailand for ESCAP assistance in the conduct of: a study and survey on tourism statistics in Thailand; and a study on transport links to promote tourism between islands and coastal areas in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. It also noted the request of Viet Nam for advisory services and other technical assistance in tourism development.

534. The Commission noted that close co-operation had been maintained with the World Tourism Organization under the working arrangements concluded in July 1987, and with ILO through the ESCAP/ILO Tourism Unit. The representative of ICAO stressed the close relationship between tourism and civil aviation. The Commission noted the willingness of ICAO to co-operate in ESCAP tourism activities where air transport was involved.

535. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the USSR to host a seminar-cum-study tour on the organization and planning of international tourism in 1989.

536. It expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for financing the workshop on tourism management development to be held at Bangkok in May 1988 and the recent provision of a tourism expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis. It appreciated the Government's pledge to contribute \$US 158,000 for 1988 for the project "Maximization of socio-economic benefits from tourism development". The project included a seminar on tourism promotion to be organized in Japan in 1988 in conjunction with the "10 Million Programme", designed to double the number of Japanese tourists going abroad in five years.

537. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of China, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, the USSR, and to UNDP, for their financial support of ESCAP activities in the field of transport and communications.

Social development

538. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/617. It expressed appreciation of the comprehensive reports contained in that document on the background to a social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific and on the implementation of various other ESCAP mandates in the field of social development. The Commission endorsed the situational assessment, views and proposals contained in those reports.

539. The Commission observed that despite decades of sustained economic growth in the region, the problem of mass poverty remained largely unabated. It noted with concern that the numbers of those living in poverty had increased rather than decreased. While many Governments had taken measures to ameliorate that situation, it was clear that, given the prevailing development strategies in the region, current trends with respect to such social issues as distributive equity, unemployment and restricted access to basic social services would be difficult to change. Under those conditions, the ultimate aim of social development - to improve the quality of life and the productive and creative potential of all members of society - would remain largely

unfulfilled. The Commission noted with concern that that situation could further exacerbate the already deprived and vulnerable status of such important disadvantaged groups in society as the rural poor, the elderly and disabled persons and, in some countries of the region, women and youth.

540. The Commission called upon all its members and associate members to give greater attention to social development in national planning to ensure that equal emphasis would be accorded to both the social and economic aspects of development. In that regard, it reiterated its strong support for the preparation of a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond. Such a regional effort, it felt, would provide a broad, coherent framework for planning and implementing an integrated programme of national and regional activities in furtherance of the goals of social development. The Commission learned with satisfaction that a number of Governments had expressed their interest in participating in such a regional exercise.

541. The Commission recommended that, in the preparation of a regional social development strategy, due account should be taken of the recommendations and decisions contained in the numerous earlier mandates relating to social development established by the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Social Development and ESCAP. Specific reference was made to the provisions contained in the report of the Third Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development held at Bangkok in October 1985, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, and the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as well as other United Nations conventions, declarations and resolutions pertaining to the subject. The Commission agreed that a regional social development strategy should focus on the need for integrating specific disadvantaged population groups in development and for promoting opportunities for their full participation on the basis of social justice, with a view to eliminating poverty, as highlighted in the Strategy for the Third Decade.

542. In attaching special importance to the preparation of a regional social development strategy and the need to focus

on the situation of specific disadvantaged population groups, the Commission was of the view that social development should be perceived from the broader perspective of improving the quality of life of the general population, with emphasis on the promotion of the principle of self-reliance for sustainable development on the basis of the full and constructive participation of all sections of the population.

543. The Commission called on the secretariat to ensure that planned and ongoing activities in regard to the preparation of a regional social development strategy and the regional implementation of various United Nations and ESCAP mandates would be fully aligned and carefully co-ordinated with the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region to ensure optimum outcomes through strong coherence and complementation of efforts. It was further suggested that appropriate programme changes should be reflected in the secretariat's current and subsequent biennial programme of work to ensure such co-ordination.

544. With regard to the preparatory activities towards formulating a regional social development strategy, it was suggested that the countries selected for active participation should be broadly representative of the different socio-economic systems and situations prevailing in the region. One delegation called for a series of periodic progress reports on the implementation of the project. The Commission also urged the secretariat to ensure close collaboration among all relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system in preparing and implementing the strategy, in view of the diversified and intersectoral nature of the social development process.

545. The Commission expressed appreciation of the interest of UNDP in providing necessary financial support for the preparation of the strategy. It noted that that support would assist Governments in integrating social considerations into overall development planning and developing effective policy approaches and institutional arrangements to enhance the participation of all groups in society as contributors to and equal beneficiaries in the development process. The delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that it would consider positively the possibility of support in kind for hosting a regional workshop in 1989 for the preparation of the strategy.

546. The Commission underscored the pertinence of policy analysis of social development issues and ongoing monitoring of the social development situation in the region. It endorsed the inclusion in the secretariat's programme of work of studies on the changing role of the family, which it considered to have a significant bearing on social conditions in general and on the quality of life in particular. It was recommended that the secretariat further strengthen its activities to promote greater awareness of the importance of social development within the context of overall development. Towards that end, it suggested that a regional survey on the quality of life would be especially useful. Such a survey might be undertaken as an early activity in implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action.

547. The Commission attached importance to regional co-operation activities on social development, particularly seminars and training workshops and publications for strengthening national capabilities for social development policy and planning. In that regard, it looked forward to the preparation of a manual providing guidelines on integrated socio-economic development planning and to the regional training seminar for mid- and higher-level administrators on the subject to be organized in co-operation with the International Association of Schools of Social Work and Thammasat University, Bangkok, in 1988.

548. The value of information exchange and dissemination in the field of social development was recognized. The Commission commended the secretariat on its efforts in that regard through the publication of the *Social Development Newsletter* and maintenance of a periodically updated social development data base for Asia and the Pacific. It called upon countries in the region to develop measures to ensure the dissemination of information on social development issues and programmes to the local level to ensure the widest access to it by personnel engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementing of programmes in that area of concern and at the grass-roots level.

549. The Commission stressed the need for technical assistance to Governments and non-governmental organizations to strengthen public, voluntary and private sector co-operation in enhancing social development in the region. It recognized that the non-governmental sector had a

special role to play in terms of its capacity for reaching local communities, promoting community development and mobilizing the participation of disadvantaged groups in development. Special note was taken of the necessary independence of non-governmental organizations, while their crucial role as development partners working in co-operation with the public sector was recognized.

550. The Commission noted the value of the services provided by the regional adviser on social development training and planning. It requested that those services be extended into 1989 to meet the continuing need for technical assistance to Governments in assessing their social situation and in improving their social development policies, plans and programmes.

551. The Commission commended the active role taken by the Social Development Division in facilitating the preparation of the Plan of Action. In view of the crucial importance attached to the broad intersectoral aspects of human resources development, including its social aspects, the Commission noted the need for strengthening the resources of the secretariat to support the effective implementation of that additional element in the social development programme. The Commission noted with appreciation the contribution by the Government of France of the services of a senior expert on human resources development who would facilitate the co-ordination of the secretariat's intersectoral activities in that field.

552. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's efforts in the implementation of resolution 252 (XLII) on the social aspects of rural development. It noted the increasing attention given by members and associate members to the social aspects of rural development and commended the secretariat on the various actions it had taken to call attention to those aspects, with specific regard to such issues as the role of women in development, local-level rural development planning, non-farm employment and income-generating activities among rural workers, and other issues of a like nature. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 265 (XLIV) on the social aspects of rural development.

553. The Commission commended the secretariat on its status report on the regional implementation of the Convention

on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It stressed the important role of the Convention as the most comprehensive codification of internationally accepted principles and measures to achieve equal rights for women. Several delegations expressed concern over the continuing gap between *de jure* and *de facto* efforts to eliminate discrimination against women in their societies. They attributed the continuing gap to the persistence of deeply-rooted socio-economic attitudes and practices. The Commission noted the need to understand their causes and to learn from the successful experience of other countries regarding measures that might be taken to reduce such constraints on the achievement of equality between men and women.

554. The need for further integration of women in development efforts in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women for the period up to the year 2000 contained in the report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was also stressed by the Commission. It noted the uneven progress attained in the integration of women in the mainstream of development and the impact of economic difficulties which had further worsened their situation relative to men in some countries. It urged the secretariat to undertake further activities in implementation of the Strategies. In that regard, the secretariat was asked to prepare a report on action taken at the national and regional levels in implementation of the Strategies for consideration by the Commission at its forty-fifth session.

555. The Commission stressed the need for Governments to further strengthen the capabilities of their national mechanisms and focal points for the advancement of women. It proposed that the secretariat should undertake a review of the structures, functions and programmes of the various national mechanisms to assist Governments in upgrading the policy planning and programming co-ordination functions of such agencies for women's advancement.

556. The Commission drew attention to the important roles of both Governments and non-governmental organizations in addressing issues for women's advancement more effectively in their respective sectoral concerns in development efforts.

It emphasized the critical role of those organizations in mobilizing women towards greater self-reliance and as partners to complement the efforts of Governments to fully integrate women in development. The secretariat was urged to render further assistance to strengthen co-operation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in that sector by formulating guidelines on alternative co-operation mechanisms and by conducting training programmes and other activities to enhance the capabilities of non-governmental organizations. The assistance provided by such organizations to agencies that were not adequately equipped to reach grass-roots-level target groups was also noted.

557. The Commission commended the secretariat on its many activities in areas of concern to women. It noted that those activities had been of considerable assistance to members and associate members in their efforts to improve the situation of women. The secretariat's projects on women in agriculture were considered particularly appropriate, especially for the developing countries that were still predominantly agricultural and had large populations of rural women. The issuance by the secretariat of the "Training manual on transfer of technology among rural women", and its translation into several national languages, was cited as most useful as a means of raising the productive capabilities of rural women in the region.

558. The Commission also commended the secretariat on its activities under the long-term project on a women's information network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP), especially its publication of the *WINAP Newsletter*, a directory of national focal points for the advancement of women, and a directory of women experts in the region. It called for continued implementation of activities to further strengthen the network. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous funding support of the Government of Japan in launching WINAP and of the Government of Norway in the continuation and intensification of its support.

559. The Commission noted the increased attention given to the assessment of the impact on women in projects supported under development assistance programmes. The need to avoid negative impact on women in development projects was stressed. It was recommended that measures should be taken to better integrate women's concerns into development programming. One

approach could be through a systematic evaluation of the impact of development programmes and projects on the situation of women. That could be supplemented by the continuous monitoring of programmes and projects by a women-in-development specialist who might provide advisory services in that regard to the concerned government offices and agencies in countries of the region at their request.

560. The Commission noted with appreciation the active co-operation already under way between the secretariat and non-governmental organizations concerned with women in the region. It noted the concern expressed by the delegations of several women's non-governmental organizations regarding such issues as the increase in female-headed households resulting from internal and international migration in some countries, continuing violence against women, increasing marginalization of rural women, and the persisting small representation of women among delegations attending the Commission sessions.

561. The Commission commended the secretariat on its follow-up activities for the International Youth Year. In endorsing the secretariat's programme of work in the field of youth, the Commission emphasized the importance of further intensification of activities to overcome impediments to active youth participation in the development process.

562. In view of recent prognoses that youth unemployment was likely to worsen in the region, the Commission urged the secretariat to undertake activities to address the issue. It proposed that assistance be provided to member Governments on the formulation of social policies and measures to mitigate the negative social consequences on youth of their unemployed status. It requested the secretariat to direct urgent attention to the issue of employment promotion for rural youth to stem their migration to urban areas, within the framework of the concerns of the Commission in recent years regarding the technological dimension and social aspects of human resources development.

563. In noting with appreciation the secretariat's continuing efforts to enhance indigenous expertise in the developing countries of the region in the area of youth work training, the Commission welcomed the extensive support to those efforts provided by non-governmental organizations at both the international and national levels.

564. It was emphasized that the secretariat's activities relating to youth should continue to reflect the interest of the Commission in promoting the concerns of young women in development. Timely follow-up of activities should be initiated to ensure that the work already done concerning young women workers in manufacturing and young women in prostitution would have beneficial effects throughout the region.

565. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's role in strengthening inter-agency co-ordination through the establishment of the United Nations Standing Committee on Youth for the Asian-Pacific Region, which had held its first meeting at Bangkok in January 1988. The Commission reiterated the need for the United Nations system to increase co-ordination and to seek specific possibilities for co-operation in the field of youth, especially in a period of heightened resource constraints. Support was expressed for a proposed inter-agency project to identify regional knowledge and action gaps in the field of youth for the purpose of defining the possible contribution of each agency to strengthening youth policies and programmes in the region.

566. Concern was expressed over the negative social consequences on the young of the prevailing situation of rapid socio-economic change, which was manifested in a wide range of anti-social behaviour. It was felt that further work would be required on the part of the secretariat to ensure that policies and programmes on youth crime prevention and the rehabilitation of young offenders would be based on current knowledge of the factors relating to the onset of youth crime and recidivism.

567. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the decision of the Government of Japan to continue providing support for the secretariat's crime-prevention-related activities through the funding of a regional seminar on adolescence and crime prevention and the seconding to the Social Development Division of a regional adviser on crime prevention and criminal justice. It was considered appropriate that the regional adviser would, among his duties, assist member and associate member Governments in translating existing international instruments, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, into national policies and programmes.

568. The Commission supported the secretariat's continuing role in dealing with health needs and health-related problems within a multisectoral frame of reference as an integral aspect of economic and social development. It observed the need for an interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach, not only to strengthen government capabilities for improving the health of the people but also to address fully the health implications of rapid socio-economic change. In that regard, the Commission directed attention to two main issues of concern: the rapidly spreading problem of illicit drug abuse, and the need to support efforts to develop improved low-cost health care through basic community services. The close collaboration between the secretariat and such other United Nations bodies and agencies as UNICEF, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) and WHO in activities in those areas was strongly commended.

569. The Commission expressed concern over the worsening problem of illicit drug abuse in the region. The emergence of the problem in several countries in the region which until recently had not had major problems with drug abuse was cited as evidence of the urgency of the situation. The growing demand for illicit drugs was viewed as an important impediment to the development of the region's human resources. It was noted that in some countries the drug abuse problem constituted a threat to security.

570. The Commission expressed appreciation of the activities relating to the reduction of demand for illicit drugs which had been initiated by the secretariat over the past year. A number of delegations observed that it was appropriate and timely for ESCAP to undertake efforts in that area. The secretariat was urged to implement the recommendations of the Workshop on a Standard Format for Drug Abuse Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation convened at Bangkok in February 1988.

571. The initiation of an ESCAP-WHO project on drug abuse rehabilitation in Asia and the Pacific was welcomed. The representative of the World Health Organization pointed out that that project was a precedent-setting one, as two WHO regional offices, those for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia, would work with ESCAP on the joint undertaking. The importance of effective rehabilitation for the reduction of demand for illicit drugs

was pointed out, as was the importance of exchanging national experience concerning the lessons learned in efforts to rehabilitate drug dependents. ESCAP could play a valuable role in the rehabilitation of drug abusers in the region. It was recognized that that would contribute to the development of the region's human resources and would also play a positive part in the global effort against AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

572. The importance of including inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in efforts to reduce the demand for illicit drugs was emphasized. It was pointed out that ultimately local communities must be involved and that non-governmental organizations were often the best means of establishing continuing linkages between national-level efforts and local communities. It was proposed that ESCAP should strengthen its activities in that field and take a leadership role to co-ordinate all illicit-drug demand reduction efforts in the region. The representative of the Colombo Plan indicated that his organization would work closely with the secretariat in that task.

573. The Commission commended the secretariat on the active role it had taken to promote and review the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. It noted with appreciation that increased attention had been given by Governments in the region to the prevention of disability and to rehabilitation during the first half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). It also affirmed the pertinence of the technical assistance provided by ESCAP to Governments to strengthen national policies and programmes for disability prevention and rehabilitation and for equalization of opportunities for disabled persons through advisory missions, the organization of national training workshops on community-based rehabilitation approaches and various technical publications in the field of disability.

574. The Commission called for concerted efforts among Governments in the region to accelerate progress in the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. In doing so, it strongly endorsed the recommendations of the Regional Expert Seminar to Review Achievements at the Mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, convened at Bangkok in June 1987.

Particular importance was attached to the early implementation of a regional action strategy for the second half of the Decade which specified the need for increased national and regional measures for the enhancement of equal opportunities for disabled persons and their full participation in community and national life; promotion of public education and awareness programmes concerning disability-related issues; promotion of integrated national policies and programmes and adequately trained personnel for work in the field of disability; and strengthening of research, data development and networking for policy and programme improvements. Attention was called to the need for further intensification of action to promote equal opportunities for disabled persons and their full participation in development processes. In that connection, the needs of rural disabled people, disabled women, the multiply disabled and the intellectually impaired were considered to be of special concern.

575. The Commission voiced its satisfaction with the secretariat's emphasis on developing the full human resources potential in conjunction with activities to promote the socio-economic integration and self-reliance of disabled persons. It urged the continuation of such assistance to Governments, with emphasis on the efficacy of community-based strategies. The need for systematic data development on the situation of disabled persons at the national and regional levels was recognized. Importance was also attached to improving the capacities of and increasing collaboration with non-governmental organizations for enhancing the participation and improving the situation of disabled persons. The representative of Rehabilitation International pointed to the need for support in the areas of technical aids development appropriate to the socio-economic and cultural context of the developing countries in the region.

576. The Commission recognized the important role of the Asia-Pacific Inter-Organizational Task Force on Disability-Related Concerns in promoting information exchange, collaboration and harmonization of efforts among United Nations bodies and agencies as well as non-governmental organizations concerned with disability issues. It suggested that resources be made available to the Task Force to strengthen its role, particularly to facilitate the participation of technical experts in the consideration of

specialized issues and in the implementation of joint activities to achieve regional goals in the field of disability.

577. The Commission expressed appreciation of the generous support provided by the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands, which had facilitated the secretariat's technical assistance activities for national disability-related programmes, especially in the region's least developed countries. The Commission further welcomed the decision of the Government of Japan to fund the third phase of that work. It noted the specific request of the Government of Viet Nam to be included in that phase of the project.

578. The Commission called attention to the important issues arising from the rapid increases in both the number and proportion of elderly persons in the population of the region. It noted the increasing recognition being accorded by Governments to the need to make adequate preparations, through the forward planning of national policies and programmes, to meet the current and anticipated needs of elderly persons, as well as to address problems arising from the developmental impact of aging populations on overall national social and economic conditions.

579. In that regard, the Commission noted with appreciation that the Expert Seminar on the Promotion of National Infrastructures for Aging Populations in Asia and the Pacific, convened by the secretariat at Bangkok in December 1987, had reviewed measures taken at the national and regional levels in implementing the International Plan of Action on Aging. In reaffirming the significance of the Plan, the Commission endorsed the recommendations of that Expert Seminar concerning measures for the further implementation and monitoring of the Plan. Emphasis was given to the human resources development dimension, giving precedence to elderly persons not only as beneficiaries but also as life-long contributors to the reservoir of national development resources in terms of their accumulated skills and expertise.

580. The Commission recognized that with improved educational and health care opportunities, greater social mobility, shifts in employment and production patterns, and rising national affluence, the needs of the elderly in the future would be quite different from those of the elderly today. A major regional challenge for the future would be meeting the increased demands for services for

the large and growing group of elderly persons and satisfying their expectations for a continued and increasingly significant role in development, while maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship of psycho-social and economic interdependence across the generations.

581. The Commission called attention to various priority concerns in meeting the needs arising from aging populations while promoting overall social integration. Among those priorities were strengthening of national planning and administrative capacities to ensure the integration of questions of aging in overall national policies and programmes, including the development of co-ordinating mechanisms, resources and programmes for the well-being and security of the elderly; support programmes to strengthen family and community capacities to care for the elderly; improving and sustaining the socio-economic participation of elderly persons in the context of modernization and social change; personnel training; and research, monitoring and other support programmes to strengthen policy and programme development. In that regard, the Commission noted the interest of some member Governments in participating in a regional workshop on the integration of the aging in development processes and called on donors to provide the necessary support for its implementation.

582. The Commission noted with appreciation the active support and valuable contributions of various Governments to its activities in the field of social development over the past year. It expressed gratitude for the assistance rendered, through the provision of funds, host facilities and expertise, by the Governments of Australia, Bhutan, China, France, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and the USSR.

583. Appreciation was also expressed of the active collaboration and support received from the following United Nations organizations and agencies: UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Disabled Persons, and WHO.

584. In addition, the Commission recorded appreciation to those non-governmental organizations that had provided generous support and collaboration, particularly in the activities relating to youth and disabled persons. Those organizations included the Asian Community Trust, the

Asia-Pacific Regional Council of Disabled Peoples' International, the International Union of Students and the World Council of Churches.

Statistics and government information systems

585. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/595, E/ESCAP/613 and E/ESCAP/614. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Statistics on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/595) and commended the secretariat on the high quality and comprehensiveness of the other documents.

586. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made by countries in implementing resolution 246 (XLII) on statistical services in Asia and the Pacific, as described in document E/ESCAP/614. It recognized that reliable and timely statistics were essential for decision-making and administrative purposes at the widely varying stages of development reached by countries of the region. The value and importance of statistics as basic tools for planning, executing and monitoring policies and programmes of member countries could not be over-emphasized. The Commission also noted the role of statistics in international comparisons and in the allocation of development resources between countries.

587. The need for data in the increasingly complex socio-economic climate characterizing the region placed immense demands on statistical systems, and since additional resources were unlikely to be forthcoming for statistical work, the Commission underlined the necessity for cost-effectiveness and co-ordination of statistical activities. One delegation expressed the view that the implementation in some countries of "net financing" forced statistical offices to pay greater attention to sales and pricing policies, and also provided a gauge of the demand for statistics by users; the Commission recognized, however, that the concept might not be applicable in some countries.

588. The budgetary constraints of the United Nations system notwithstanding, the Commission strongly urged that attempts should be made to maintain regular budget resources for the statistical work of the secretariat. Statistical services of member countries valued the assistance rendered by the secretariat in the field of statistics, including the adaptation and use of United Nations standards and

guidelines. The view was expressed that any reduction in activities by the secretariat could hamper statistical development in the countries. The secretariat also needed to promote greater efficiency in its activities and output. More collaboration with other regional commissions could be helpful in that regard.

589. The Commission commended the secretariat's work in the field of statistics and endorsed the continued thrust of its work programme towards the establishment and strengthening of national statistical capabilities. In that regard, the Commission considered regional advisory services to be a vital facet of the secretariat's statistical development activities, since regional advisers were cost-effective and able to transfer knowledge and experience across countries. While some statistical fields were being covered effectively, advisory services and technical meetings were suggested in other areas, such as environmental data, statistics on the informal sector, social statistics, with particular reference to women and to housing, and statistics on energy, transport and non-food crops. The Commission also urged the early recruitment of an adviser on statistics based at the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC), whose services were much needed in the Pacific island countries; the post had been vacant since mid-1987.

590. The Commission recognized the need to give special attention to the Pacific island countries in view of their relatively early stage of statistical development. It noted that the participation of the Pacific islands in the activities of the secretariat was rather low and that special efforts were needed to organize more technical meetings and conduct more training courses for statistical personnel in the subregion. Training courses in the Pacific should cover, *inter alia*, information technology, computers and integrated information systems.

591. The Commission commended the statistical publications of the secretariat. Those on methodology enabled countries to strengthen their statistical services and survey and census capabilities, while those containing the data of member countries on a comparable basis enabled users in the governmental, business and academic spheres to study regional problems. The latter publications, however, revealed crucial gaps in national data series. While urging the secretariat

to work towards filling those gaps, the Commission nevertheless observed that the secretariat's statistical acquisitions were a direct function of what the countries could provide. That in turn depended upon the expertise, the resources and the capacity the countries possessed. More current and comprehensive information from countries would be forthcoming only with their enhanced capability to produce data.

592. The Commission recognized that the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) of the United Nations, which was being promoted in the region by ESCAP, was a useful and effective vehicle for statistical capability building among countries. The Programme was often the only source of valuable current socio-economic data on households. The Commission accordingly supported NHSCP in the region, as well as the associated training courses organized by the secretariat in collaboration with the Government of India and with financial support from UNDP. The expected extension of the training programme to 1990 through further support from UNDP and India was welcomed by the Commission.

593. The Commission noted the growing use of computer technology in statistical data collection and processing, which in many countries had improved the timely dissemination of information. In particular, microcomputers were becoming more popular, especially among subject-matter statisticians; moreover, in smaller developing countries microcomputers suited local conditions owing to their relative cheapness and robustness. However, the developing countries of the region needed strengthened capability and expertise in utilizing the full potential of microcomputers through intensified regional and national training programmes; the Commission urged that such programmes be organized by the secretariat in association with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

594. Training in that area was important in terms of both numbers and subject-matter, first to cater for high staff turnover in statistical offices, particularly in the small island countries, and second to encompass software packages and their suitability for various statistical applications. It was further suggested that the secretariat might act as a clearing-house for information on statistical packages, since the exchange of software among national statistical agencies would help to eliminate the

wasteful utilization of scarce resources. Advice from the secretariat on the procurement of computer equipment was also needed.

595. The Commission endorsed the observations and conclusions of secretariat document E/ESCAP/613 concerning the co-ordination of statistical development activities at the national and international levels, including the co-ordination of technical assistance. The role of the national statistical agency in promoting the use of common definitions, concepts and classifications to improve the comparability of statistical data, both within countries and at the regional and international levels, was emphasized. The national statistical office should also take the initiative in attempting to bridge gaps between the suppliers, the producers and the users of data, so as to attain an optimum level of information utilization. The Commission further noted that the proper co-ordination of statistical training programmes by the national statistical office would avoid wastage of scarce human resources. It suggested that the secretariat should, where needed, assist countries in strengthening national legislation designed to improve statistical co-ordination.

596. At the international level, the Commission appreciated the efforts of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Statistical Office of the United Nations in the co-ordination of statistical activities, including the development of global statistical standards and methodology and the collection, compilation and dissemination of global information. In supporting the proposed establishment of an ESCAP-wide statistical data base, the Commission noted with interest that that would not only enhance the dissemination of statistical information but also bring about better co-ordination of statistical activities undertaken by countries and international agencies.

597. With regard to technical assistance in statistics, the Commission agreed that the national statistical agency of the recipient country should be made aware of the assistance being offered in various sectors and should be involved in the determination and co-ordination of and assigning of priority to technical assistance requests. Those steps would result in greater cost-effectiveness. The Committee on Statistics and other regional or subregional bodies could provide appropriate forums for co-ordinating technical

assistance from multilateral and bilateral agencies. It was also suggested that ESCAP should, within its existing resources, play a role in co-ordinating donor activity in countries of the region, perhaps by maintaining and disseminating a data base on all technical assistance proposals and programmes in the field of statistics.

598. The Commission examined at length the question of the scheduled merger of the Committee on Statistics and the Committee on Development Planning, and noted the strongly-held views for and against the merger as reported in document E/ESCAP/595.

599. Some delegations felt that the restructuring of the legislative committees of the Commission, including the merger of the Committees on Statistics and Development Planning, aimed at economy and efficiency through the full utilization of the secretariat's expertise in a multi-disciplinary manner. There was logic in merging development planning with one of its most important tools. Those delegations, therefore, supported the merger in principle, although a number of comments concerning the effects of the merger were offered.

600. Other delegations, while appreciating the urgent need for budgetary and administrative streamlining in the light of the financial constraints faced by the United Nations, felt that statistical programmes in the region would suffer from the lower priority they might receive under the merger. Concern was also expressed that statistical representation in a merged Committee would fall away, and that the smaller Pacific island countries would suffer particularly in that regard. There was further concern at the potential loss of a separate, distinct forum where the statisticians of the region could meet to discuss common problems and benefit from the sharing of experience. Those delegations urged ESCAP to continue to provide such a forum, since the Committee on Statistics had done much useful work in setting out guidelines for the development of statistical services and currently promoted multidisciplinary assistance in all sectors of development.

601. A number of delegations also expressed the view that a merger of the Committees should not jeopardize the maintenance of a separate identity for the statistical activities of ESCAP, nor result in a downgrading of those activities in what was a vital and

effective area of the secretariat's operations. In particular, there should be no lessening of the Statistics Division's capacity to carry out its work programme, and it was stressed that the Division should be preserved as an organizational unit in the secretariat. It was also suggested that the Working Group of Statistical Experts could play a more important role; it might focus on assistance to the island developing countries, for whose participation donor countries and relevant international organizations might provide financial support.

602. The Commission noted that the Committee on Statistics had a record of successful achievement, as evidenced by increasing country participation, heightened government awareness of the need for statistics, and improvements in the range, quality and timeliness of statistics produced by member countries. Those achievements were directly attributable to the regularity of contact in the environment provided by the Committee, and some delegations felt that any reduction in the level of such contact or in the availability of time to discuss and resolve statistical matters would be a retrograde step. The view was therefore expressed that the scheduled merger of the Committees should be reconsidered to enable a more workable solution to be arrived at which would not result in the loss of tangible benefits to member countries.

603. The Commission was informed that during the year under review the secretariat had received both bilateral and multilateral support for its activities in the field of statistics from Australia, the Cook Islands, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, the USSR and the United Kingdom. Among the organizations, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, the Asian Development Bank and INSTRAW (International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) had been prominent donors. The Commission also welcomed the generous offers of the Republic of Korea to contribute \$US 50,000 for a seminar on national accounts to be held at Bangkok, of the USSR to support the secretariat's statistical meetings in that country, and of India and Thailand to provide technical assistance on a TCDC basis. The Commission expressed its warm appreciation to those donors and requested them and others to continue their support in the future.

604. In the field of government computerization, the Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/615. The Commission noted that the realm of information technology and technological innovation was one of dynamic change and new opportunities. Government computerization, in particular, held much potential for countries in their quest for economic and social development. Nevertheless, it could be observed that computerization projects undertaken in the public sector often fell far short of their original promise.

605. The Commission was informed that the introduction of modern information technology into the public sector was a complex process because of the dynamic nature of the technology and the need for changes in existing administrative structures and behaviour in connection with its use. The key to effective government computerization, therefore, was first and foremost a question of establishing the appropriate organizational framework, achieved where necessary through making deep-seated changes in those administrative structures and forging in the civil service new patterns of thought and behaviour.

606. The Commission commended the secretariat on the high standard of analysis in document E/ESCAP/615. While agreeing that the underlying problems of computerization were fundamentally common, a number of delegations noted that differences between countries, for example in regard to level of economic development, level of computerization, administrative traditions, and available telecommunication facilities, meant that solutions would necessarily differ from country to country. In that connection, special attention should be paid to the problems of the least developed countries. It was pointed out that the only solution when demand for expertise outstripped supply was to select applications which were within the capacity of the country to define, operate and maintain, commencing with systems which assisted at the operational (transaction) level of public sector organizations.

607. It was generally agreed that there was a need for national-level organizational focal points of government computerization. A number of delegations described the establishment of such focal points, *inter alia* in the form of high-level interministerial committees and national computer centres, in connection with the growing use of computers in the public sector. The role of central

statistical offices and statisticians in establishing standardized data definitions and formats was stressed.

608. The Commission thus noted that addressing the problems of government computerization to a large extent required doing things differently, rather than merely providing additional funds and technology. It also required addressing the priorities, strategies and conditions of information technology transfer to the public sector as a whole, rather than solely in the specific instances of individual projects.

609. Against that background, the Commission recalled that at its forty-third session it had welcomed the thrust of a proposed project on improved government information systems that was being drafted by the secretariat in collaboration with UNDP. The Commission noted that dividing the proposed activities into two separate projects, one for Asia and one for the Pacific, was currently being contemplated. While retaining the original collective thrust, each project would be designed to complement existing national and regional efforts, and each would have a different emphasis, to meet the specific requirements of the two subregions.

610. A number of delegations felt that the emphasis of the proposed projects on addressing problems at the practical level in the participating countries was important. It was pointed out that the pilot project approach of the proposed projects had proved to be an excellent vehicle for stimulating co-ordinated national-level computerization developments. It was mentioned that the systematic evaluation of technical assistance and development projects undertaken by ESCAP might form a valuable input to the projects. In that connection, it was suggested that the projects should include a study to identify areas where computerization could improve administrative efficiency.

611. The Commission noted that the Committee on Statistics, at its seventh session, had stressed the need for countries to have an opportunity to comment on priorities and other aspects of the activities to be undertaken under the proposed ESCAP/UNDP projects. Consequently, the Committee had recommended the introduction into the ESCAP programme of work of a regular expert group on government computerization along the lines of the Working Group of Statistical Experts. The Commission generally

welcomed such expert group meetings on government computerization, although some delegations felt that they should take place on an *ad hoc* basis. While agreeing that the organizational problems of computerization should form a central topic of those meetings, it was suggested that the group might also develop guidelines for donors providing assistance to developing countries for computerization. With those comments, the Commission endorsed the recommendation.

Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994: review of progress of implementation

612. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/618.

613. It reaffirmed its strong support of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994. It commended the secretariat on its valuable efforts in fulfilling the goals and objectives of the Decade and noted with satisfaction that many developing countries of the region had so far benefited substantially from the regional programme of action for the Decade. It noted that out of 53 projects under the regional programme of action, 15 had been completed, 12 were under implementation, 10 were under consideration for funding by UNDP, and financial assistance from other sources was still being sought for 16 projects.

614. Noting that the Decade was approaching its mid-point in 1989, the Commission decided that it was necessary to review the progress made so far in the implementation of the Decade programme, with particular reference to the national programmes, and to examine the regional programme of action and modify it as necessary to ensure that it continued to reflect the immediate needs and actual requirements of members and associate members for the remaining period of the Decade. In order to carry out that task, the Commission strongly recommended that a series of intercountry missions should be organized by the secretariat during 1988-1989, in co-operation with national transport and communication co-ordination committees or other appropriate authorities and related agencies.

615. The Commission emphasized the need to assign higher priority to the Decade programme. It noted that a number of countries had set up a national co-ordination committee or other appropriate

authority to monitor and co-ordinate the formulation and implementation of the Decade programme. In that connection, it felt that the secretariat should consider convening a meeting of national co-ordination committees and other appropriate authorities to identify the major areas of activity to be implemented during the second half of the Decade.

616. The Commission noted the suggestions that the following projects should be accorded high priority for implementation: port pricing and investment policy; umbrella project on regional co-operation for the development of rural road transport infrastructure as a part of integrated rural development; rationalization of energy use in transport; economic modelling of the transport and communication sector for development projects and planning; study to promote rail-cum-sea transport; the urban transport crisis in the developing ESCAP region; policies for alternatives to the automobile; the Asian Highway project; the Trans-Asian Railway; the Asian Railway master plan; and inventory of the main navigable rivers in the region.

617. The Commission also noted the proposal that the following activities should be given importance during the second half of the Decade: maritime and port legislation; port marketing and promotion; training on management and maintenance of port equipment; development of inland water transport; modernization of railway telecommunication; training programme for railway personnel; survey of technological developments and adaptation in the field of railways; transfer of modern transport technology; integrated transport planning; and development of computer technology and automated systems and their possible application to transport in the countries of the region. The Commission also felt that activities in the field of telecommunication and postal services should be intensified during the second half of the Decade.

618. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a number of projects under the Decade programme had been carried out by the secretariat with the assistance of the Governments of Australia, China, France, Japan, the Netherlands and the USSR and, in particular, UNDP. It noted with appreciation the offer of the Republic of Korea to share its knowledge and experience in urban transport and telecommunication with other ESCAP member countries on a TCDC basis, the offer of China to co-operate with ESCAP in

implementing the Decade activities, and the offer of the USSR to provide 35 fellowships in the field of railway transport towards implementation of the regional programme of action for the Decade.

619. The Commission took note of a request by Thailand for the secretariat to assist in the implementation of PORTMIS (Port Management Information System); a study of computer application for the Land Transport Department; a study on efficiency improvement for road transport personnel training; system analysis for the development of a maritime transport information system, including practical training in developed countries; research for the development of air transport; the establishment of a traffic engineering research centre; development of short- and long-term planning for the Port of Bangkok; and preparation of video training modules for local-level officials on rural road construction and maintenance.

620. The Commission took note of the special interest of (a) the Philippines in participating in the following Decade activities: the regional maritime development strategy; training in the field of ship financing; fuel efficiency in shipping; inventory of main navigable rivers in the ESCAP region; port pricing and investment policy; port computerization; and inland water transport; and (b) Viet Nam in participating in activities concerning: port pricing and investment policy; port computerization; development of inland water transport; maritime and port legislation; dredging; the seminar-cum-study tour on road accident prevention; and the regional seminar on air cargo handling and management. It also took note of the request of Pakistan to participate in studies in the field of railways.

621. The Commission noted with interest that Bangladesh was the first country to issue a set of commemorative postage stamps for the Decade as a part of the campaign to create greater public awareness of the Transport and Communications Decade. It also noted that the Philippines and Indonesia were committed to the issuance of commemorative stamps within the period of the Decade.

622. The Commission took note of the statements of ICAO, ITU, IMO and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) on their activities relating to the Transport and Communications Decade and noted with satisfaction their offers of assistance

and co-operation to the secretariat for the implementation of the Decade programme.

623. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the USSR, and to organizations, particularly UNDP, for their active support of ESCAP activities within the framework of the Decade.

624. The Commission urged the donor countries and financial institutions, particularly UNDP, to consider favourably the provision of financial assistance to the secretariat to enable it to implement the regional programme of action for the Decade more effectively, particularly financing for the proposed country missions to establish priorities for the second half of the Decade.

Progress reports on regional institutions, special regional projects and other regional bodies

Administrative and financial issues related to the Commission's regional institutions

625. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/619.

626. It recalled the financial targets set at its forty-third session for cash contributions for institutional support in 1987 for SIAP (Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific), APCTT (Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology), and the CGPRT Centre (Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and Pacific). It noted that the financial targets for cash contributions for institutional support in 1987 for APCTT and the CGPRT Centre had not been met.

627. The Commission also recalled that, during its forty-third session, certain indicative minimum amounts had been proposed for its consideration as a guideline for contributions towards APCTT and the CGPRT Centre. The least developed countries might wish to consider \$US 1,000, and other developing countries \$US 15,000, as minimum voluntary contributions for APCTT and the CGPRT Centre. Those indicative figures were aimed at ensuring the financial viability

of the two Centres, both of which had enjoyed substantial programme support from donor resources.

628. The Commission noted the following financial targets set for institutional support for the respective regional institutions for 1988: \$US 1,100,000 for SIAP, \$US 250,000 for APCTT, and \$US 400,000 for the CGPRT Centre.

629. The Commission expressed appreciation of the substantial programme support rendered by bilateral and multilateral donors, in particular UNDP, and expressed the hope that such support would be continued and increased.

630. Recognizing the valuable services that the regional institutions had been performing for their member countries and that they had to depend largely on extra-budgetary voluntary contributions, the Commission reiterated its view that their financial viability should be ensured. It also reiterated that financial support for the institutional costs of the regional institutions was a direct responsibility of the recipient countries, and donor countries and agencies should take the burden of programme support. It further held the view that host countries should provide cash contributions for institutional support, in addition to host facilities. The host countries of the three regional institutions reaffirmed their strong support for the promotion of regional co-operation through the activities of those regional institutions, and appealed for increased cash contributions from countries receiving benefits from their activities. The Commission, however, urged that other developing member countries should also consider, apart from increasing cash contributions, seconding experts to work in those regional institutions on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

631. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/621, which contained a report by the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre. The document gave an overview of the Centre's activities during the period under review, its staffing, financial situation, including budget requirements for 1988, and the issues to be considered. The Commission expressed satisfaction at

the progress and the meaningful outputs achieved by the Centre, and endorsed the report by the Board.

632. The Commission expressed satisfaction regarding the increased emphasis of the Centre's activities in 1987 on information and documentation and on training programmes, both of which had lagged behind the research activities during the early stage of the Centre's operation. It endorsed the Board's recommendation that the Centre should continue efforts to strengthen further the links between its three programmes: information and documentation, training, and research.

633. The Commission noted with satisfaction that in the implementation of those programmes, continued efforts had been made by the Centre to strengthen relationships with relevant national institutions as well as with international and regional agricultural research centres. It was informed that the Governing Board supported the Centre's plan to hold country meetings, where appropriate, to establish memoranda of understanding. During 1987, collaborative activities had been conducted with the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Co-operation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) of France, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), the International Potato Centre (CIP), with FAO, and with a number of national agricultural research institutes in the region.

634. The Commission was informed of the revision of the draft review and long-term plan of work of the Centre, which had been considered by the Governing Board at its sixth session in January 1988. It noted that major changes were made with regard to: (a) the planning period, which had been shortened; (b) the priority of programmes, with greater emphasis being given to information and documentation and training programmes; and (c) the Centre's institutional costs, which should increasingly be borne by the developing country members. The Commission concurred with the Board's suggestion that the final draft should include considerations on: (a) practical approaches to CGPRT crop development problems; (b) the shift of the research programme into more

macro-level-oriented activities; and (c) closer co-operation between the Centre and member countries. The Commission, commending the work of the Board and the Centre in revising the draft, endorsed the document as a reference policy paper and recommended that the above suggestions should be included in the final revision.

635. With regard to the information and documentation activities of the Centre, the Commission noted that the services under that programme had been expanded considerably with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands. During 1987, staffing for the publication and information sections had been strengthened through assistance from Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) and expansion of the data base section had begun, including the initiation of a country correspondents system and link-up with the various national and international information centres. It also noted that four research reports and the proceedings of one workshop had been produced during the period under review, in addition to the regular issuance of newsletters. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands and to CUSO for their assistance to the Centre's information and documentation programme.

636. The Commission was informed that a three-week training course on research resource allocation and comparative advantage had been undertaken under the Centre's training programme in 1987. It noted with appreciation that the training course had been organized in close co-operation with CIMMYT and had been sponsored by the Commission of the European Communities. In that connection, noting the positive evaluation and support of senior government officials as well as of research workers from international agricultural research centres, the Commission commended the Centre on its work on the training course, and recommended that follow-up activities should be undertaken as appropriate. The choice of the above-mentioned subject for training was considered particularly relevant to a number of developing member countries, since they were paying serious attention to diversification of agricultural production and research priority setting. The Commission thanked CIMMYT and the Commission of the European Communities for their timely co-operation in the endeavour.

637. The Commission noted that the Centre's activities in the field of training, including workshops, were

becoming more prominent. It suggested that the Centre's work in that important field should be further strengthened. In that connection, the representative of the USSR stated the intention of his Government to contribute to the Centre's training programme through the provision of expert services.

638. With regard to the research programme, the Commission was informed that in 1987, nine studies had been completed: (a) four studies on constraints on increased production and productivity of CGPRT crops; (b) the first phase of a farming systems inventory; (c) a study on demand for root and tuber crops in Bangladesh; (d) a survey on the potential for pigeonpea in Burma, Indonesia and Thailand; (e) a marketing study on agricultural products in upland Java; and (f) a study on agriculture, food and nutrition in four South Pacific archipelagoes. The Commission commended the Centre's efforts to disseminate the research results by contributing to journals and symposia. It recommended that the current direction of applied research of the Centre be further strengthened.

639. The Commission was informed that, as of 1 April 1988, the Centre's Professional staff comprised a director, a senior agricultural economist, three agricultural economists, an agricultural economist/officer-in-charge of the training programme, an agricultural economist/programme leader for information and documentation, an information specialist and a publication specialist. It noted that three agricultural economists had been assigned to the Centre as research associates by two agricultural research institutes of Indonesia. It concurred with the Governing Board's view that in 1988-1989, the Centre would need additional Professional staff, including a livestock/feed economics specialist.

640. The Commission was informed that during the period under review, the Centre had received considerable assistance from the UNDP office in Jakarta with regard to accounting matters. It noted the assistance in communication received from the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development in Bogor and the support provided by the ESCAP secretariat in various aspects of the Centre's operations.

641. The Commission was informed that the financial resources made available to the Centre during 1987 had amounted to \$US 551,600, comprising: (a) support for

institutional costs in the form of cash contributions of \$US 329,600 from France, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea; and (b) support for specific programme activities amounting to \$US 222,000 from the Netherlands and the Commission of the European Communities. It noted that the Centre had also received contributions in kind from the Governments of France, Indonesia, Japan and the Netherlands, the value of which was estimated to be \$US 404,000, consisting of contributions in kind equivalent to \$US 69,000 and the services of four experts equivalent to \$US 335,000. Thus, the total resources available for 1987, including cash and other components, were estimated at approximately \$US 955,600. The Commission expressed sincere appreciation to all the above-mentioned countries and donors for their valuable support to the Centre's operations.

642. The Commission was informed that the Governing Board had endorsed the budgetary requirements for 1988, which amounted to \$US 1,120,000, consisting of \$US 381,000 (34 per cent) for institutional support and \$US 739,000 (66 per cent) for programme activities. Those amounts were required to maintain continuity of the Centre's activities, as well as to undertake priority programme activities in 1988.

643. The Commission expressed concern over the level of contributions from the recipient countries, especially for institutional support to the Centre. In 1987, contributions from developing country members had amounted to approximately \$US 40,000, or only about 10 per cent of the actual institutional expenditure. At the previous Commission session, it had been proposed that minimum voluntary contributions of \$US 1,000 be set for each least developed country, and \$US 15,000 for each developing country. The Commission recognized the importance and urgency for those countries to follow those guidelines. It indicated that the viability of the Centre would not be ensured if contributions did not meet the minimum level of requirements. The representative of Japan expressed the intention of his Government to shift its contribution gradually from lump-sum support to programme support. For 1988, Japan had decided to contribute \$US 250,000 to the Centre's work, out of which an amount of \$US 50,000 would be earmarked for programme activities. The Commission made a strong appeal to the Governments of members and associate members and to donors for increased

financial and technical support for the work of the Centre on a medium- and long-term basis.

644. The Commission unanimously elected the representatives of Bangladesh, France, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand members of the Governing Board of the Centre for the period 1988-1990, in addition to the representative of the host Government Indonesia.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

645. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/620, the report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

646. It reviewed the activities of the following projects being implemented by APCTT: the UNDP-funded project on the promotion of technology utilization, comprising the three interrelated areas of technology transfer, technology information and technology management; the ESCAP project on the technology atlas funded by the Government of Japan; and the projects on human resources development policy and planning supported by the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea.

647. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress made by APCTT in promoting technology transfer and utilization through various mechanisms. It noted with satisfaction the assistance to small and medium enterprises and the publication and dissemination of the Tech Mart series as a vehicle to promote and facilitate interaction and transfer of technologies among themselves. It supported APCTT involvement in the Second ASEAN Science and Technology Week to be held early in 1989.

648. The Commission also noted with interest that a low-budget model for operating national technology information services developed by APCTT was being introduced in some countries. It was of the opinion that an operational model, coupled with the training of national personnel and the provision of relevant computer hardware and software in selected countries, would contribute significantly to the establishment of a network of information service institutions. When fully operational, the regional network would facilitate efficient exchange of technology information

within and among participating countries of the region. It noted with satisfaction the continuing publication and dissemination of the bimonthly *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor*, which was widely acclaimed as very informative and useful by the countries of the region. It also noted with interest that the programme of strengthening technology management capability placed emphasis on creating an awareness of the need for technology-based development at the national level, facilitating exchange of experience and providing methodologies for technology-related decision-making. It commended APCTT on its publication of country studies on technology policies and its plan to publish six more country studies, and to prepare a regional comparative study on technology transfer focusing on technology acquisition, assimilation and adaptation. It noted with satisfaction the progress made in training activities through both national and regional workshops.

649. The Commission noted the progress made on the technology atlas. It further noted that the draft of the first volume of the series had been distributed. It also emphasized the need for the early completion of the project and for efforts by ESCAP towards effective utilization of the atlas as a policy-making tool before proceeding to the next phase of the activity. In that connection, it expressed appreciation to countries offering to test the procedures, and requested UNDP to provide the necessary funding should the second phase be necessary. The Commission further noted the need to involve national focal points in preparing the technology atlas. With regard to the projects on human resources development, the Commission noted with appreciation the involvement of the Centre in the successful completion of the Workshop on Human Resources Development Policy and Planning for Technology and Development held in the Republic of Korea during October-November 1987. It noted that, in the two follow-up activities, ESCAP would continue to involve APCTT in planning and implementation.

650. The Commission noted the recommendations of the third session of the Technical Advisory Committee, the Tripartite Review Meeting of the UNDP project, and the second session of the Governing Board of APCTT, all held at Bangkok in December 1987. It also took note of the outcome of the Expert Consultative Meeting on the Technology Atlas, held in January 1988, and the evaluation mission undertaken by an

official representative of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau in February 1988. The Commission felt that all of those review and evaluation mechanisms were of great importance in monitoring and assessing the proper implementation of the work programme of APCTT.

651. The Commission noted that the representative of UNDP had expressed concern over the continued difficulty in meeting the full target for the institutional costs of APCTT; he had mentioned that additional UNDP support to the Centre would be determined by a joint ESCAP/UNDP review mission to be undertaken in late 1988, and such factors as improved contributions of member countries to meet the institutional costs, due regard being given to economies in in-house expenditure.

652. The Commission observed with satisfaction the trend towards increasing contributions from participating countries. However, it was concerned that the total contribution was still insufficient to cover the full institutional costs of APCTT and hoped that that would be resolved soon. It also noted with gratitude the affirmation by the Government of India that APCTT would be able to commence operations from New Delhi in 1989.

653. The Commission expressed gratitude to India for extending host facilities to APCTT, to all donor countries, to UNDP, and to all countries participating in APCTT activities for their contributions and sustained support to the Centre. It called upon all members and associate members of ESCAP, other interested countries, UNDP, and other international agencies to increase their support, both in cash and in kind, and further extend their co-operation to ensure the continuing and effective functioning of APCTT.

654. The Commission, at its forty-second session in 1986, had amended article 9 of the Statute of APCTT to broaden the membership base and had made provision for a minimum of eight elected members and one representative of the host country. At the same session, 10 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, France, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam) had been elected members of the Board in addition to the host country (India). The Commission, at its forty-third session in 1987, had unanimously elected two additional members, Indonesia

and Thailand, to the Board. At the forty-fourth session, the Commission also unanimously elected two additional members, China and Malaysia, to the Governing Board.

655. The Commission thanked the Government of Indonesia for the offer to provide host facilities for the fourth session of the Technical Advisory Committee and the third session of the Governing Board of APCTT, to be held during the first week of December 1988. The Commission noted that concurrently with the holding of the sessions of the Governing Board and the Technical Advisory Committee, the Indonesian Government would also hold its national workshop on the technology atlas.

656. The Commission noted with interest the proposed new UNIDO project "Development of industrial consultancy in the ESCAP region", to be implemented in collaboration with APCTT in the near future. Considering the importance of consultancy services in the development of the technological capability of any developing country, and recognizing the increasingly important role being played by APCTT, it was felt that that new project would be a significant activity within the existing scope of operations of the Centre.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

657. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/622. It noted that the Institute had performed a wide-ranging role in meeting the needs not only for trained statisticians for the region but also for upgrading the skills of computer personnel. The Commission noted that a total of 362 participants from 32 members and associate members had attended various SIAP training programmes during the period under review, a significant increase over the previous period.

658. The Commission recognized that upgrading human skills was essential for social and economic development and that SIAP was playing an important role in that regard. It acknowledged that SIAP was a highly efficient provider of training in statistics and computer usage and that its programmes were designed specifically to meet the changing needs of the developing countries of the region. The Commission requested the Institute to continue those important

training programmes, taking into consideration the urgent need for upgrading skills in the island nations of the Pacific and in least developed countries.

659. The Commission recognized that timely and reliable statistics were essential for social and economic development planning and urged the Institute to formulate its advanced courses, seminars and workshops to take into account that need. It noted that more attention should be focused on training programmes on national accounts, projections, social statistics and statistics on the informal sector, which accounted for a significant proportion of the work-force in the countries of the region. It felt that SIAP should frame programmes with a view to improving the quality of management and co-ordination of the statistical offices of member countries.

660. The Commission recognized the contribution made by the Institute in upgrading computer skills in statistical agencies and requested it to further strengthen its programmes in that regard, paying particular attention to training in the use of microcomputers, and in providing access to and training in the use of the latest software packages. It commended the work done in the statistical software demonstration centre at SIAP.

661. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the continuing strong support provided to SIAP in cash and in kind by members and associate members to implement its programmes. However, serious concern was expressed that the sharp and continuing fall in the value of the dollar against the yen, when contributions were in dollars and expenditure mainly in yen, had affected the recruitment of staff for the Institute as well as resulted in curtailment of its programmes, particularly the proposed in-house microcomputer course. The Commission noted that there would be a shortfall of over \$150,000 in 1988, which would have a serious effect on the work of the Institute. It was strongly urged that the secretariat, in close consultation with the Director of SIAP, should seek the required level of funding and that recipient countries in a position to do so should increase their cash contributions to make good that shortfall in order to enable SIAP to continue its work programme without disruption. The Commission also suggested that the Institute should take such cost-saving measures as were practicable without jeopardizing its programmes.

662. The Commission noted the successful programme of in-country courses initiated by SIAP through which it had become possible to increase significantly the number of participants benefiting from its programmes in a cost-efficient manner. It requested SIAP to increase the number of those programmes and the range of their subject-matter, and to continue to give priority to its programme for the production of audio-visual and other materials to facilitate the training of personnel.

663. The Commission also noted that the Advisory Council of SIAP would be meeting in 1988 to discuss the future work programme of the Institute and to set out clear objectives and strategies which would take into account the needs of member countries in the 1990s. The Commission suggested that the content of the Institute's courses should be reviewed to cater for statistical training needs resulting from social and economic changes in the region.

664. The Commission expressed deep gratitude to the host Government of Japan for its continuing financial and in-kind contributions to the Institute, as well as the support it had given to the fellowship programme, as part of its international co-operation programme, since the inception of SIAP; to the Government of the Netherlands for financial contributions, which had regrettably ended in 1987 owing to policy changes unrelated to the performance of the Institute; to the Government of the United Kingdom for its continuing provision of lecturers on a short-term, non-reimbursable basis; to the Government of India for similar support on a cost-sharing basis, and to various international organizations for their co-operation and assistance in the many programmes of the Institute. The Commission was also deeply grateful to UNDP for its generous provision of over \$US 2 million for the fourth phase of the Institute's programmes. It further noted with appreciation the pledge of the Government of Australia to support the work of SIAP by treating as sympathetically as possible requests for lecturers from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on a short-term basis.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

665. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/623.

666. It recognized the usefulness of the RNAM project to its participating countries in assisting them to formulate appropriate mechanization policies and strategies through the establishment of national farm mechanization committees, the design and local manufacture of essential machinery through training and technology transfer, and the promotion of more widespread use of machines by farmers through extension work and exchange of information. The project had played a prominent role in the introduction of new but simple and low-cost machines in the participating countries.

667. Some of the countries, which had more vigorous mechanization policies, had already acquired the capability to produce machines of varying complexity in large, medium and small manufacturing firms. The countries that were not so far advanced in their efforts were picking up momentum with the help of opportunities provided by RNAM to exchange technical information and assist one another on the basis of TCDC. It was emphasized that in order to have a well co-ordinated agricultural mechanization programme, every country should develop a national farm mechanization policy and appropriate implementation strategies which should form the basis of that programme.

668. The Commission endorsed the plan of the project to concentrate, during its fourth phase (1987-1991), on the extension to the farmers and other end-users of appropriate machines and technologies developed thus far by the national institutes. That would bring to a logical conclusion the earlier efforts of those institutes and the project in the areas of design, testing and promotion of local manufacture. In order to realize that plan, the project would seek more actively the participation of non-governmental organizations dealing with farmers in extension and popularization activities.

669. The Commission recommended that the project should assist the participating countries in carrying out socio-economic studies where they were facing some difficulties. Those studies would address themselves especially to the impact of agricultural mechanization on the employment situation.

670. In the area of human resources development, the Commission noted with appreciation that, since its inception in 1978, the RNAM project had trained 103 engineers through training courses, 183

through workshops and 25 through study tours.

671. The representative of Japan announced that, in 1988, the Government of Japan would make a financial contribution of \$US 200,000 to RNAM. That would include \$US 175,000 for institutional support and a sum of \$US 25,000 for programme support, upon receiving appropriate project proposals from RNAM. The Government would gradually shift its contributions from institutional support costs to programme support costs.

672. The Commission recommended that: (a) the recipient countries should increase their contributions towards institutional support costs; (b) the host Government should continue to provide necessary host facilities and a part of institutional costs; and (c) the donor countries should support the programme activities.

673. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme informed the Commission that RNAM had been selected as the subject of an audio-visual presentation to the Governing Council of UNDP at its next session to be held at Geneva in June 1988. That selection was based on its observation that RNAM had become a successful example of a project based on the network concept and financed through the structure of a cost-sharing arrangement among its donor and member countries.

674. The representative of Viet Nam stated that his country was very much interested in the work of the RNAM project and was considering possible participation in the Network.

675. The Commission thanked the donor countries, Australia and Japan, and UNDP, for their generous financial support to the RNAM project.

Regional energy development programme

676. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/625, which had been presented to it for consideration and updated during its introduction by the Senior Co-ordinator. It noted with satisfaction that the implementation of phase III (1987-1989) activities/sub-activities of the programme was well under way with the active co-operation and support of the Asian ESCAP member and associate member Governments and the associated executing

agencies/institutions of the project, as reported in the document.

677. The Commission commended the reiteration of high priority accorded by the REDP participating countries to the phase III programme activities/sub-activities of the project. Many of the REDP participating countries reconfirmed the relevance and usefulness of the programme's objectives and thrust of activities for assisting their own efforts in the development and management of the respective energy sectors and at the same time for further strengthening inter-country co-operation in the field of energy. Governments of member countries participating in the implementation of REDP phase III major activity P-1.1 reconfirmed that significant government resources had been committed for undertaking in-country studies on sectoral energy demand analysis within the framework of the implementation of that activity. The Commission was pleased to note that in 1988 the Government of the Republic of Korea would provide experts and host facilities for a training course on reduction of electricity transmission and distribution losses for REDP sub-activity L-1.2; the Government of Indonesia would host the seminar on hydrocarbon taxation and its relationship to petroleum exploration and development for REDP activity P-2; the Government of China would provide experts and host facilities for training courses on rural energy and new and renewable sources of energy systems for REDP sub-activities R-1.1(b) and (c); and the Government of Viet Nam was ready to make arrangements for hosting a special training programme on energy planning for least developed countries for REDP sub-activity P-1.2(c).

678. The Commission commended the REDP participating countries on stressing the importance and relevance of the long-term objective of the second cycle programme of REDP for further strengthening technical co-operation among the REDP participating countries in the field of energy. Many of the member country Governments stressed the critical role that energy would play in the region for socio-economic development in the years to come, and reaffirmed their readiness to provide continued active support for the attainment of the long-term objective of the second cycle (1987-1991) programme of the project. In that regard, the Commission noted that several countries called for consideration of continued UNDP support for REDP beyond 1991, in view of the wide regional coverage and

varying interests of the member countries of the project.

679. The Commission noted that many REDP member countries had expressed their readiness to send delegations to participate actively in the 1988 Tripartite Review Conference of REDP on account of the important tasks that Conference would undertake, namely to assign priorities and allocate funding for the forthcoming phase IV (1990-1991) programme activities of the project, and to formulate effective modalities to ascertain attainment of the REDP second cycle long-term objective. The Commission therefore urged all participating Governments and associated executing agencies of REDP to be represented and to participate actively in that Conference, which was scheduled to be held at Bangkok from 24 to 26 August 1988. In regard to the three-point criteria contained in document E/ESCAP/625, the Commission endorsed the suggestion that the most important and essential criterion for assigning priorities to phase IV (1990-1991) programme activities must be that concerned with meeting the real needs of the individual countries.

680. The Commission expressed confidence that, with the active support of all concerned, the objectives of the second cycle programme could be attained, and that self-sustained co-operative initiatives in the field of energy would eventually evolve through consistent guidance from the annual tripartite review conferences of REDP.

681. The Commission expressed gratitude to UNDP for its continuing support to the project, to the Government of France for providing additional support for the implementation of sub-activity P-1.1 on sectoral energy demand analysis, and to the Government of Australia for supporting training programmes on coal technology under sub-activity L-2.2.

Pacific energy development programme

682. The Pacific energy development programme (PEDP) had carried out a wide range of activities in 15 countries of the Pacific subregion during 1987, with core support from UNDP and considerable additional finance from Australia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and New Zealand. Most activities related to petroleum policy, electric power planning and training in computer use and solar technologies. An especially successful activity was the completion of

17 solar photovoltaics courses for 371 technicians in 15 countries, with lectures and materials prepared in 13 languages.

683. Nine countries commended PEDP on its work. Three delegations commended the secretariat on fostering a closer working relationship between PEDP and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) Energy Division. The three delegations urged the secretariat and UNDP to finalize arrangements for a combined PEDP/SPEC energy operation in the near future. Several countries expressed appreciation of the resources allocated by donors beyond the UNDP second programming cycle support of \$0.5 million per year, especially to Japan, which announced \$0.2 million for the second phase of the solar photovoltaic power generation research, development and demonstration project in Pacific island countries. The Government of France also expressed willingness to continue supporting PEDP, particularly for joint activities with the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the Energy Resources Section of the Natural Resources Division.

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

684. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/626.

685. The Director of the Centre briefed the Commission on its achievements in 1987.

686. The Centre had continued to make good progress in carrying out its mandated functions. Two UNDP accountability missions to APDC mounted in 1985 and 1987 in connection with UNDP programme support to APDC had expressed satisfaction with the professional conduct of its operations and activities. New opportunities for greater collaboration between UNDP and APDC had also been identified.

687. The Centre's work programme for 1987, implemented primarily through networking, had reflected its continuing involvement with development issues of the Asian and Pacific countries, in the context of a changing global economy. It had also underlined the need for regional co-operation to enhance national capabilities to manage the economic and political environment, both domestically and abroad. In addition to research and training activities, the Centre had been able to operationalize its advisory/consultancy function in 1987, as well as a fellowship programme.

688. The Centre had continued to receive encouraging support from its member countries through prompt payment of pledged contributions. UNDP had agreed to provide programme support to APDC amounting to \$US 3.99 million for the period 1987-1989. In addition, a total of \$US 2.08 million had been pledged to APDC by other donors/institutions to support its various activities for the period 1987-1990.

689. As his term of office would end in 1988, the Director of APDC took the opportunity to record his highest appreciation to the member Governments of APDC, donor Governments, UNDP and all other organizations and individuals that had contributed to and collaborated with the Centre. He expressed confidence that APDC would continue to play a useful role as a regional development centre and a forum for high-level policy dialogue in the region.

690. Several delegations commended the development of the Centre and expressed satisfaction with the achievements of APDC for the year 1987. The Director of APDC was commended on his dedication to developing a matrix of activities beneficial to the region, an effective networking strategy involving the active participation of national and regional organizations in its activities, and the sound administration of the Centre. Several delegations noted the importance of the second phase of the "Study of the Asian and Pacific economy in the year 2000" as a means of meeting the needs of the region as well as promoting regional co-operation. Within the framework of the study, APDC and the Institute of Development Economics of Japan would jointly organize a symposium on the global restructuring and the future of the Asian and Pacific economy, in Tokyo in May 1988. It was suggested that APDC should continue its efforts, particularly in the context of economic and social development, in involving more participating institutions and in fostering greater regional co-operation. The representative of Japan pledged a contribution of \$US 350,000 for 1988. The representative of Malaysia reiterated that his Government was considering to continue providing host facilities to APDC. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that his Government would consider strengthening its contributions to APDC under appropriate circumstances.

Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

691. The Commission had before it the annual report of the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, 1987 (E/ESCAP/628) which was presented for information by its Chairman for 1988, assisted by the Executive Agent. In bringing out the salient points of the annual report, the Chairman mentioned that 1987 had been an active year during which significant steps had been taken by the Committee to strengthen and streamline its administrative machinery and work programme so as to enhance its capacity to harness the formidable resources of the lower Mekong basin for the benefit of its inhabitants. He referred to progress achieved in various sectors of the work programme, including hydrology and meteorology, water management, fisheries, irrigation, flood control, energy generation and transport and navigation. As a result of the progress made, a number of activities and projects had been successfully concluded in 1987.

692. In his statement, the Chairman indicated that in 1987, member Governments' contributions in cash and in kind, as well as financial commitments made by the international community for projects sponsored by the Committee and institutional support, amounted to approximately \$US 7.8 million, and expressed the Committee's gratitude to the co-operating countries and agencies, in particular to UNDP, for continuing support to its work.

693. In statements made by the representatives, strong support was given to the unique role that the Committee continued to play in promoting regional co-operation in the integrated development of the basin, and satisfaction was expressed on the implementation of many important projects. The Committee and the Executive Agent were complimented on the efficient operation of the Mekong Secretariat and commended on the clear presentation of the annual report and work programme. The continuing assistance pledged by several representatives was much appreciated. The riparian countries themselves expressed their warm appreciation to the co-operating countries and agencies, in particular to UNDP, for the assistance provided.

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

694. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/627.

695. It was informed that in addition to six nominated signatories from China, Democratic Kampuchea, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand, two more nominated signatories, from Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, had signed the Memorandum of Understanding of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas. The Memorandum of Understanding had entered into force on 29 August 1987. The CCOP Technical Secretariat had applied for a Headquarters Agreement with the Royal Thai Government.

696. Following the approved programme of work for the period 1987-1991, appreciation was expressed of the work for 1987 carried out in the programmes of hydro-carbon exploration, offshore survey and related activities, Quaternary geology studies, fellowships, on-the-job and in-house training, workshops, seminars, publication programmes, the programme of Studies in East Asian Tectonics and Resources (SEATAR), offshore safety, and the TCDC programme of CCOP.

697. The Commission was informed that the detailed work plan for 1988 had been approved by the Committee.

698. It was also informed that financial and other inputs would be needed to implement the heavy load of the work programme. Annual cash contributions from member countries had been provided. Increased contributions were requested by the CCOP Technical Secretariat to enable it to function effectively.

699. The Committee expressed its appreciation to UNDP, ESCAP and co-operating countries for programme support, and hoped that their support and assistance to CCOP would be continued in the future.

Typhoon Committee

700. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/629, and expressed appreciation of the activities of the Typhoon Committee. It noted the considerable progress made in the implementation of activities under the meteorological, hydrological, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research components, and the establishment of the Typhoon Committee Trust Fund.

701. It was pleased to note that ESCAP had provided the member countries with various substantive services, such as the dispatch of a mission on comprehensive flood loss prevention and management to eight members of the Committee and the organization of the project on flood risk analysis and mapping.

702. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Philippines had pledged a contribution in kind of \$US 12,000 to continue hosting the Typhoon Committee Secretariat, and that Japan had given the reinsurance that it would continue to play an active role in the programmes of the Committee by providing a hydrologist to the Typhoon Committee Secretariat and despatching a new expert to the ESCAP secretariat, and stated its intention of organizing training courses on meteorology and river engineering. The Commission also noted with appreciation the assistance extended to the Committee by China, and the advance cash contribution made to the Trust Fund by the Republic of Korea. The Commission commended UNDP on its considerable and very useful support and expressed the hope that it would continue to support the activities of the Committee.

703. The Commission took note of the readiness of the USSR to expand co-operation with the member countries of the Committee in the field of meteorology, hydrology and mitigation of natural disasters, by exchange of scientists and meteorological data and so on, and to assist them in training experts through the provision of WMO voluntary co-operation programme scholarships, and in the development of their national meteorological services by sending experts and consultants. The Commission also noted the continued willingness of the United States to provide meteorological data and forecasts to the region during the typhoon season.

Programme changes for the biennium 1988-1989

704. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/630 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/632 and Corr.1 and 2, E/ESCAP/633, and E/ESCAP/634.

705. After clarification of certain points, the Commission endorsed the tentative calendar of meetings, 1988-1989, as contained in document E/ESCAP/632 and Corr.1 and 2.

Programme changes for 1988

706. The Commission endorsed the proposed changes in document E/ESCAP/630 and Corr.1, with the following comments and modifications.

707. In the programme on marine resources, the Commission requested clarification on the proposed deletion of output 1.4(i), "Report to the Committee on Natural Resources on progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea". It was explained that activities covered under that output would be carried out as part of the substantive servicing of the forthcoming Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

708. In the programme on social development, it was recommended that, subject to resource constraints, work under the revised output 1.3(i), "Report to the Committee on Population and Social Development on training youth for participation in development", should at a later stage also include consideration of the social aspects of unemployment among youth.

709. Under the programme on transport, communications and tourism, the Commission decided that, since the next session of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications would now be held in 1988, the outputs under 3.1(i), "Substantive servicing of: (a) Intergovernmental railway group meeting; (b) Railway research co-ordination group meeting", would be postponed to 1989.

710. Under the programme on statistics, it was clarified that output 1.4(i), "Manual on socio-economic indicators", was being deleted to avoid duplication with work being undertaken at the United Nations Statistical Office at Headquarters. With regard to the deletion of outputs 2.1(i)(b), "Handbook on statistics relating to women", and 2.1(ii)(b), "Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific", it was further clarified that many of the data series formerly appearing in those publications would henceforth be incorporated in the quarterly *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* or in the *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific*.

711. The programme of work and priorities, 1988-1989, as revised to incorporate the approved changes, appears in annex I to the present report.

Extension and revision for 1990-1991 of the medium-term plan, 1984-1989

712. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/631 and Corr.1-3. It was informed that various activities relating to the reform and re-examination of the inter-governmental structure of the United Nations had led the Secretary-General to propose that, instead of preparing a new medium-term plan for 1990-1995, the United Nations should extend and revise the current plan for two more years through 1991. That proposal had been accepted by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The Commission endorsed the revisions contained in the documents, with the following comments and modifications.

713. In the chapter on development issues and policies, in document E/ESCAP/631, page 5, paragraph 10.165, line 8, the words "and private" should be inserted between the words "public" and "sector".

714. In the chapter on energy issues, it was urged that implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy should be further accelerated.

715. In the chapters on industrial development, and science and technology, it was clarified that activities on linkages between small and large industries, dissemination of technological information, spatial dispersal of industry and promotion of industrial consultancy were already covered by the medium-term plan, and that modifications in the existing programme of work would ensure that those fields were adequately implemented. In that regard, the offer of the use of the facilities of the Government of India for the promotion of industrial consultancy was noted with appreciation. The Commission also noted that activities relating to energy conservation in small and medium industries were implemented under strategies in the plan referring to subprogramme 1 and activities relating to dissemination of technological information.

716. In the chapter on international trade and finance, it was clarified that activities on econometric packages for analysis of trade statistics were carried out under the subprogramme on trade promotion and development in the existing medium-term plan.

717. In the chapter on transport, communications and tourism, the following additions were made: on page 47 of document E/ESCAP/631, paragraph 24.135, line 7, after "member countries by 1986." the following sentence should be added: "This strategy will also include urban transport planning, an air traffic safety plan, an airport development plan and air transport regulation development, with special emphasis on manpower.". On page 49 of the same document, two lines from the end, "socio-economic impact" should read "socio-economic and environmental impact".

718. In the chapter on shipping, ports and inland waterways, it was noted with appreciation that work on maritime transport would include human resources development activities. While noting that the programme already involved the participation of the private sector in such activities as training courses and expert group meetings, the Commission recommended that members and associate members should make further efforts to ensure that the private sector was adequately included in the activities organized by the secretariat. After clarification by the secretariat, the Commission also decided to replace subparagraph (b) of paragraph 24.185, on page 55, with the words "encouraging the establishment and strengthening of national centres for research studies incorporating experiments on models".

Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

719. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/635. It noted with satisfaction the increased financial contribution to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund from the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Sweden, which had enabled the secretariat to support twice as many operational TCDC activities in 1987 as compared with 1985-1986. Recognizing the large potential available in the secretariat for promoting and supporting the ECDC and TCDC activities of member countries, the Commission urged its members and associate members to utilize such potential and invited them to also contribute to the fund. It requested its members and associate members to encourage their experts and specialists in various fields to participate in operational TCDC activities promoted by the secretariat.

720. The Commission noted that during the period under review the participation of the business sector in ECDC-TCDC activities promoted by the secretariat had increased as compared with that of 1986. It urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to attract and expand the participation of the business sector in the ECDC and TCDC activities of members and associate members. In that connection, it agreed to the guidelines proposed by the secretariat as follows:

- (1) Representatives of the business sector, both public and private, should be given more opportunities by the Governments concerned to participate in TCDC/ECDC activities promoted and supported by the secretariat, such as study missions, advisory services, training, seminars and workshops, trade exhibits and missions. The ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund could be utilized for that purpose.
- (2) The secretariat should seek the co-operation of and co-ordinate with other intergovernmental and governmental agencies and business sector organizations in supporting business sector initiatives which promote ECDC and TCDC.
- (3) Proposals initiated by the business sector should have prior approval from the Governments concerned.
- (4) To complement such initiatives, the secretariat, in co-operation with other agencies and organizations, should formulate relevant subregional, regional or interregional projects for financial and technical support by UNDP or other interested donor countries or agencies, to be implemented jointly with the business sectors concerned.
- (5) To make its services more effective, the secretariat should use the existing channels of communication as far as possible in order to establish close liaison with relevant business organizations at national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.

- (6) The secretariat should keep member Governments concerned informed of the progress and development of the above activities.

721. The Commission reiterated that the planning, formulation, financing and implementation of operational TCDC and ECDC activities should be primarily the responsibility of the developing countries concerned. It suggested that in order to make such activities effective they should be fully integrated in the national development plans and programmes. Preferably those activities should be practical in nature.

722. With regard to the payment of in-country costs for the operational TCDC/ECDC activities of member countries, the Commission endorsed the secretariat's proposal that wherever applicable such costs should be borne by the beneficiary countries.

723. The Commission heard with interest the explanatory statement by the representative of the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC regarding the experience and available assistance to interested members and associate members in the TCDC programming exercises and the TCDC Information Referral System (INRES) Service. Representatives of developing countries expressed their appreciation of the assistance and supportive role provided by UNDP for periodically organizing TCDC programming exercises in several developing countries, which had created a large number of operational TCDC exchanges at subregional, regional and interregional levels. In that connection, the Commission welcomed the offer made by the Government of Indonesia to host, in co-operation with UNDP, a TCDC programming exercise some time in 1989 and suggested that the secretariat provide the necessary assistance.

724. The Commission noted that meetings of the legislative committees and *ad hoc* intergovernmental meetings of ESCAP could be used for TCDC programming exercises. It invited members and associate members concerned to make use of such facilities.

725. The Commission took note of the statements made by the representatives of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, the International Pepper Community, the UNESCO Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, and WHO, on their supportive role and co-operative activities with the secretariat in

promoting TCDC activities among their respective members.

726. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 264 (XLIV) on strengthening activities for technical and economic co-operation among developing countries in the ESCAP region.

The Commission's activities in the Pacific

727. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/636. It commended the secretariat on a very comprehensive and useful report on the progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 244 (XLI) on the Commission's activities in the Pacific.

728. The Commission congratulated the Executive Secretary on the successful establishment of the new subprogramme "Special measures in favour of island developing countries" within the ESCAP programme on development issues and policies. It reiterated the productive and catalytic role of ESCAP in the promotion of the social and economic development of its island members and associate members in the Pacific. In that connection, the Commission warmly welcomed the admission of American Samoa as a new associate member of ESCAP.

729. The Commission expressed concern that no additional resources had been made available in support of the mandated subprogramme activities, which were realistic in design and modest in their scope and resource requirements. While noting the financial constraints on the secretariat, it strongly urged the Executive Secretary to do his utmost to mobilize additional resources to support the credible and effective implementation of the new subprogramme.

730. The Commission re-emphasized its support for the proposed conduct of a training course on development planning, and suggested that schemes for short-term attachment to the secretariat should be seriously considered under the new subprogramme.

731. The Commission was gratified to note that the transitional phase of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) was over, and expressed the hope that new ideas, fresh initiatives and greater efforts would be forthcoming from EPOC in the discharge of its important technical assistance activities. It commended the Executive Secretary on securing the

appointment of a distinguished Pacific islander for the vacant post of Head of EPOC, strongly endorsed economic development planning and policy as an appropriate area for advisory assistance from EPOC, and noted the continuing need for co-ordination of donor activities in the region. Other suggested areas of priority included statistics, social development policy and planning, international trade and finance, and foreign and domestic investment.

732. The Commission took note of the increased efficiency in the delivery of advisory and consultancy services through EPOC, and was generally appreciative of the responsive manner in which such technical assistance was backstopped and provided by the secretariat, in spite of severe constraints of financial and staff resources. The Commission, however, suggested that wider geographical coverage of EPOC technical assistance should be attempted, with special focus on the least developed and smaller island countries in the Pacific.

733. The Commission took note of the wide range of activities implemented by divisions, units and offices of the secretariat for the benefit of Pacific island countries during 1987, as detailed in document E/ESCAP/636. It expressed concern at the considerable decline in Pacific island participation in ESCAP activities, largely as a result of financial constraints on the availability of secretariat resources. The Commission urged that that unfavourable trend be reversed in the coming year.

734. The Commission expressed its deep appreciation to the Governments of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands, and to UNDP for their unstinting support for the implementation of activities involving Pacific island participation in the past year. In that context, several donor Governments indicated their continued financial support for the new Pacific island subprogramme, including EPOC, in 1989. The Commission also noted with appreciation pledges of financial support from two developing island economies, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Papua New Guinea. The Government of France offered the services of an expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis, while the Government of New Zealand indicated its readiness to consider formal requests for financial support of projects to be implemented by or through EPOC. Several other delegations stressed the importance of technical and economic

co-operation among developing countries, outlined the various areas of technical assistance provided under the national ECDC and TCDC modalities and announced their willingness to extend co-operation to Pacific island Governments in suitable areas of identified needs through those modalities.

735. The Commission was deeply concerned that many of its developing island member countries in the Pacific, including most of the least developed and smallest among them, were not represented at its annual sessions because of financial constraints. It requested donor and other interested countries to provide support in cash or kind so as to enable the full attendance at and more effective participation by Pacific island countries in secretariat activities. It was suggested that such support could include the provision, through the establishment of a special fund among participating donor countries, of transport and other expenses for attendance at the annual Commission session, and of facilities and services for a "Joint Office" for Pacific island countries in Bangkok.

736. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 269 (XLIV) on the Commission's activities in the Pacific.

Implementation of resolution 262 (XLIII) on in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields: legislative committee structure of ESCAP

737. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/637. In his introduction, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that resolution 262 (XLIII), adopted by the Commission at its forty-third session, had been welcomed by the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council, a body established by the Council by its decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987 to carry out an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. The Commission, in its resolution, had reaffirmed the responsiveness of ESCAP to its members and associate members.

738. The Executive Secretary drew attention to the extensive consultations which had been carried out with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives

and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) on the implementation of the resolution, and the many constructive suggestions that had been contributed by members and associate members. It had then been decided that the following structure proposed by the Executive Secretary, as contained in document E/ESCAP/637, was the most acceptable one:

Agriculture, rural development and the environment

Development planning and statistics

Industry, technology and human settlements

Natural resources and energy

Population and social development

Trade (including transnational corporations)

Shipping, transport and communications

739. The Executive Secretary observed, however, that certain other views had emerged, particularly at recent sessions of ACPR and at the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, in favour of retention of the Committee on Statistics. It was important that the Commission clarify that issue.

740. The Commission welcomed the steps proposed in the document as a means of rationalizing resources and facilitating the setting of priorities. It called on all members and associate members to make efforts to render the work of the Commission more efficient and effective. Most delegations supported the reduction in the number of committees from nine to seven, and the biennial frequency with which they would meet.

741. With regard to the arrangement of the committees, many delegations expressed concern at the scheduled merger of the Committees on Development Planning and Statistics. The Committee on Statistics had proved itself to be an effective body in which many members and associate members participated. The programme on statistics had provided valuable and outstanding service, particularly in the Pacific subregion. The regularity of contact provided by the Committee and its programme had brought outstanding results. Accordingly, those delegations considered it desirable to retain the Committee

on Statistics as a separate body. One delegation proposed that if the number of committees were thus to be increased to eight, then in order to obtain countervailing economies elsewhere in the conference structure the proposal to hold the Commission on a biennial basis might be re-examined. One delegation felt that the functions of the committees could be improved if the legislative review of the environment programme were combined with the review of the energy and natural resources programmes, rather than that of the programme on agricultural development.

742. Many delegations felt that the Committee on Statistics should retain its separate identity. It was also felt that the number of committees should not exceed seven. There was no consensus, however, on an alternative committee structure to that outlined in paragraph 738 above. In the absence of consensus it was decided to retain the proposed committee structure outlined in paragraph 738 above, and that the effectiveness of the arrangement would be reviewed by the Commission at its forty-sixth session in 1990, as called for in resolution 262 (XLIII), by which time all the committees would have met.

Announcement of intended contributions

743. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/638.

744. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that with total cash contributions of almost \$US 20.7 million in 1987, ESCAP extrabudgetary funding for the biennium 1986-1987 had surpassed the funding provided by the regular budget by over \$US 10 million. Thus, the importance of extrabudgetary resources to implement the ESCAP programme of work had increased significantly.

745. Concerning the sources of cash contributions in 1987, the Executive Secretary noted that 53 per cent had come from the United Nations family, with UNDP, contributing over \$US 8 million, ranked as the largest extrabudgetary donor. Donor countries had contributed almost \$US 9.5 million, representing an increase of 9 per cent.

746. The Executive Secretary further noted a significant step forward: the Republic of Korea had joined the ranks of developing member country donors in 1987, with the establishment of the Korea-ESCAP Co-operation Fund. The

Executive Secretary mentioned that the establishment of such co-operation funds between ESCAP and developing member countries implied a growing sense of commitment on the part of the regional members and represented a welcome addition to contributions from traditional donors, facilitating the implementation of many programme activities. He expressed the hope that more developing countries in the region would follow suit.

747. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the growing importance of contributions in kind, particularly the provision of 39 experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis in 1987, had temporarily offset serious staff constraints at a stringent time of reductions in regular staff.

748. In expressing deep gratitude for all the extrabudgetary cash contributions as well as for the contributions in kind, the Executive Secretary further pointed out that two programmes - shipping, ports and inland waterways, and science and technology - had emerged as receiving maximum support from donors in response to the priorities the Commission attached to the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, and the theme topic "Technology for development", in particular the implementation of the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific. In that connection, the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the importance of an adequate and timely response from donors to requests for funding of projects resulting from themes adopted by the Commission. Since quick responses had been forthcoming from the donors in the past, the Executive Secretary felt confident that funds would be forthcoming to implement the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region and in preparing the next theme study.

749. The Executive Secretary reported that owing to generous contributions to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund by the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Sweden, there had been a marked increase in the number of TCDC activities supported by the secretariat in 1987 as compared with 1986. He further reported that evaluation was now becoming an integral part of ESCAP work, particularly since the self-evaluation exercise for some subprogrammes had started on a trial basis in 1987. The Commission was also informed that the scope of self-evaluation would be

broadened in 1988 and that an in-depth evaluation of the ESCAP energy programme was making good progress. He invited donor countries to contribute in cash towards undertaking in-depth evaluation exercises, and in kind towards the manning of the Operations Evaluation Unit.

750. The Executive Secretary, in appealing for increased contributions, reminded the Commission of the severe financial constraints besetting the three regional institutions, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre), and when making pledges to those institutions, delegations might bear in mind the suggestion made by the secretariat the previous year that the least developed countries and other developing countries consider \$US 1,000 and \$US 15,000 as the respective minimum contributions.

751. The Executive Secretary expressed confidence that the Governments would continue to render their unflinching support to ESCAP activities. He therefore hoped that the results of the pledging exercise would once again reaffirm the commitment of the member States to the ideals and purposes for which the Commission had been established.

752. The Commission took note of the following intended contributions announced for 1988.

753. *Afghanistan.* The representative of Afghanistan expressed appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat of its assistance to that country in various areas towards the achievement of its socio-economic development plan, and reiterated the full support of his Government for the ESCAP programme of work. The intended contributions would be indicated to the secretariat in the near future.

754. *Australia.* The representative of Australia announced the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work, including support to EPOC	\$A 750,000
SIAP	\$A 60,000
RNAM	\$A 35,000

In addition, Australia would contribute \$A 100,000 to APDC.

755. *Bangladesh*. The representative of Bangladesh indicated that the intended contributions of his Government would be as follows:

APCTT	\$US 3,000
SIAP	\$US 5,000
CGPRT Centre	\$US 1,000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute \$US 15,000 to APDC.

756. *Brunei Darussalam*. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced the following contributions:

SIAP	\$US 5,000
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In addition, a contribution of \$US 10,000 would be made to APDC.

757. *Burma*. The representative of Burma announced that his Government would make a contribution of \$US 2,000 to the programme of work of ESCAP.

758. *China*. The representative of China announced the following contributions:

(a) Programme of work - for China-ESCAP co-operation projects

¥RMB 360,000 and \$US 120,000

(including \$US 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund)

(b) Regional institutions:

APCTT	\$US 15,000
SIAP	\$US 20,000

In addition, China would contribute \$US 40,000 to CCOP, \$US 50,000 to APDC and ¥RMB 50,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

759. *France*. The representative of France announced that the intended contribution of his Government in cash and in kind would amount to F10.1 million, as follows:

(a) Cash contribution:

CGPRT Centre	F 300,000
ESCAP programme of work	F 800,000
	(of which, F 500,000 would be for human settlements projects)

(b) Contributions in kind:

One agricultural economist for the CGPRT Centre;

One economic planning expert for EPOC;

Nine experts and short-term consultants in the fields of human resources and technology, evaluation, transport and communications, agro-economic research, rural development, remote sensing, energy and marine resources;

(c) Cash contribution of F 300,000, and one expert and short-term consultants for the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin.

760. *India*. The representative of India announced the following contributions:

APCTT	\$US 100,000 (in national currency)
SIAP	\$US 10,000

761. *Indonesia*. The representative of Indonesia announced the following contributions:

APCTT	\$US 5,000
CGPRT Centre	\$US 30,000 (in kind for host facilities and other services)
RMRDP	\$US 15,000
SIAP	\$US 40,000
RNAM	\$US 7,500

In addition, Indonesia would contribute \$US 40,000 to CCOP, \$US 47,300 to APDC, \$M 582,152 to SEATRADC, and \$US 10,000 to CIRDAP.

762. *Islamic Republic of Iran*. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that, subject to the final approval of the Parliament, his Government's intended contributions would be \$US 15,000 (\$US 2,000 for APCTT and \$US 13,000 for the programme of work of ESCAP).

763. *Japan*. The representative of Japan announced that the total assistance of his Government to ESCAP in cash and in kind, including technical co-operation, would be approximately \$US 7.4 million, distributed as follows:

(a) \$US 2.5 million for the implementation of ESCAP projects under the Japan-ESCAP Co-operation Fund;

- (b) A cash contribution of about \$US 735,600 to SIAP;
- (c) An estimated provision of about \$US 1,497,000 for host facilities and personnel at SIAP;
- (d) Expert services provided on a non-reimbursable loan basis by the Japan International Co-operation Agency at an estimated cost of \$US 1,333,000;
- (e) Five group training courses, of which two would be conducted jointly with SIAP, at an estimated cost of \$US 889,000;
- (f) A cash contribution of \$US 350,000 to APDC.

The amount of a cash contribution for the Interim Mekong would be conveyed to the secretariat later.

764. *Malaysia.* The representative of Malaysia announced the following contributions:

SIAP	\$US 7,000
APCTT	\$US 10,000

In addition, Malaysia would contribute \$US 40,000 to CCOP and was considering to continue providing host facilities to APDC.

765. *Mongolia.* The representative of Mongolia indicated that his Government would contribute the equivalent of \$US 1,000 in its national currency to the ESCAP programme of work. In addition, it would provide host facilities for a study tour for women's representatives, provided that the ESCAP secretariat could mobilize travel funds for the purpose.

766. *Nepal.* The representative of Nepal announced the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$US 2,492
APCTT	\$US 500
CGPRT Centre	\$US 500
RMRDP	\$US 500
SIAP	\$US 500

In addition, Nepal would contribute \$US 1,500 to APDC.

767. *The Netherlands.* The representative of the Netherlands noted with appreciation

the efficient and effective use of his Government's annual contributions to ESCAP. The Netherlands Government would contribute f. 3 million, approximately equivalent to \$US 1.5 million. In addition, it would consider providing an expert specialized in in-depth evaluation.

768. *New Zealand.* The representative of New Zealand announced that, subject to final approval of the budget allocation, his Government would make the following contributions:

SIAP	\$NZ 8,000
Interim Mekong Committee	\$NZ 60,000
APDC	\$NZ 20,000
Asian and Pacific Energy Planning Network	\$NZ 20,000

In addition, it would consider formal submissions for funding assistance for activities channelled through or carried out directly by EPOC.

769. *Pakistan.* The representative of Pakistan announced the following contributions:

APCTT	\$US 7,500
RMRDP	\$US 500
SIAP	\$US 8,000
RNAM (Phase IV)	\$US 14,000

He also announced that his Government would contribute \$US 30,000 to APDC and \$US 7,260 to the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity.

770. *Papua New Guinea.* The representative of Papua New Guinea announced that his Government would contribute \$US 10,000 to the ESCAP Pacific island subprogramme.

771. *The Philippines.* The representative of the Philippines announced the following contributions:

CGPRT Centre	\$US 5,000
SIAP	\$US 6,000
RNAM	₱ 525,000 (equivalent to \$US 26,250)
APCTT	\$US 15,000

In addition, the Philippines would contribute \$US 20,000 to CCOP.

772. *The Republic of Korea.* The representative of the Republic of Korea announced the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work under the Korea-ESCAP Co-operation Fund	\$US 300,000
SIAP	\$US 20,000
APCTT	\$US 20,000
RNAM	\$US 11,500
CGPRT Centre	\$US 15,000

In addition, it would provide experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis. Contributions for APDC and CCOP would be announced at their respective general sessions.

773. *Singapore.* The representative of Singapore announced that a contribution of \$US 5,000 to SIAP would be made.

774. *Sri Lanka.* The representative of Sri Lanka announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$US 5,000
SIAP	\$US 5,000

In addition, Sri Lanka would contribute \$US 27,500 to APDC.

775. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced the following contributions:

APCTT	\$US 5,000
SIAP	\$US 10,000
RNAM	Baht 250,000 (approximately equivalent to \$US 9,950)

In addition, Thailand would contribute \$US 40,000 to APDC, and \$US 30,000 to CCOP. The contribution of Thailand to the Typhoon Committee would be made on the conditions which had been stated at the fortieth session of the Commission held at Tokyo in 1984.

776. *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.* The representative of the USSR announced that in 1988 his Government would provide fellowships for study in the USSR, including 35 additional scholarships in railway engineering. In addition, five seminars would be conducted in the USSR for participants from ESCAP developing members, as well as an expert group meeting organized by the USSR Ministry of Railways. Furthermore, the Government of the USSR would provide the secretariat with three completed research studies; and in the preparation of one of those studies, one expert, whose expenses would be borne by the Government of the USSR, would work in the ESCAP secretariat for

two months. The USSR would also make other contributions to ESCAP activities which would be discussed later with the secretariat.

777. *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.* The representative of the United Kingdom indicated that his Government's assistance to ESCAP, during the current financial year of the United Kingdom, would remain at broadly the same level as in 1987/88.

778. *United States of America.* The representative of the United States announced that his Government would contribute \$US 50,000 for phase two of the agro-climatic crop assessment project. In addition, extrabudgetary technical support would be provided through the United States Geological Survey Department, Department of Agriculture, and the United States Census Bureau.

779. *Vanuatu.* The representative of Vanuatu announced that his country was experiencing financial difficulties, but that an effort would be made to maintain its existing level of contributions to the ESCAP programme of work.

780. *Viet Nam.* The representative of Viet Nam announced that his Government would contribute \$US 1,000 for the ESCAP programme of work. In addition, his Government intended to contribute \$US 2,000 for APCTT and \$US 1,500 for APDC, subject to further confirmation.

781. *Federal Republic of Germany.* The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany indicated that his Government would continue its co-operation with ESCAP in the agreed areas of co-operation, which were basically the expansion of regional infrastructure, technological co-operation, trade promotion and industrial development, subject to consultation with the secretariat on possible adjustments that would serve to reinforce the ESCAP programme of work.

782. *Norway.* The representative of Norway advised the secretariat that assistance in 1988 would amount to Nkr. 6.5 million (approximately equivalent to \$US 1.0 million) for activities in the fields of shipping, the environment and ECDC-TCDC.

783. The total pledges of contributions in cash and in kind for 1988 made by 24 member countries and 2 observer States amounted to approximately \$US 15.2 million. That total, mainly in the form of cash contributions, included financial

assistance amounting to about \$US 1.2 million to CCOP, APDC, the Interim Mekong Committee, and other affiliated programmes of ESCAP. The net contribution to the ESCAP programme of work, special regional projects and regional institutions amounted to \$US 14 million.

784. The Commission noted that the total pledges mentioned above did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, nor the value of several unaccounted contributions pledged in kind. In addition, extrabudgetary resources received from UNDP, UNFPA and other agencies of the United Nations system for ESCAP-executed projects were not reflected in the total pledges.

785. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation of the announcements of intended contributions by member and donor Governments to the extrabudgetary resources of ESCAP, which would assist the secretariat in implementing the activities mandated by the Commission. In view of the financial crisis prevailing throughout the United Nations system, the secretariat was very conscious of the need to exercise the utmost restraint in incurring expenditure, and the extrabudgetary resources would be put to the most productive use. Furthermore, the utilization of extrabudgetary resources would be subject to evaluation at the initiative of the secretariat and, for that purpose, the Operations Evaluation Unit was now in a position to undertake effective evaluation.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

786. The Commission considered and endorsed document E/ESCAP/641, which was introduced by the Rapporteur of ACPR, the Permanent Representative of France to ESCAP. It expressed appreciation of the effective and very important role that ACPR had played in facilitating understanding and co-operation between members and associate members and the secretariat. It believed that ACPR was a valuable body and unique among the regional commissions and was in the forefront in terms of programme review and co-ordination. It trusted that ACPR would continue to be consulted to provide further guidance on the programme of work of ESCAP, seeking

further reforms and efficient functioning and setting priorities.

787. The Commission noted that ACPR had held nine regular sessions and one resumed session during the year under review. It appreciated the value of such regular discussions as they allowed recommendations to be elaborated by consensus which reflected the views expressed by members of the Commission.

788. The Commission appreciated the consideration ACPR had given to the work and results of the forty-third session of the Commission. It endorsed the views expressed in the report of ACPR and, in particular, those contained in subparagraphs 4(c), (d) and (e).

789. The Commission noted the consideration that ACPR had given to the agendas of the Commission session and of the legislative committees, and commended ACPR on the preparations it had made to ensure that those meetings functioned effectively.

790. The Commission recognized the considerable importance of the role of ACPR, which gave members an opportunity to exchange views. That role also offered them a unique opportunity to voice their needs and requirements, as well as concerns with which they were currently confronted, thereby ensuring that the Commission's activities and future planning were both timely and responsive.

791. The Commission was concerned that the views of those members which had no office in Bangkok should be fully taken into account and hoped that a way could be found to ensure further improvement of existing arrangements in that regard.

792. The Executive Secretary expressed his deep appreciation to ACPR of the contributions it had made to the work of the Commission and also of the assistance it had given to the secretariat. He believed the report to be a brief summary of the activities undertaken by ACPR during the year under review. In the past, procedural discussions had taken much time but, with its vitality and sense of direction, ACPR had corrected that course, partly by revising its record of proceedings, and now ensured discussion of substantive matters. The absence of representation from the Pacific islands as well as from other members with no office in Bangkok was a matter of great regret and in that respect, ACPR was not

truly representative. He hoped that ACPR would reflect more on the aspirations of member countries as it would speak with greater authority if that representational gap were filled. The secretariat would do everything possible within its means, and within the rules and regulations of the United Nations, to extend support to the Pacific islands if they decided to establish a facility in Bangkok for that purpose.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-fifth session of the Commission

793. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/640.

794. It decided that its forty-fifth session would be held at ESCAP headquarters at Bangkok some time in March or April 1989 for a period of 8 or 9 working days. The Executive Secretary, after consultation with member Governments, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

795. The Commission took note of the offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the forty-sixth session at Kuala Lumpur in 1990.

796. The Commission endorsed the choice of "Restructuring the developing ESCAP economies in the 1990s" as the theme of the forty-fifth session, with further refinements to be made as appropriate.

Admission of new members

797. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/642.

798. It considered and unanimously endorsed the application of the Territory of American Samoa for associate membership in ESCAP. The Commission approved a draft resolution relating to the amendment of paragraph 4 of its terms of reference in the light of the admission of the Territory of American Samoa as an associate member of ESCAP, for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action.

Adoption of the report of the Commission

799. At its 677th meeting on 20 April 1988, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft report.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

264 (XLIV). Strengthening activities for technical and economic co-operation among developing countries in the ESCAP region^{1/}

*The Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific,*

Bearing in mind the Buenos Aires Plan
of Action for Promoting and Implementing
Technical Co-operation among Developing
Countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolu-
tion 42/179 of 11 December 1987 on
strengthening and improving intergovern-
mental programming exercises for technical
co-operation among developing countries,

Recalling further its resolution 245
(XLI) of 29 March 1985 on mobilization of
resources for the promotion of and support
for technical and economic co-operation
activities among developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of tech-
nical and economic co-operation among
developing countries in the reinforcement
of the individual and collective self-
reliance of the ESCAP developing members
and associate members, and in the promo-
tion of their socio-economic development,

Reaffirming that intergovernmental
programming exercises for technical co-
operation among developing countries con-
stitute a useful mechanism for promoting
technical and economic co-operation among
developing countries in the ESCAP region,

1. *Recommends* that regional inter-
governmental programming exercises,
sectoral or comprehensive, for technical
co-operation among developing countries
continue to be held in accordance with
the expressed needs of the developing
countries of the region;

2. *Invites* developing countries of
the region to support actively and
participate in regional intergovernmental
programming exercises for technical
co-operation among developing countries
and to take appropriate follow-up action
in accordance with their own capacities
and requirements;

^{1/} See paras. 719-726 above.

3. *Invites* the ESCAP developing
members and associate members in a
position to do so to provide financial
and technical support for activities on
technical and economic co-operation among
developing countries of the region, and
in particular to consider contributing
to the ESCAP supplementary fund for
technical co-operation among developing
countries, and also invites developed
countries to give similar support;

4. *Requests* relevant organizations
in the United Nations system, and other
international and regional financing
institutions, to assist activities on
technical and economic co-operation among
developing countries of the region;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the
catalytic and supporting role of ESCAP in
promoting activities for technical and
economic co-operation among developing
countries of the region;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary
to give greater emphasis to the activities
on technical and economic co-operation
among developing countries in formulating
the programme of work of the Commission;

7. *Further requests* the Executive
Secretary to assist developing members
and associate members of the region in
implementing activities for technical and
economic co-operation among developing
countries;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary
to report to the Commission at its
forty-sixth session on the implementation
of the present resolution.

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265 (XLIV). Social aspects of rural development^{2/}

*The Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific,*

Recalling the Declaration on Social
Progress and Development contained in
General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV)

^{2/} See para. 552 above.

of 11 December 1969, the twentieth anniversary of which will be observed by the international community in 1989, and General Assembly resolution 42/48 of 30 November 1987 on the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Commending the activities of the secretariat in implementation of its resolution 252 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the social aspects of rural development, in particular the organization and report of the regional Seminar on the Role of Women in Social and Economic Development with Special Reference to Rural Development,

Taking note of document E/ESCAP/617 on the implementation of special ESCAP mandates in the field of social development,

1. *Invites* its members and associate members to participate actively in the formulation of a regional social development strategy to the year 2000 and beyond, with special reference to the social aspects of rural development;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to pay appropriate attention to the social aspects of rural development in the formulation of that strategy;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to accord priority consideration to the social aspects of rural development and to facilitate the exchange of experience among the members and associate members in solving problems of social development in rural areas.

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20 April 1988

266 (XLIV). International Literacy Year^{3/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987 proclaiming 1990 International Literacy Year and recommending that the regional commissions consider in their respective forums the contributions they could make to the success of the Year,

Recalling that the elimination of illiteracy is recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as a prerequisite for ensuring the right to education,

Recalling also that the elimination of illiteracy is an important target of the integrated plan of action on human resources development,

Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and cultural and spiritual advancement,

Considering that the Asian and Pacific region, encompassing some of the most populous countries in the world, has the bulk of the world's illiterates and the highest number of non-enrolled children in the primary age group,

Recognizing that International Literacy Year is a means of enhancing worldwide public understanding of the problem of illiteracy and of the need to increase efforts to disseminate education,

Considering it essential to contribute appropriately to the success of International Literacy Year,

1. *Invites* members and associate members to participate actively in the preparation and implementation of International Literacy Year at both the regional and national levels by carrying out programmes and measures for the Year;

2. *Recommends* that members and associate members pay special attention to the implementation of the Regional Programme for the Universalization and Renewal of Primary Education and the Eradication of Illiteracy in Asia and the Pacific (APPEAL);

3. *Invites* members and associate members, and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to co-operate actively in both the preparation and implementation of International Literacy Year with a view to the elimination of illiteracy by the end of this century;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in co-ordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to identify specific areas where ESCAP could lend its support for human resources development in this field.

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^{3/} See para. 209 above.

267(XLIV). The adoption and implementation of the principle of environmentally sound and sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region^{4/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the findings and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the inclusion by the United Nations General Assembly in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session in 1988 of a sub-item entitled "A long-term strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development",

Noting that General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond incorporates conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission,

Recognizing the important catalytic role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting the concept of environmentally sound and sustainable development,

Recalling the recommendations of the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific held in 1982 and those of the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia, held in 1985,

Recalling further Commission resolution 224 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 on the incorporation of environmental considerations into the economic and social development activities of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment at its tenth session held in September 1987,

Noting with concern that despite the progress so far made within the region, it continues to battle such problems as depletion of natural resources, desertification and environmental degradation,

Also noting that environmentally sound and sustainable development generally demands that the very basic needs, in both the sectoral and spatial contexts, of all the people are met and that they are provided with the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better quality of life,

Convinced of the importance of the restructuring of economic and social development policies and institutions as an essential prerequisite for the elimination of poverty and enhancing the rational use of limited natural resources, on which present and future generations depend,

Realizing the huge potential of human resources in the Asian and Pacific region and the necessity of also involving non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, the media and the general public in promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development,

Welcoming the follow-up activities initiated by the ESCAP secretariat on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission, in particular those on the promotion of public awareness and the integration of environmental considerations into development planning,

1. *Invites its members and associate members to integrate environmental considerations into their development policies and programmes aimed at contributing to environmentally sound and sustainable development;*

2. *Urges its members and associate members to focus their co-operative efforts on those environmental issues that affect the common well-being of the people of the Asian and Pacific region in the implementation of development projects;*

3. *Requests the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, to undertake, within available resources, a cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary study on the basis of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, in order to identify issues of particular relevance to the Asian and Pacific region and, where appropriate, make proposals for action by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development and identify additional activities contributing to sustainable development in the existing programme of work of the secretariat;*

4. *Further requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, within available resources, a progress report on the contribution of ESCAP to the efforts being made towards sustainable development for consideration by the Commission at its*

^{4/} See para. 368 above.

forty-fifth session, and for submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187;

5. Also invites members and associate members in a position to do so, and concerned donors and international organizations, to provide additional financial resources to assist developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives;

6. Decides to convene a ministerial-level conference on the environment in 1990, and to include in the agenda an item to review the progress in the follow-up to the report of the World Commission and to identify further measures to be taken in respect of the Asian and Pacific region.

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268 (XLIV). Shelter strategies towards the year 2000^{5/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/221 of 20 December 1982 and 41/190 of 8 December 1986 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recognizing the need to follow up the Year by concrete action, as adequate and secure shelter is a basic human need and is vital to the fulfilment of human aspirations,

Concerned about the present alarming situation in the region, in which, despite the efforts of Governments and international organizations, millions of people find themselves living either completely without shelter or in shelter unfit for human habitation,

Deeply concerned by the spread of slums and squatter settlements lacking social services and infrastructure, and the general deterioration of the quality of life in rural settlements,

Recognizing that this lamentable situation can adversely affect the social, economic and political stability of countries,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment, at its tenth session, on the strategy for shelter up to the year 2000,

Encouraged by the initiatives taken in several countries of the region, such as preparing national shelter strategies and promoting other activities designed to achieve the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000,

1. Urges again all members and associate members to commit themselves to the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. Invites members and associate members to adopt and implement shelter strategies in accordance with the guidelines for national action contained in section I of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/191, which will enable the mobilization of all forces and resources in the countries for the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy;

3. Also invites members and associate members in a position to do so, and concerned donors and international organizations, to provide additional financial resources to assist developing countries in the formulation and implementation of shelter strategies;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to encourage and assist, within available resources, the members and associate members in the formulation of shelter strategies and take other measures that will facilitate exchange of information and experience in accordance with the guidelines for international action contained in section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/191;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to place the subject "Shelter strategies towards the year 2000" as an item on the agenda of the sessions of the Commission in alternate years beginning from 1990, so as to review the progress towards the goal of shelter for all by

^{5/} See paras. 337-339 above.

the year 2000, based on information to be provided by Governments.

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269 (XLIV). The Commission's activities in the Pacific^{6/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 173 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 on increased participation by the developing island countries of the Pacific in the Commission's activities, and resolutions 188 (XXXIV) of 17 March 1978, 208 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 237 (XL) of 27 April 1984, and 244 (XLI) of 29 March 1985 on the Commission's activities in the Pacific,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 31/156 of 21 December 1976, 32/185 of 19 December 1977, 34/205 of 19 December 1979, 35/61 of 5 December 1980, 37/206 of 20 December 1982, 39/212 of 18 December 1984, and 41/163 of 5 December 1986, relating to the special needs and problems of island developing countries,

Recalling further the reiterated call for specific action in favour of island developing countries contained in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolutions 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976, 111 (V) of 3 June 1979, and 138 (VI) of 2 July 1983,

Taking note of the appointment of a Pacific islander as Head of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre,

Expressing its appreciation to all donor Governments and multilateral agencies that have responded to the special needs of island member and associate member countries in the Pacific,

Bearing in mind the expressed wish of island developing countries to monitor and participate fully in the Commission's work for the discharge of the ESCAP social and economic mandate in the Pacific,

Noting the concern that Pacific island countries, especially the small, remote and least developed countries, have not been fully represented at Commission sessions to enable them to articulate

their needs and problems owing to the insurmountable financial constraints on their attendance,

1. Commends the Executive Secretary on the positive efforts made to establish the new subprogramme on "Special measures in favour of the island developing countries" within the work programme on "Development issues and policies", and to increase the relevance and effectiveness of the Commission's role and activities in the Pacific;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to increase and diversify, as much as feasible and taking into account the United Nations guidelines in this respect, Pacific subregional representation on the secretariat Professional staff;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the Secretary-General and with members and associate members of ESCAP, as well as interested donors, and international organizations with a view to obtaining the necessary resources to ensure the full participation of Pacific island countries at the forty-fifth session of the Commission in 1989 and thereafter;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to investigate the feasibility of providing office space, facilities, and secretariat support services in Bangkok for participants from, and representatives of, Pacific island countries;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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270 (XLIV). Adoption of measures in the Asian and Pacific region to support follow-up of the report *The Missing Link on telecommunication*^{7/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering the decision of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications (Transport, Communications and Tourism Wing) at its eleventh session,

^{6/} See paras. 727-736 above.

^{7/} See para. 523 above.

upon the request of the International Telecommunication Union to follow up the Arusha Declaration on World Telecommunications Development, that since telecommunication is an essential element in the development of all sectors of the economy, higher priority should be given to that sector, particularly during the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994,

Recalling that the Asia and Pacific Telecommunications Development Conference held at New Delhi in February 1988 recommended that ESCAP, given its wide mandate and its contacts at the policy level in the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region, should take appropriate action by following up the relevant recommendations in the report *The Missing Link* that relate to telecommunication sector priority, and co-ordinate regional and subregional co-operative endeavours on research and development, common standards and specifications, and collective procurement and local manufacture,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with interested members and associate members with a view to taking appropriate action within available resources to support the follow-up of the relevant recommendations in the report *The Missing Link* with a view to identifying a programme of activities which ESCAP might undertake;

2. Further requests other relevant organizations, such as the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, to co-operate fully with the secretariat in this work.

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271 (XLIV). United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries^{8/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

^{8/} See paras. 189-190 above.

Further recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/224 of 20 December 1982, 38/195 of 20 December 1983, 39/174 of 17 December 1984 and 40/205 of 17 December 1985 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Recalling also Commission resolutions 242 (XLI) of 29 March 1985, 257 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 and 261 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Noting General Assembly resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987 in which the General Assembly decided to convene a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 1990,

Welcoming the overall co-ordinating role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing deterioration in the overall economic and social conditions in the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts as well as efforts made by the international community since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

1. Urges those donor countries, within the overall context of the Substantial New Programme of Action, whose official development assistance contributions have not yet reached 0.15 per cent of their gross national product, or which have not yet doubled their official development assistance to least developed countries, to make every possible effort to attain those targets as contained in the Substantial New Programme of Action;

2. Urges all Governments, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to renew their efforts to implement the Programme, so as to enable each least developed country to achieve a minimum standard of performance in socio-economic development;

3. Calls upon the international community and regional organizations to provide support measures for the efforts of the least developed countries in the priority sectors established by the Governments of the least developed countries in their country programmes and embodied in the Substantial New Programme of Action, particularly in food and agriculture, manufacturing industries, exploration and development of energy and natural resources, human resources

development, expansion and diversification of exports, development of transport and communications, and improvement in planning, implementation and management capabilities;

4. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to give more focus to the special problems of the land-locked and island least developed countries of the region;

5. *Urges* all ESCAP developing members and associate members to provide support to the development efforts of the least developed countries within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action and in the spirit of regional co-operation;

6. *Calls upon* all members and associate members of the Asian and Pacific region to participate actively in the preparatory process to ensure the success of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments, intergovernmental and multilateral development institutions, and others concerned, to co-ordinate closely with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in taking all appropriate steps to ensure that adequate preparations are made for the Conference and to participate effectively in its preparatory process;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in co-ordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources:

(a) To undertake an in-depth review of the causes and consequences of the slow growth in the least developed countries of the ESCAP region during the current decade within the context of the Substantial New Programme of Action and to make appropriate recommendations for action by the international community;

(b) To convene a meeting of selected experts to consider the review mentioned above;

(c) To organize an intergovernmental meeting prior to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in March/April 1990, to consider and to work out recommendations and proposals for national and international action to accelerate the development process of those countries in the 1990s;

9. *Also invites* the donor countries and multilateral funding agencies to provide extrabudgetary support for carrying out the above activities;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

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272 (XLIV). Study on the implications of demographic changes for the development of human resources^{9/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/71 of 8 July 1987 on the work programme in the field of population and Commission resolution 260 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987 on an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 39/228 of 18 December 1984 on the International Conference on Population and noting in particular the emphasis laid on the successful implementation of population policies for achieving an adequate quality of life,

Further recalling the recommendations made at the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982, contained in the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development,

Affirming that unwanted high fertility adversely affects the health and welfare of individuals and families, especially among the poor, and seriously impedes social and economic progress in many countries,

Affirming also the need to integrate human resources development as an important aspect of overall national development processes,

Noting the emphasis placed on quality of life issues as a basic dimension of human resources development in the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, and particularly noting the recommendations contained in that Plan of Action regarding research on and analysis of the

^{9/} See para. 449 above.

quality-of-life dimension of human resources development,

Recognizing the significant changes in demographic situations obtaining in the countries and territories of the Asian and Pacific region,

Further recognizing the important linkages between various aspects of human resources development and changes in mortality, fertility, migration and structure and composition of population,

1. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to conduct, subject to the availability of resources, an analytical study on the implications of changes in demographic situations for the various aspects of human resources development;

2. *Invites* members and associate members in a position to do so, concerned donors and relevant United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, particularly the United Nations Population Fund, to provide financial and other support and participate in the above-mentioned study, and to support other population activities of the ESCAP secretariat;

3. *Invites* members and associate members to transmit to the Executive Secretary relevant data and other information, as available, on the changes in the levels and trends of mortality, fertility, migration and structure and composition of population, as well as on the current status of human resources development, in order to facilitate the preparation of the above study;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist, subject to availability of resources, the members and associate members, upon request, in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes as integral parts of socio-economic development plans;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and present the findings and recommendations of the study at subsequent sessions.

273 (XLIV). Survey of the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific^{10/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the proposals for action contained in the report of the Third Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development highlighting a number of policy issues requiring an in-depth understanding of the quality of life in the region,

Further recalling its resolution 259 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987 containing the Declaration on the Fortieth Anniversary of ESCAP, in which the Commission, *inter alia*, called upon its members and associate members to undertake specific programmes in the field of human resources development, keeping in view the ESCAP plan of action in that field,

Noting the emphasis placed on quality-of-life issues as a basic dimension of human resources development in the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, and particularly noting the recommendations contained in that Plan of Action regarding research and analysis of the quality-of-life dimension of human resources development,

1. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to conduct, subject to the availability of resources, an analytical survey on the quality of life in the ESCAP region as a major initial activity in implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region;

2. *Invites* members and associate members to transmit to the Executive Secretary available current data and other information on the quality of life in their respective countries and territories;

3. *Invites* members and associate members in a position to do so, as well as relevant United Nations specialized agencies and bodies concerned with the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific, to provide financial and other assistance to the preparation of the survey;

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^{10/} See para. 202 above.

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and to submit the findings and recommendations of the survey to the Commission at its session immediately following the completion of that survey.

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274 (XLIV). Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region^{11/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 247 (XLII) of 1 May 1986 on forecasting, planning and development of technological human resources, 256 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions, and 260 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987 on an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development,

Reaffirming its commitment to human resources development as a vital aspect of integrated national development efforts,

Recognizing the need for informed, concerted national and regional action in the field of human resources development,

Recognizing that the issues of employment and manpower development, science and technology, and quality of life, should be addressed in the integrated plan of action,

Also recognizing that human resources development is a broad concept encompassing many components and requiring sustained efforts over a long period for its gradual effective implementation,

Taking into account the report of the Tokyo Expert Group Meeting to Formulate Guidelines for an ESCAP Integrated Plan of Action on Human Resources Development,

Also taking into account the opinions of those members and associate members which were not in a position to express their views on the subject at an earlier stage,

^{11/} See paras. 194-232 above.

Also taking into account the deliberations on the issue of human resources development in the Asian and Pacific region at its forty-second, forty-third and present sessions,

Acknowledging the opening address by His Excellency President Soeharto of Indonesia,

1. Adopts the integrated plan of action on human resources development annexed to the present resolution as a general guideline to be applied flexibly by the Commission and its members and associate members in accordance with the differing economic and social conditions prevailing in the countries of the region, giving special consideration to the least developed countries of the region;

2. Decides that the plan of action shall be called the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region;

3. Invites members and associate members in a position to do so, as well as other interested countries, to support the Commission's efforts to implement the Jakarta Plan of Action;

4. Also invites relevant agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental bodies, to extend effective support to the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action, together with the projects, programmes and activities undertaken in the field of human resources development;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To examine in further detail the problems and recommend possible solutions in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action, and in that connection, upon the availability of the necessary extrabudgetary resources, to convene a meeting of experts to obtain advice in this matter;

(b) To organize an intergovernmental meeting to make preparations for the necessary arrangements to implement the Jakarta Plan of Action, and to submit the report of that meeting to the Commission at its forty-fifth session in 1989;

(c) To monitor the human resources development process in the region;

6. Also requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session, and at alternate sessions thereafter until the year 2000, on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Annex

JAKARTA PLAN OF ACTION ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN THE ESCAP REGION

Part one

INTRODUCTION

- I. Human resources development: the core concept
- II. Analytical framework
- III. Principles

Part two

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- I. Policy and planning for human resources development
- II. Human resources development institutional strengthening
- III. Human resources development education and training
- IV. Human resources development research and analysis
- V. Human resources development information systems
- VI. Monitoring and evaluation of human resources development

Part three

ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- I. Participation
- II. Co-ordination
- III. Priorities
- IV. Time frame

Part one

INTRODUCTION

I. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: THE CORE CONCEPT

1. In its deliberations on the issue of human resources development, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has observed that, while the human factor plays a decisive role in economic and social progress, it is also the people who are the intended beneficiaries of development. Human resources development is, in this perspective, much more than an instrument for development: it is the ultimate objective of the development process.

2. That the development of the full potential of human beings stands at the centre of the economic and social development process is self-evident. Yet much development policy and planning appears to ignore this truth. It is gratifying to find, therefore, that there has been a growing recognition in the ESCAP region in recent years of the need to re-examine and redirect development efforts in favour of the human dimension.

3. This is partly in response to the growing awareness that development in too many cases has been successful only in narrowly-defined terms, while even that success has in many cases largely bypassed the majority of the people. It is also partly a reaction to perceptions of the limited immediate human relevance and impact of development planning and programming in many countries. In addition, it arises out of the crisis of human redundancy in many developing countries, whereby continued economic growth apparently does not require the full utilization of the available human resources.

4. There is thus a need for a reorientation, a need to put a human face on development. Human resources development refers, in this context, to the strategies, policies, plans and programmes that would seek to translate this concern into operational terms.

5. The critical importance of human capital for economic development is not a new idea, but it has acquired added urgency in recent years. This is related to the growing problem that developing countries have encountered in upgrading their human resources to meet economic development requirements. It is also associated with the fact that changes in

the composition of global demand for goods and services have made it imperative for developing countries to reduce their dependence on the production of primary commodities and emphasize modern-sector industries and services if they are to increase their income and employment opportunities. It arises, furthermore, out of the growing threat of massive labour redundancy owing to the introduction of labour-saving technologies, especially those which save on unskilled labour. Finally, it reflects the fears growing out of the region's continuing increase in population and changing demographic structure, resulting in a rapidly growing labour force.

6. Future advances must spring from structural adjustments involving higher levels of human resources capabilities with more diversified skills. Furthermore, while other physical frontiers of production, particularly land and exhaustible sources of energy, have approached the limits of exploitation in many countries of Asia and the Pacific, the region's vast human resources potential remains largely untapped. The challenge is to raise the productivity of the region's 2.7 billion people in an era of rapid economic and social change. The further development of the region is thus closely dependent upon both the effective use of its human resources and their continued enrichment, through education, skills formation, improved health, and nutrition and other means.

7. However, the concept of human resources as perceived by the Commission goes further - well beyond its role as a form of productive capital. The Commission has recognized that human resources development is a broad concept encompassing both the means and the ends of development and that it is equally essential for both economic and social progress. Human resources development therefore requires careful consideration of the implications of different development strategies and priorities, not only in order to ensure that the returns to development efforts may be maximized but also so that the distribution of the benefits of development among the people may be optimized. Likewise, the opportunities provided by human resources development should facilitate broad-based participation by the people in the development process, with special provisions to enhance the status of the disadvantaged sections of society.

8. The interaction between human resources as means and ends of development blurs the distinction between the investment and consumption aspects of human resources development. This in turn impinges on the conventional dichotomy between the economic and social dimensions of development, which characterizes development in terms of the application of economic "instruments" to achieve social "objectives". The economic aspects are thus assumed to serve as the active principle in the development process and are often accorded priority over the so-called passive social considerations.

9. This view that social "ends" will automatically be served so long as the economic "means" are effectively mobilized and channelled is overly simplistic, and thus misleading. The effective mobilization and utilization of human resources require that development should be viewed as a single, unified process involving both social and economic instruments and aimed at the achievement of overall, integrated objectives. The interdependence between means and ends, between economic and social considerations, in the context of human resources development negates the narrow, analytical distinctions. This fuller understanding of the development process provides a conceptual counterpart for the reality that economic advancement is no more possible without a firm social base than is social progress a simple and straightforward outcome of economic growth.

10. The interdependence between development means and ends and between the economic and social dimensions of development, as highlighted in the human resources development concept, necessitates an integrated approach to the development of human resources. The Commission has noted that strong supply-demand and social-economic interrelationships reinforce the various aspects of human resources development. These interrelationships require sustained attention if their positive potential for development is to be harnessed effectively. The interface of education and training, on the one hand, and the capacity to satisfy basic needs, on the other, is evident. The further implications of these interrelationships with respect to such fundamental variables as fertility, longevity, employment, productivity and distribution have also been widely recognized. The present Plan of Action is predicated on these considerations.

II. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

11. A plan of action on human resources development for the ESCAP region requires, at the outset, a common understanding concerning the analytical framework within which the plan may be appropriately formulated. The basic components of the framework can be identified as follows.

A. Dimensions of human resources development

12. From a broad conceptual point of view, the full range of economic and social development processes may be characterized as human resources development. It has sometimes been argued that concepts which seek to be all-inclusive tend to have little explanatory or operational value. Nevertheless, approached from the perspective of human resources development, the main concerns and priorities of the development process take on a clear focus and direction. This clarity is enhanced when the key problems of human resources development are classified in accordance with the three major themes of employment and manpower development, science and technology, and the quality of life.

13. These three dimensions comprise a set of complementary and closely inter-related issues. None of them can be fully examined without reference to the others; yet each provides unique insights into the nature of the overall problem and the means whereby it can be resolved effectively and efficiently. Between them, they provide an integrated framework for examining the human resources development process.

14. The priority issues under each of these themes may be identified as follows:

(a) Employment and manpower development. Forecasts to the year 2000 indicate that many countries in the region will continue to have rapid population growth. Labour supply will also grow rapidly. In the face of a relatively slow-growing demand for labour, this will lead to a substantial rise in unemployment. Especially serious situations are likely to arise in the agrarian sector and the market for unskilled labour. For many developing countries, additional problems in matching labour demand and supply will be associated with unstable and possibly deteriorating domestic and international demand conditions, strengthening of protectionist tendencies and obsolescence

of many skills in the presence of changing technological circumstances and other factors. Appropriate policy changes based on full information will be required to cope with the changing situation. Since market conditions are likely to remain highly unpredictable because of the uncertainty of changes in demand and the certainty of technological change, the emphasis should be on flexibility and the creation of a broad-based productive capability rather than narrowly skilled manpower. Special efforts must also be directed towards providing favourable conditions for the growth of new entrepreneurial skills to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities.

(b) Science and technology. Rapid accretions to the international fund of scientific knowledge and technology are fast revising the region's agenda of development opportunities. The implications of recent scientific and technological progress in such fields as information, biotechnology, micro-electronics, material sciences and energy technologies indicate that, unless vigorous steps are taken immediately to adapt the region's human resources to the new realities, the development potential inherent in modern science and technology will be lost. At the same time, efforts must be made to adapt the new technologies to the region's labour-dominant factor proportions and to its pressing human resources development needs. The interface of the region's science and technology capabilities and its human resources profile thus requires that attention be devoted to both the generation of manpower for the promotion of science and technology and the utilization of science and technology to upgrade the full range of human resources.

(c) Quality of life. The evident failure of the development process to generate substantial improvements in national and international equity and eradicate poverty in many developing countries has little likelihood of being overcome in the foreseeable future unless carefully co-ordinated remedial strategies, policies and programmes are introduced in a number of key sectors, including education, health, population, urbanization and the environment. In many developing countries of the region, seriously disadvantaged population groups continue to comprise the great majority of the people. Tapping the potential of these under-utilized human resources would generate significant socio-economic progress while simultaneously enhancing the quality of life of these groups.

Conversely, improvements in the quality of life of these groups would raise their productive capabilities. Practical measures for improving the living conditions of disadvantaged groups and increasing their level of participation in society will need to be identified and vigorously implemented if these benefits are to be realized.

B. Target groups for human resources development

15. The productive capabilities and resilience of individuals, communities and organizations to deal with rapidly changing economic and social circumstances must be strengthened at all levels and among all sections of society if the Plan of Action is to succeed in upgrading the region's human resources. However, no national or regional development plan can hope to have a direct influence on every individual, community and organization, especially in the presence of the severe physical and financial resource constraints prevalent in developing countries throughout Asia and the Pacific. It is therefore necessary that target groups for human resources development be identified. Target groups should be selected on the basis of social cost-benefit criteria as well as the prospective linkage and multiplier effects of human resources development programmes directed at them.

16. Development is fundamentally about, by and for human beings, and in the national context it should be concerned with the well-being of all the people. It is equally true, however, that developing countries are burdened with great disparities in income and wealth, skills, education, health, access to employment opportunities and participation in decision-making. In this context, it has often been noted that the cost-effectiveness of human resources development activities aimed at different segments of the population is often highest among the poor and other disadvantaged target groups. It would thus appear appropriate, in any human resources development strategy, policy, plan or programme, to pay special attention to specific or selected disadvantaged population groups.

17. The disadvantaged sections of society form the obvious target for human resources development, not only because of the egalitarian and humanitarian ideals that would be served thereby but, equally important, because of the high long-term

social rate of return on investment that would be achieved. This rationale for identifying target groups for the plan of action coincides with the Commission's broad programme priorities. In a major reassessment of its programme priorities at its thirty-ninth session, in April 1983, the Commission determined that it should place special emphasis on the promotion of economic and social development leading to the alleviation of poverty and that its activities should achieve practical results benefiting the poorer sections of the population of the region. As a corollary, the Commission stressed the need to give special attention to assistance to the region's least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and developing South Pacific island countries.

18. These broad priorities provide a logical frame of reference for the Plan of Action by focusing it on the disadvantaged groups in society. The need remains, within this frame of reference, to identify particular target groups for specific programmes and projects. In keeping with the Commission's earlier programme decisions, the disadvantaged target groups to be accorded priority attention can be identified as, among others, the rural and urban poor, the landless, the unemployed, women, youth, disabled persons, the aging and minority groups.

C. Enablers of human resources development

19. Just as target groups need to be specified in order to optimize the impact and maximize the multiplier effects of programmes and projects under the plan of action, appropriate enablers of human resources development must be identified for much the same reasons. Enablers of human resources development include those individuals, groups and organizations whose active intervention can catalyse the human resources development process. They serve, in effect, as the agents or instruments of human resources development.

20. Those who are perceived to constitute an enabler group at one level may well be considered a target group at another level, since the requisite catalytic capabilities can be generated only through prior education, training, raising of awareness, provision of incentives and other preparation of potential enablers. At the same time, target groups that have been successfully mobilized for human

resources development may themselves have the potential to serve as enablers in their own right.

21. Since the target groups for the Plan of Action can be identified as including the general category of the disadvantaged sections of society, it would follow that the enablers should be selected from among those who come into direct contact with the disadvantaged. It is therefore appropriate that priority attention should be given to government officers responsible for local-level public administration, where the weaknesses of human resources development policy implementation are often most keenly felt; officers responsible for the delivery of essential services at the local level, including such personnel as primary school teachers, local health officials and agricultural extension agents; entrepreneurs and managers, who are responsible not only for providing employment but are also sources of technological and other expertise; staff of non-governmental organizations, whose voluntary efforts play an important role in encouraging popular participation, developing public understanding and filling gaps in government efforts at the grass-roots level; and mass-media personnel, who staff the increasingly powerful knowledge, information and communications networks indispensable to modern economic and social life.

D. Demand-focused versus supply-focused approaches to human resources development

22. Human resources development may be approached from the supply side or from the demand side. The supply-side approach deals with the generation of the means for human resources development, on the assumption that the demand already exists. The demand-side approach is concerned with the utilization of these means. The numerous policies and programmes for human resources development that have been implemented by Governments of developing countries of the ESCAP region have concentrated largely on supply-side issues. Yet the level of human resources development in many countries, particularly among their rural populations, remains obstinately low, while the need for effective human resources development continues to be an urgent priority. This suggests that a supply-focused strategy may not be sufficient.

23. The limitations of existing programmes for human resources development suggest that more demand-oriented strategies are required. The absolute poor, rural landless, urban slum dwellers, women, members of minority groups and other disadvantaged groups, especially those in isolated and backward areas, confront a wide range of economic, social, psychological and physical obstacles to the development of their human resources. Programmes that fail to take explicit account of the institutional and structural obstacles to the participation of disadvantaged groups inevitably favour those who are least disadvantaged: those with higher socio-economic status, superior education and training and readier access to development opportunities. If the region's human resources are to be developed, the institutional context within which such development takes place must become an explicit focus of human resources development policy.

E. The problem of uncertainty

24. Any development plan requires a vision of the preferred future and of the means whereby that future may be realized. Yet the unpredictability of events remains an ever-present reality. One of the major lessons of the past 40 years of development planning in Asia and the Pacific is that, no matter how refined the analysis of economic and social conditions and no matter how sophisticated the techniques brought to bear, unanticipated circumstances invariably intervene to distort the planning exercise.

25. Economic and social development planning has, as a result of its difficulties in accommodating the unpredictable, and thus its limited capacity to adapt to unanticipated circumstances, fallen increasingly into disfavour. Nowhere has this problem been more evident than in the planning of human resources development. Strategies for human resources development should be devised with this issue clearly in mind, thus enhancing the possibility of formulating and executing practicable approaches.

26. While some trends of major concern for purposes of human resources development planning have been acknowledged as having considerable uncertainty, especially over the medium to long term, which is the relevant time span for any plan of action on human resources development, others may be expected to persist and

even intensify over the remainder of the twentieth century. Furthermore, the wide range of intercountry variation in economic and social trends requires that the plan of action be formulated in such a way that it can respond to a broad spectrum of possible scenarios. In the presence of uncertainty, the advantage thus lies on the side of those programmes in which resources and efforts will not be irretrievably committed.

27. If flexibility is to be emphasized, the lesson is that, over the medium to long term, the Plan of Action should limit its prescriptive content primarily to the development of human resources at the basic level. Furthermore, over longer intervals, it should be primarily indicative in nature. Where possible, short-term commitments of resources should be favoured over those requiring a longer term. In the presence of uncertainty, furthermore, the plan in its operational form should be fully specified only for relatively short spans of time. It should have built-in capabilities to respond to change through a variety of programmes to enhance the adaptability of individuals and institutions and to strengthen their resilience in the presence of evolving development challenges.

F. National issues in the regional context

28. The Plan of Action must, in the final analysis, be implemented at the national level. Action at the regional level should play a supportive role. Regional analysis and technical assistance, regional co-operation among developing countries, North-South cooperation within the region and regional co-ordination of responses to emerging economic and social issues - all such approaches to human resources development among countries can serve to complement and supplement the broad range of programmes and projects that must be undertaken within countries to resolve critical issues relating to the human resources development process.

29. In this regard, it is essential that the Plan of Action take due account of the diversity of national experience and situations in the ESCAP region. The region of Asia and the Pacific is unique in the heterogeneity of its economic, social, cultural and political conditions, not to mention its geophysical features. Given the broad diversity of the region's national development situations, the Plan

of Action must ensure sufficient flexibility and scope to accommodate the full range of national circumstances and feasible human resources development responses.

III. PRINCIPLES

30. The Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region is founded on the following principles:

(a) The human factor plays a decisive role as a productive agent in development; at the same time, it is the people who are the intended beneficiaries of development. Human resources development thus serves as both an essential means and the ultimate end of development.

(b) Human resources development contributes to the attainment of such fundamental development objectives or ideals as the eradication of absolute poverty, full employment, universal basic education, universal access to secondary education and vocational training, national self-reliance in science and technology, satisfaction of basic needs and full participation of all population groups in the development process.

(c) In view of the pervasive interaction between human resources development and all facets of economic and social progress, an integrated approach to the planning and execution of human resources development is required, involving the active participation of all sectors.

(d) The three major themes of employment and manpower development, science and technology, and quality of life constitute a comprehensive framework for the effective planning and execution of human resources development in the ESCAP region.

(e) In the presence of resource constraints, the planning and execution of human resources development should place particular emphasis on specific target groups among the disadvantaged sections of society, and on the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries.

(f) The implementation of human resources development plans and programmes at the local level should be carried out by enablers capable of exercising a direct catalytic effect on the human resources development of specific target groups.

(g) In addition to conventional supply-focused human resources development strategies, which seek to strengthen human resources capabilities, the planning and execution of human resources development should emphasize demand-oriented strategies, which involve the elimination of socio-cultural and other constraints to the effective utilization of human resources.

(h) Uncertainty concerning future economic and social development trends requires that built-in flexibility, including an emphasis on indicative rather than prescriptive content, be emphasized in human resources development planning and execution.

(i) In designing regional approaches to the planning and execution of human resources development, due attention must be paid to the diversity of national experiences and situations in the ESCAP region.

(j) The formulation and implementation of national strategies, policies, plans and programmes for human resources development are the sovereign right and responsibility of each member and associate member of ESCAP, to be carried out within the context of its specific national development needs and objectives.

(k) Regional co-operation and technical assistance in support of national strategies, policies, plans and programmes for human resources development make an important contribution to the enhancement of human resources endowments.

Part two

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

Introduction

1. The Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region provides broad guidelines for transforming the principles of human resources development into practice. It constitutes, in effect, a policy framework within which national Governments, regional bodies and institutions, international organizations and other agents of development may formulate and execute specific strategies, policies, plans, programmes and projects that address the particular needs, and respond to the individual priorities, of each ESCAP member and associate member.

2. The Plan of Action contains 33 broad policy recommendations and 106 specific proposals for action. These recommendations and proposals are classified under six functional headings, relating to policy and planning, institutional strengthening, education and training, research and analysis, information systems, and monitoring and evaluation. It remains for the various participating bodies, agencies, organizations and other institutions to devise specific projects that will ensure the execution of the Plan.

3. In conformity with the intersectoral and interdisciplinary concerns of the Commission, the recommendations and proposals have been formulated to reflect an integrated approach to human resources development. While explicitly pursuing an integrated approach, they do not, however, aim to be comprehensive. Instead, they focus on critical issues and specific target and enabler groups within the population, as practical means of ensuring effective implementation in the presence of budgetary, manpower and other constraints.

4. The recommendations subsume the three major themes of human resources development identified by the Commission: employment and manpower development; science and technology; and quality of life. Similarly, action to be taken at the national and regional levels, and by various bodies, agencies, organizations and other institutions, in implementation of the Plan of Action are subsumed under the various specific proposals for action.

I. POLICY AND PLANNING FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation 1. Priority for human resources development policies and planning

The realization of the full potential of the individual stands at the centre of the development process. That principle requires that special attention be given to the development of the individual's human resources. Governments should therefore give priority to the development of human resources in national planning and policy-making.

Proposals for action

(1) Human resources development plans should be given priority within

the context of overall development planning.

- (2) Policy and planning bodies for human resources development should be established at a high level to ensure that human resources development is given appropriate recognition within the context of national development plans.
- (3) In the intersectoral allocation of budgetary resources, special provision should be made to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to human resources development programmes and projects.

Recommendation 2. National plans of action for human resources development

Plans of action for human resources development should be formulated and executed at the national level. Recognizing that human resources can be effectively developed only with the active participation of all economic and social sectors, as well as the public and private sectors, national leadership and direction are essential in the formulation and execution of plans of action for human resources development.

Proposals for action

- (4) Plans of action for human resources development should be formulated and implemented at the national level.
- (5) National plans of action for human resources development should be constructed so as to ensure that investment in physical infrastructure is supported by adequate investment in human resources.
- (6) In preparing national plans of action for human resources development, Governments should be guided by the recommendations and proposals contained in this Plan of Action.

Recommendation 3. An integrated approach to human resources development planning

Appropriate methods and mechanisms should be developed to ensure that an integrated approach is adopted in human resources development planning. An integrated approach to human resources development planning, as an essential component of development

planning as a whole, is necessitated by the interaction between development means and ends and the interdependence of the economic and social dimensions of development.

Proposals for action

- (7) Action should be taken to develop and apply methods for policy-making, planning and programming that are conducive to an integrated approach to human resources development.
- (8) Measures for interministerial and interdepartmental co-operation should be enacted to facilitate the application of an integrated approach to human resources development policy-making and planning.
- (9) Human resources development planning should take into account and utilize interministerial and interdepartmental complementarities and opportunities for co-operation in order to optimize the impact of programmes and conserve resources.

Recommendation 4. Emphasis on demand-oriented strategies

Special emphasis should be placed on demand-oriented strategies for human resources development. Such strategies would seek to stimulate the demand for human resources development by increasing public awareness of its benefits and reducing the impact of socio-cultural and other constraints that restrict demand. Under such strategies, policies and plans would seek to affect values and attitudes as critical determinants of the demand for human resources development. They would also seek to mobilize popular participation and thereby motivate individuals to increase their demand for human resources development.

Proposals for action

- (10) Policy makers and planners should identify and remove socio-cultural and other constraints on the demand for human resources development. Particular attention should be given to demand constraints that impinge upon disadvantaged groups, such as women, the rural poor and indigenous minorities.

- (11) Programmes should be devised that focus on the creation of demand among the people for the upgrading of their own human resources. Such programmes could seek to raise public awareness concerning the opportunities for, and benefits to be derived from, human resources development.

Recommendation 5. Enhancement of popular participation

Popular participation is a necessary means of ensuring adequate feedback to policy makers and planners so that appropriate adjustments can be made to increase the effectiveness of human resources development programmes. By mobilizing community and private resources, popular participation in programme implementation could also help to provide a valuable supplement to limited public resources. Popular participation in human resources development policy and planning should therefore be enhanced.

Proposals for action

- (12) Activities should be undertaken to encourage popular participation, in particular the participation of disadvantaged groups, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of human resources development programmes.
- (13) Programmes for human resources development should be designed to stimulate active community and individual awareness of their rights and responsibilities as participants in human resources development policy and planning.

Recommendation 6. Encouragement of participation by the private sector and non-governmental organizations

The potential for increased participation in human resources development by the private sector and non-governmental organizations should be explored and utilized. The private enterprise sector offers many opportunities, through its access to technical expertise and other resources, to support human resources development. Similarly, many programmes undertaken by non-governmental organizations, particularly in connection with quality-of-life issues, can contribute to the achievement of human resources

development objectives. The active support of both the private sector and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged, especially in areas where public resources are strained.

Proposals for action

- (14) Where appropriate, policy makers and planners should mobilize private sector involvement in, and support for, human resources development programmes.
- (15) To ensure the effective participation of non-governmental organizations in human resources development efforts, the human-resources-development-related activities of non-governmental organizations should be co-ordinated with ongoing plans and programmes.
- (16) The potential role of non-governmental organizations as testing grounds for exploring alternative, innovative approaches to human resources development should be fully utilized.

Recommendation 7. Focus on specific population groups

Budgetary and other constraints necessitate that human resources development policy-making and planning should focus on specific population groups as plan targets. The disadvantaged sections of society constitute an appropriate focus because of the higher returns to investment in their human resources and because of their greater need. Because of the large numbers of disadvantaged persons in many developing countries, policy makers and planners will need to identify specific target groups among the disadvantaged sections of society. Such target groups should include those whose human resources development would generate strong multiplier effects to benefit others.

Proposals for action

- (17) Policy makers should identify specific human resources development target groups among the disadvantaged sections of society. Development planners should devise measures to make these groups the focus of national human resources development plans.

(18) Policy makers should identify and direct human resources development programmes towards specific target groups, such as women, which would generate strong multiplier effects to benefit others.

(19) In devising programmes and allocating funds for human resources development, regional bodies, international organizations and donor agencies and countries should focus on disadvantaged population groups and give priority to countries with the lowest levels of human resources development.

Recommendation 8. Policy and planning for employment generation

Priority should be given to employment generation in national human resources development policy-making and planning. In most countries in the region, especially in the large labour-surplus countries, it will be increasingly difficult to provide sufficient wage employment for the growing numbers of new entrants into the labour force and those displaced from the agricultural sector. Policy makers and planners should therefore encourage alternative forms of economic participation, including self-employment and entrepreneurship. In addition, the potential for expanding employment in the service sector should be fully utilized.

Proposals for action

(20) Policies, plans and programmes should be formulated to focus on employment generation, including the promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship.

(21) Policies, plans and programmes should be devised to support and expand the capacity of the service sector to generate increased employment.

Recommendation 9. Policy and planning for employment creation in the informal sector

The informal sector absorbs large numbers of workers in most countries of the region and plays an important role in creating employment opportunities for workers displaced from agriculture, as well as contributing to other aspects of human resources development. Special attention should

therefore be given to the informal sector in policy-making and planning for human resources development.

Proposals for action

(22) The potential of the informal sector to generate employment should be fully utilized in human resources development policy and planning. The role of this sector should be supported in overall development planning.

(23) Urban planners should design special measures to provide essential services to small-scale enterprises in the informal sector, which has the potential to employ large numbers of urban workers.

(24) Small-scale and cottage industries should be supported through special consideration in industrial regulations and the extension of appropriate incentives to support their contribution to employment creation.

(25) Human resources development policy makers and planners should pay special attention to the promotion of employment in the rural informal sector.

(26) Industrial regulations and administrative procedures should be rationalized to facilitate the co-existence of the informal and formal sectors.

Recommendation 10. Science and technology policy and planning for human resources development

Fuller consideration should be given in policy-making and planning to the interrelationships between human resources and science and technology. Scientific and technological progress will have a decisive impact on human resources in developing countries in the coming years. Policies should be developed to adapt human resources to those changes. In particular, policy makers and planners should ensure that the potential of scientific and technological progress to create new employment opportunities is fully exploited and that adequate measures are taken to counteract any negative impact on employment.

Proposals for action

- (27) The human resources development implications of science and technology in such areas as employment, education and the formation of social values and attitudes should be fully addressed in policy and planning.
- (28) Policy makers and planners should institute measures to counteract the negative effects of certain science and technology trends on human resources development, especially on employment.
- (29) The potential of scientific and technological progress to create new employment opportunities and enhance the quality of life should be fully exploited in human resources development policy-making and planning.
- (30) Policies should be devised to develop and promote attitudes supportive of science and technology among the population as a means of increasing national capacity for utilizing science and technology for human resources development.

Recommendation 11. Science and technology manpower planning

Policy makers and planners should make provision to ensure that human resources of appropriate quantity and quality are generated to support national science and technology development. Policies and plans for manpower development should be devised to ensure that science and technology manpower at all levels is equipped with a broad and basic range of skills to enable effective response to rapid changes in technology.

Proposals for action

- (31) Educational plans should be framed so as to ensure that an adequate flow of students is channelled through the science and technology streams of secondary and tertiary education to provide the necessary personnel requirements in scientific and technological occupations.
- (32) Manpower planners should make adequate provision for the human resources requirements generated

by national scientific and technological development. They should ensure that scientific and technological personnel at all levels are equipped with a broad and basic range of skills to promote the capacity to respond to technological change.

Recommendation 12. Policy and planning to improve the quality of life

The broad range of concerns encompassing the quality of life dimension of human resources development, including such factors as basic education and literacy, health and nutrition, housing, sanitation and the environment, enhance the capacity of the individual to both undertake and benefit from human resources development. Policy and planning should therefore emphasize improvements in the quality of life as a critical means as well as goal of promoting human resources development. In this connection, the positive productivity effects of improvements in the quality-of-life aspect of human resources development need to be taken into full consideration in human resources development planning.

Proposals for action

- (33) Emphasis should be given in policy-making and planning to improving the quality-of-life aspects of human resources development.
- (34) In view of the importance of the formative years of childhood in determining the future quality of human resources, policy makers and planners should take full account of the influence of all relevant economic and social factors on child development so that the best possible results can be ensured by the formulation and implementation of such policies and plans.
- (35) In comparing the respective merits of investments in different sectors as a basis for sectoral investment decisions, policy makers and planners should give due consideration to the long-term and cumulative benefits that often arise out of investments directed towards improving the quality of life.

II. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Recommendation 13. National co-ordination mechanisms for human resources devel- opment planning

In view of the pervasive, multisectoral implications of human resources development, policies and plans for human resources development should be carefully co-ordinated. National mechanisms to co-ordinate the formula-
tion and implementation of national
plans of action for human resources
development should be established and
existing mechanisms strengthened. Those mechanisms should be located at high levels of government to ensure that the various sectors pursue common objectives and undertake complementary programmes and projects in conformity with the national plans of action.

Proposals for action

- (36) A national focal point should be designated in each country to co-ordinate human resources development activities within the context of overall national development policies and plans.
- (37) Human resources development units should be established in ministries and other national bodies to liaise with the national focal point and ensure that the implementation of sectoral programmes is in accordance with national plans.
- (38) National co-ordination mechanisms should develop and strengthen procedures to facilitate co-ordination between private and public sector bodies involved in human resources development.

Recommendation 14. Strengthening of human resources development training and research institutions

Administrative and technical infra-structures constitute a critical constraint on the effective formula-
tion and execution of human resources
development plans and programmes.
Institutions undertaking research on
human resources development issues and
institutions responsible for training
administrative and technical personnel
should be supported in order to enhance
the capability of such personnel to

design and implement human resources
development plans and programmes.

Proposals for action

- (39) National and regional institutions undertaking research on human resources development issues and training of human resources development administrative and technical personnel should be strengthened in terms of staffing, curricula and budgets.
- (40) The establishment of special programmes for research and training in human resources development should be promoted in public and private as well as non-govern-
mental research and training
institutions.

Recommendation 15. Support for institu- tions engaged in manpower planning

The capacity of institutions engaged
in manpower planning to undertake an
integrated approach to human resources
development should be strengthened. Institutional capabilities in manpower planning should be developed to take into full consideration the inter-relationships between employment conditions, on the one hand, and the science and technology and quality-of-life aspects of human resources development, on the other.

Proposals for action

- (41) Manpower planning institutions and networks at the national and regional levels should be strengthened to enhance their capacity to undertake an inte-
grated approach to human resources
development.
- (42) The staffing of institutions undertaking manpower planning should reflect the multidis-
ciplinary and multisectoral
nature of an integrated approach
to manpower planning. Staff
training, including in-service
training, should similarly reflect
the interdisciplinary nature of
an integrated approach.
- (43) Linkages between institutions undertaking manpower planning and other institutions, in both the public and private sectors, engaged in employment-related human resources development

research and training should be promoted.

Recommendation 16. Support for human-resources-development-related programmes in science and technology institutions

Institutions engaged in scientific and technological research and development should be supported in order to enable them to strengthen programmes of direct relevance to human resources development. The capacity of science and technology institutions to direct their overall programmes to meet national human resources development needs in particular scientific fields should be enhanced. In particular, greater attention should be given to scientific and technological research aimed at resolving quality-of-life issues.

Proposals for action

- (44) The human resources development research and training activities of national science and technology institutions should be strengthened, with special attention to their capacity to develop and adapt technologies appropriate to specific national situations.
- (45) The capacity of institutions engaged in science and technology research and development to contribute to improvements in the physical quality of life should be strengthened.
- (46) The role of the public sector in science and technology research for human resources development should be enhanced by establishing formal and informal relationships between public sector science and technology institutions and the private sector, where appropriate.

Recommendation 17. Institutional support for enabler groups

A number of important enabler groups, including local-level government personnel, voluntary community organizations and the mass media, play a critical role in implementing human resources development programmes and projects at the grass-roots level. Enabler groups can play an especially important role in implementing demand-oriented programmes by mobilizing popular participation and ensuring

that programmes reach their intended target groups. The capability of enabler groups to facilitate the implementation of national plans of action on human resources development should therefore be supported and enhanced.

Proposals for action

- (47) The capability and motivation of local-level officials responsible for the implementation of human resources development programmes should be strengthened through the provision of appropriate institutional support.
- (48) Support should be provided to non-governmental organizations to ensure their effective participation in the implementation of human resources development plans and programmes at the grass-roots level.
- (49) Institutional support should be provided to programmes for mobilizing and training voluntary group participation in human resources development at the community level.
- (50) In view of the inherent capacity of the mass media to influence and mould public opinion and to inform, they should be fully utilized as enablers of human resources development. In this regard, their capability to reach communities at the grass-roots level should be effectively exploited.

Recommendation 18. Regional co-ordination mechanism for human resources development

A regional mechanism is required to co-ordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action. This mechanism would seek to ensure the effective allocation of regional resources so as to facilitate the implementation of human resources development activities at both the national and regional levels. It would also promote regional co-operation and enhance complementarity among national plans of action for human resources development.

Proposals for action

- (51) A regional co-ordination network for human resources development

should be formed to facilitate creative interaction among national and regional human resources development institutions.

- (52) A regional focal point should be designated to support the regional co-ordination network for human resources development.
- (53) The regional focal point should devise a system to facilitate the exchange of human resources development experiences, information and expertise among countries in the region. In particular, this system should focus on the special training, information and other needs of those countries with the lowest levels of human resources development.

III. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Recommendation 19. Basic education for all

Education is an essential foundation for human resources development. In addition to literacy and numeric skills, basic education for human resources development involves the inculcation of attitudes and abilities that will promote both a demand for, and the capacity to undertake, further human resources development. Literacy and numeracy and at least a rudimentary understanding of scientific principles and methods are essential pre-conditions for a productive and adaptive population that can utilize and adjust rapidly to new technologies and other exogenous changes. Efforts should therefore be intensified to provide universal basic education. In particular, Governments should ensure that basic education is extended to disadvantaged population groups.

Proposals for action

- (54) Appropriate measures should be introduced to provide for universal basic education in those countries where this has not yet been achieved, and to enhance its quality in all developing countries of the region.
- (55) The qualifications of teachers, especially those responsible for primary and basic adult education

programmes, should be upgraded to enable them to provide students with a sound educational foundation for a lifelong process of human resources development.

- (56) Curriculum development should be undertaken to enhance the quality of primary school education, including the acquisition of learning skills, rather than rote knowledge alone, as a basis for lifelong human resources development.
- (57) The potential of modern educational technologies, including the use of the electronic media, should be developed to improve access to basic education for all. In this regard, special attention should be given to the opportunities afforded by advanced communications technologies as educational infrastructure for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and for isolated communities and disadvantaged population groups in other countries.

Recommendation 20. Upgrading secondary and higher education

Access to secondary and higher education should be ensured to all qualified candidates and its quality should be improved. In view of the need for the region's secondary and higher education systems to attain international standards of excellence, action should be taken to improve curricula, strengthen teachers' capabilities and upgrade support facilities. Steps should also be taken to provide opportunities for all qualified students to continue their education to the higher levels in order to realize the full potential of each individual member of society.

Proposals for action

- (58) Curricula in all educational fields, particularly at the secondary level, should be revised to emphasize the understanding of humanistic values, scientific principles and analytical methods of thinking in order to develop in the population a capacity to adapt to change and participate in lifelong education for human resources development.

- (59) Action should be taken to counteract the current reliance on formal paper credentials, rather than actual capabilities, in identifying human resources qualifications.
- (60) The adequacy of teacher-training methods for secondary education should be reviewed and improved methods should be devised and instituted to upgrade the qualifications of teachers at this level. Special emphasis should be given to the training and upgrading of science, mathematics and technical teachers at the secondary level.
- (61) Steps should be taken to facilitate the intercountry exchange of educational personnel in the region, especially at the post-secondary level and among teacher-training personnel, as a means of sharing country experience and educational approaches and generating an internationalist human resources development perspective in educational systems.

Recommendation 21. Vocational and technical training

Vocational and technical training should be made relevant to current and prospective employment conditions. Its capacity to prepare graduates to adapt to technological and other changes in the workplace should be enhanced. To meet these needs, access to vocational and technical training should be increased and the quality of such training as a basis for productive employment should be improved.

Proposals for action

- (62) Recent advances in science and technology appropriate to the conditions in individual developing countries should be incorporated into the vocational and technical training curricula of their educational systems.
- (63) Vocational and technical training programmes should be encouraged to emphasize a broad approach to human resources development and promote the capacity of skilled manpower to adjust to changes in labour demand. Narrow specialization in technical training should be avoided where possible.

Similarly, vocational and professional training should be designed to expose students to a wide range of skills.

- (64) Work-study programmes and apprenticeship schemes should be incorporated into vocational and technical training programmes to increase the relevance of training to actual employment conditions.
- (65) Short-term vocational and technical training and retraining programmes should be designed to retrain workers whose skills have become redundant as a result of changing production requirements. Training modules directed towards specific skills groups within the labour force should be developed to meet this need in the context of rapidly changing employment conditions.
- (66) Vocational and technical education curricula should be broadened to inculcate entrepreneurial values and positive work ethics. Curricula should be designed to include exposure to the full range of skills required for the operation of small-scale enterprises.

Recommendation 22. Non-formal education and training

Formal education, even if available to all school-age children and youth, cannot alone sustain human resources development because such development is a lifelong process. Furthermore, many young people are excluded from formal education owing to various circumstances. Non-formal educational channels, including adult education, should therefore be developed and strengthened. Within the non-formal educational system, innovative programmes should be devised to develop skills, attitudes and capabilities not covered by formal educational curricula. Priority in the development of such programmes should be directed towards the needs of disadvantaged population groups not adequately served by the formal educational system.

Proposals for action

- (67) Adult education programmes should be developed to teach basic literacy and numeric skills and

elementary science to those with little or no formal education, especially women, as a critical means of improving their prospects of employment and enhancing their quality of life.

- (68) Continuing education programmes should be developed as non-formal adjuncts to the formal educational system to support lifelong education. They should be designed to facilitate the upgrading of under-utilized human resources and enhance the capacity of all individuals to adapt to changing social and economic circumstances.
- (69) Women's educational self-help networks should be supported to provide women, especially those wishing to enter the labour force, with basic education and vocational training. Vocational training programmes should be related to existing and emerging employment opportunities to increase women's active economic participation.
- (70) Innovative programmes should be developed to increase the awareness of local-level government officials and service delivery personnel regarding the special needs of disadvantaged groups and to enhance their capabilities for implementing human resources development programmes for disadvantaged groups.
- (71) Out-reach training programmes should be developed for workers and the self-employed in the informal sector. Such programmes should be structured as field exercises, focusing on training for income and employment generation for those population groups that would not ordinarily seek out formal training opportunities.

IV. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Recommendation 23. Research on an integrated approach to human resources development

A firm conceptual basis is needed to support an integrated approach to policy-making and planning for human resources development. Research should therefore be undertaken on the concept

of an integrated approach to human resources development and on the means of applying this concept in order to support the formulation, implementation and appraisal of plans of action on human resources development.

Proposals for action

- (72) The interface between macro-economic development policies and human resources development processes should be examined to identify the human resources implications of different policy options.
- (73) Research should be undertaken to provide a conceptual basis for demand-oriented strategies for human resources development. Because of the importance of socio-cultural and other non-economic factors in determining the level and composition of demand in relation to human resources development, such studies should incorporate an interdisciplinary approach.
- (74) The relationships between the employment and manpower development, science and technology and quality-of-life dimensions of human resources development should be studied with a view to devising appropriate intersectoral strategies for human resources development planning.
- (75) Research should be conducted on techniques of assessing the relative rates of return on alternative investments in human resources development and the relative rates of return on such investments directed towards alternative population groups.

Recommendation 24. Research on human resources development indicators

Indicators of human resources development are required to determine planning priorities and to monitor and evaluate plan implementation, among other matters. Research should therefore be undertaken to develop macro- and micro-level indicators of human resources development and to facilitate their use in human resources development policy and planning. Particular emphasis should be given to quality-of-life indicators because of the inadequacy of existing baseline data in this area.

Proposals for action

- (76) Studies should be undertaken to devise operational indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, of employment trends. Appropriate indicators should be formulated for monitoring and assessing labour market dynamics and their impact on human resources development.
- (77) Quality-of-life indicators should be formulated in order to facilitate planning, monitoring and evaluation of the quality-of-life aspects of human resources development.
- (78) Comprehensive sets of human resources development indicators should be developed for particular target groups among the disadvantaged sections of society to facilitate an informed approach to the incorporation of those groups into human resources development policy and planning.
- (79) Indicators of women's socio-economic status, including their labour force participation with particular attention to their role in agriculture and the informal sector, should be developed as a basis for special programmes to strengthen women's participation in human resources development.

Recommendation 25. Research on forecasting human resources development

Growing uncertainty and volatility in labour market conditions and related aspects of human resources development have increased the need to develop more effective forecasting systems for particular areas of concern. Conventional forecasting has been confined largely to manpower projections, and the manpower requirements approach that has been used is proving increasingly inadequate for dealing with the issues at hand. Research should therefore be undertaken to devise improved manpower forecasting methods and procedures and to expand their scope to cover the broader aspects of human resources development.

Proposals for action

- (80) General systems models should be developed to improve the reliability of forecasts of the labour

market and related human resources development variables.

- (81) Improved methods of technological forecasting should be explored, and appropriate procedures for incorporating such forecasts into human resources development policy and planning should be devised.
- (82) Techniques should be improved to facilitate medium- and long-term forecasting of critical quality-of-life variables in human resources development.

Recommendation 26. Research on socio-cultural aspects of human resources development

Among the major determinants of human resources development are socio-cultural factors such as behavioural norms, values, attitudes and stereotypes defining the roles of particular population groups on the basis of characteristics such as gender, ethnicity or social status. Certain socio-cultural conventions constrain human resources development, especially for particular disadvantaged groups. Others have the potential to facilitate human resources development. A better understanding of those factors would assist policy makers and planners in devising more effective human resources development programmes. Research should therefore be undertaken to examine both the constraining influences and potential supportive roles of socio-cultural factors in human resources development.

Proposals for action

- (83) The impact of social and legal conventions on human resources development, particularly in respect of disadvantaged groups, should be assessed.
- (84) Policy-oriented research should be conducted on the changes in socio-cultural values and attitudes, as well as legal conventions, needed to promote human resources development.
- (85) The social and economic conditions and human resources status of particular disadvantaged population groups should be examined. Alternative approaches to enhance their participation in, and

contribution to, the development of their human resources should be explored.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Recommendation 27. Information collection

A data base on the employment and manpower development, science and technology and quality-of-life aspects of human resources development should be compiled. Such information, both statistical and qualitative, is required to support research, policy and planning, plan implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of integrated human resources development at both the national and regional levels.

Proposals for action

- (86) A system to generate up-to-date information on human resources conditions should be established to provide a firm data base for the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of human resources development.
- (87) The collection of labour market information should be expanded. Existing data series should be strengthened in terms of both coverage and reliability. Additional data, including qualitative information, should be generated to permit more effective analysis of labour-market dynamics.
- (88) In view of the paucity of information on the informal sector, special efforts should be made to collect data on all aspects of human resources development in that sector. Statistical concepts and data-collection methods concerning the informal sector should be refined to support such efforts.

Recommendation 28. Information processing and analysis

Human resources development data are often inadequately utilized owing to limited processing facilities and expertise. Data processing and analytical capabilities should be upgraded in order to incorporate all relevant available data into human resources development policy-making and planning.

Proposals for action

- (89) Data processing facilities and analytical capabilities for human resources development information systems should be modernized. Special attention should be paid to the training and allocation of qualified personnel for human resources development information processing and analysis.
- (90) Data processing and analysis at the sectoral level should incorporate an integrated human resources development approach in order to facilitate the use of sectoral research outputs for national human resources development policy-making and planning.

Recommendation 29. Information dissemination

Systems should be developed to ensure the dissemination of a wide range of information concerning human resources development as a basis for improved policy-making and planning and increased popular participation. The public dissemination of relevant information would facilitate informed decision-making by all parties participating in human resources development efforts, including government officials, private sector and non-governmental organization personnel, and the public at large.

Proposals for action

- (91) The role of the mass media in increasing public awareness of human resources development issues should be fully utilized through regular dissemination of information and views concerning important policy and planning matters.
- (92) The mass media should be supported in their efforts to disseminate human resources development information relevant to the informal sector, paying special attention to the information needs of disadvantaged population groups in that sector.
- (93) Information and training materials on human resources development should be disseminated in readily accessible form to enabler and target groups at the grass-roots level. Where necessary, such materials should be translated

into the local languages and disseminated at reduced cost or cost-free as public service information.

- (94) All information disseminated by the mass media should be examined to identify and eliminate stereotypes that inhibit the full participation of disadvantaged population groups, including women, ethnic minorities and disabled people, in human resources development.

Recommendation 30. Information networking

The effective collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of human resources development information depend on the active participation of all organizations and agencies dealing with human resources development information. Networking of these organizations and agencies should be undertaken at the national and regional levels in order to facilitate the generation of comprehensive and consistent information on human resources development.

Proposals for action

- (95) National information networks on human resources development should be established to ensure that a comprehensive and consistent body of information is available for policy-making, planning and informed popular participation.
- (96) A regional human resources development information network should be established to facilitate the exchange of relevant information among ESCAP members and associate members and to support the activities of national networks in the region.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation 31. Monitoring and evaluation of human resources development policy and planning

Policy-making and planning for human resources development is an ongoing process, requiring continuing review and appraisal to ensure that optimum programme effectiveness is achieved and maintained. Procedures should

therefore be instituted to monitor and evaluate human resources development policies and planning on an ongoing basis.

Proposals for action

- (97) Procedures should be devised to monitor the implementation of human resources development plans and programmes on an ongoing basis.
- (98) Evaluation exercises should be undertaken at regular intervals to assess the relevance, impact and effectiveness of policies, plans, programmes and projects in meeting human resources development aims and objectives.
- (99) Periodic reports on the implementation of national human resources development plans should be prepared and disseminated widely in order to increase awareness of the progress of human resources development and strengthen multisectoral participation in pursuit of its aims and objectives.

Recommendation 32. Monitoring and evaluation of expenditure on human resources development

Expenditure on human resources development should be monitored and its social returns evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that the allocation of funds is adequate to meet requirements and consistent with planned priorities. Particular attention should be given to the monitoring and evaluation of expenditure on programmes and projects aimed at specific disadvantaged population groups.

Proposals for action

- (100) National budgets should be monitored to ensure that the financial resources allocated for the implementation of human resources development plans are adequate and that allocations for specific programmes and projects are consistent with planned priorities.
- (101) Sectoral budgets should be monitored to ensure that financial allocations for specific programmes and projects reflect priorities in favour of specific

target groups and that adequate support is provided to enabler groups at the local level.

- (102) Monitoring and evaluation of private sector expenditure on human resources development activities, particularly those relating to education and training, should be carried out to ensure complementarity of public and private expenditures on human resources development and provide a basis for appropriate policy and planning adjustments.

Recommendation 33. Monitoring and evaluation of major sectoral issues

The range of human resources development activities is so wide that in-depth monitoring and evaluation of individual sectoral issues are required to supplement the more general exercises. Appropriate techniques and procedures for monitoring and evaluating specific sectoral human resources development issues are therefore required.

Proposals for action

- (103) Regular procedures should be instituted for monitoring and evaluating labour-market dynamics and their wider human resources development implications.
- (104) The impact of technological change on manpower requirements should be monitored regularly and evaluated periodically, and the results of those evaluations should be taken into full account in human resources development policy and planning.
- (105) Effective techniques should be devised for monitoring and evaluating the quality-of-life aspects of human resources development. Specific sectoral indicators and monitoring procedures should be developed to permit a regular flow of information for programme adjustment to enhance the quality of life as a contributing factor in human resources development.
- (106) Regular exercises should be undertaken to monitor and evaluate the effects of national

plans of action for human resources development on disadvantaged population groups, particularly those specifically targeted in the plans.

Part three

ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

I. PARTICIPATION

1. Various participants must play closely co-ordinated, complementary roles in the execution of the Plan of Action if it is to have a significant influence on human resources development in the region. First and foremost, participating member and associate member Governments will need to devise national plans of action containing fully operational programmes and projects in conformity with the recommendations and proposals listed in the Plan of Action. The participating Governments will, in this connection, need to ensure adequate budgetary and other resource inputs for the implementation of the national plans of action. Furthermore, they will need to establish the necessary institutional infrastructures, including planning and executing bodies and national co-ordination mechanisms, to permit the full and effective discharge of their national responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of the Plan of Action.

2. Second, private sector and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public at large, must be mobilized, where appropriate, to play supportive roles in the formulation and execution of national plans of action. The national plans of action, in turn, will need to be devised in such a manner as to provide for the active participation of all concerned sectors in the execution of their constituent programmes and projects. The various concerned sectors will also need to develop projects complementary to, and supportive of, the national plans of action. Such multisectoral participation is essential not only to ensure the most effective use of scarce budgetary and manpower resources but also because the various sectors possess accumulated experience and expertise that can complement government efforts on behalf of human resources development.

3. At the regional level, the participation of intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations bodies and agencies active in the region, is

required to support national efforts. Specific activities must be devised by these organizations and agencies to extend technical assistance to participating members and associate members in accordance with the recommendations and proposals contained in the Plan of Action. In addition, activities need to be developed by these organizations and agencies to enhance regional co-operation, including technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC). Finally, it will be necessary for ESCAP to serve as the regional focal point for co-ordinating the execution of the Plan of Action. This will be in addition to its role as an executing agency for implementation of the Plan of Action at the regional level and support of activities at the national level.

4. All concerned donor countries and agencies will need to give special attention to the possibilities of providing financial assistance to ensure the full and effective execution of programmes and projects designed in conformity with the Plan of Action. In view of the magnitude of the task, the severe constraints impeding the realization of its aims and objectives, and the high priority placed on its achievement by the member and associate member Governments in their promulgation of this Plan of Action, it is urged that donor countries and agencies accord the highest priority to the allocation of adequate resources in support of activities for implementing the Plan.

II. CO-ORDINATION

A. Co-ordination at the national level

5. To ensure the full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level, each country would need to establish a national co-ordination mechanism for human resources development. Simplicity should be a guiding principle in the establishment of such mechanisms. Wherever possible, existing institutional arrangements should be relied on in preference to the creation of additional entities in an already complex governmental policy-making and administrative structure.

6. The recent experience of some countries of the region in developing such mechanisms provides useful prototypes for other countries to consider. In designing national co-ordination mechanisms for human resources development, it would be

necessary, however, to take into full consideration the widely differing circumstances prevailing in the region, including differences in the organizational framework of government and in intersectoral relationships.

7. As a general rule, it would be necessary for each national co-ordination mechanism to consist of several elements. A national focal point should be established at the highest possible policy-making level, preferably as an interministerial committee serving in an advisory capacity to the chief executive. The national focal point would oversee the co-ordination of all national activities concerning human resources development. It would also serve as the national counterpart in the region-wide system to co-ordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action.

8. The national focal point would require a secretariat, perhaps incorporated in an existing ministry for human resources development or established as a special unit within the national development planning ministry or equivalent body. It would be responsible for formulating the national Plan of Action on human resources development within the framework of the Plan of Action. It would be empowered to promote the active participation of all sectors, including private enterprise, non-governmental organizations and all population groups and communities, as appropriate, in the implementation of the national plan of action. It would also have responsibility for monitoring and evaluating plan implementation on a regular basis.

9. While the determination of the terms of reference of the national co-ordination mechanism would be the sovereign right and responsibility of each country, it would be useful for each country to give special consideration, in establishing its national mechanism, to the means whereby national co-ordination might best ensure conformity between national planning efforts and the framework for regional co-operation and international support provided by the Plan of Action. Such conformity could be ensured by entrusting the national focal point with the national liaison function in matters concerning regional co-ordination of human resources development activities in implementation of the Plan of Action.

B. Co-ordination at the regional level

10. Overall responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action as a regional effort, as distinct from the implementation of national plans of action at the individual country level, would rest with ESCAP. Under General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, ESCAP was directed to serve as the main general economic and social centre within the United Nations in the Asian and Pacific region, exercising team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level. Important elements in the co-ordinating role of ESCAP would be its assistance to countries of the region in their efforts to formulate and implement plans of action at the national level and its ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Plan of Action. This would serve as a basis for the secretariat's regular reports to the Commission on the progress in implementation of the Plan of Action.

11. In order to promote active participation in implementing the Plan of Action, provide opportunities for the exchange of information and sharing of views on human resources development issues and ensure effective co-ordination among all countries in the region, it would be appropriate to convene intergovernmental consultations and meetings from time to time. Periodic consultations would be held, in accordance with this arrangement, among the various national focal points to ensure effective co-ordination between the respective national plans of action within the framework provided by the regional Plan of Action. In addition, meetings of senior officials and ministerial conferences could be convened from time to time to consider special issues related to the implementation of the Plan. The Commission could, furthermore, consider the implementation of the Plan as a regular agenda item at its annual sessions.

12. It would also be necessary for the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, along with other inter-governmental bodies and international non-governmental organizations, to co-ordinate their various activities in support of human resources development in the Asian and Pacific region so as to ensure the most effective application of the scarce resources available. To deal with this need, an inter-agency task force

could be formed which would meet periodically to strengthen co-operation and complementarity in work programme formulation, budgeting and execution concerning human resources development issues.

III. PRIORITIES

13. While the Plan of Action incorporates an integrated approach to human resources development, it is not comprehensive in scope. Its 33 policy recommendations and 106 proposals for action represent a carefully defined set of priorities, in keeping with the main human resources development concerns of the countries of the region and the main issues addressed in the recent deliberations and decisions of the Commission.

14. In particular, the Plan of Action has been framed in keeping with the criteria for priority-setting endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session. These criteria are: (a) major importance to developing countries of the region; (b) promotion of economic growth and social development leading to alleviation of poverty; (c) assistance to the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and developing South Pacific island countries; (d) promotion of regional and subregional co-operation; and (e) support from members and associate members.

15. Further delineation of these priorities within the overall framework of the Plan of Action will follow the formulation of specific programmes and projects in accordance with the proposals for action. Such priority-setting will be the responsibility of the various government ministries and other agencies and organizations in both the public and private sectors charged with programme and project formulation at the national level, and of the various United Nations bodies and agencies and other intergovernmental organizations participating in the implementation of the Plan of Action at the regional level.

IV. TIME FRAME

16. The Plan of Action requires a time frame covering a sufficient number of years to ensure its effective implementation. As the development of human resources is inherently a long-term process, requiring an extended gestation period for investments in human capital

to bear their intended returns, an appropriate time span for the Plan would be the 13-year period 1988-2000.

17. Taking the year 2000 as a convenient time horizon, the plan period leading up to that year would be appropriately divided into three phases: 1988-1991, 1992-1995 and 1996-2000. These periods would accord with the phasing of the medium-term plan and biennial work programme cycles of the United Nations system. Viewed from the year of inception, these time periods could be designated, respectively, as the short-, medium- and long-term phases of the plan period.

18. The first phase, covering 1988-1991, would serve to lay the basis for subsequent plan implementation. It would realistically be limited to activities that could be undertaken within relatively fixed budget constraints, dictated by existing planning and programming cycles. Among the major activities to be undertaken during this phase would be the

establishment of the necessary institutional framework at the national and regional levels, formulation of national plans of action in conformity with the regional guidelines and preparation of preliminary studies and pilot projects.

19. The second and third phases would see the formulation and implementation of a co-ordinated series of human resources development projects at both the national and regional levels. The medium-term period, covering 1992-1995, would allow scope for expanded budgetary allocations to cover additional programmes and projects as human resources development concerns highlighted under the Plan of Action could be accommodated increasingly within the region's overall development effort. The third, long-term phase, covering 1996-2000, would permit broader structural adjustment and institutional change arising out of the policy-making and planning activities implemented during the earlier phases of the Plan of Action.

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Annex I

REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1988-1989

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PROGRAMME: DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

Subprogramme 1: Economic and social development strategies and policies

Programme elements:

1.1 Analysis of and assistance in special economic and social policy issues of major concern to the region*

Output:

Substantive servicing of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics (fourth quarter, 1989)

1.2 Review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade*

Output:

Reports to the Commission on review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the developing ESCAP region (one, first quarter, 1988; one, first quarter, 1989)

1.3 Comparative analysis of strategies, policies, policy instruments and institutions for economic and social development in the region

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on problems of foreign indebtedness; (b) Project on new roles for private and public sectors; (c) Project on employment and productivity in the light of new technological developments

1.4 Studies on opportunities and mechanisms for subregional, regional and interregional co-operation

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on interregional and regional co-operation

Subprogramme 2. Development planning methods, modelling and projections and administrative systems

2.1 Strengthening of development planning methods and capabilities

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on training for planners for developing ESCAP countries

2.2 Development modelling and projections*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on an interlinked model system

* Indicates priority programme element.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES (continued)

2.3 Research and assistance in public finance

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on fiscal relations between central and state/provincial governments; (b) Project on mechanisms and procedures for control over public expenditure

Subprogramme 3. Special measures in favour of the least developed countries

3.1 Monitoring and review of progress in implementing the Substantial New Programme of Action in the region*

Output:

(i) Reports to the Commission on progress in the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Substantial New Programme of Action in the region and inputs to the global review process (one, first quarter, 1988; one, first quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Missions to assist the least developed countries in strengthening their capabilities in the monitoring, review and appraisal of progress in implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (two, fourth quarter, 1988; two, fourth quarter, 1989)

3.2 In-depth studies on problems of special concern to the least developed countries of the region

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on domestic savings mobilization; (b) Project on the process of planning and plan implementation

3.3 Assistance to the least developed countries in formulating and executing policies and action plans, programmes and projects to accelerate development*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Missions to least developed countries in the region to advise on formulating and executing policies and action plans, programmes and projects to accelerate development (one each in first and third quarters, 1988; one each in first and third quarters, 1989); (b) Project on assistance in project preparation and human resources development

Subprogramme 4. Surveys and information on economic and social developments

4.1 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*

Output:

Technical publications: (a) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (one, third quarter, 1988; one, third quarter, 1989); (b) Expert group meeting on development issues and policies (one, third quarter, 1988; one, third quarter, 1989) (intermediate activity)

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES *(continued)*

4.2 Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on major development issues and problems

Output:

Technical publications: (a) Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (two issues, second and fourth quarters, 1988; two issues, second and fourth quarters, 1989); (b) Development Papers (two issues, second and fourth quarters, 1988; two issues, second and fourth quarters, 1989); (c) Development Planning Newsletter (three issues, second, third and fourth quarters, 1988; three issues, second, third and fourth quarters, 1989)

Subprogramme 5. Special measures in favour of island developing countries

5.1 Advisory and consultancy services on development planning, policies and issues*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on the development advisory team; (b) Project on short-term consultancy services

5.2 Training for development

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on selected aspects of development policy and planning

5.3 Research on policy and planning

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on the promotion of closer trade and investment relations between the Pacific island subregion and other ESCAP subregions

PROGRAMME: ENERGY

Subprogramme 1. Energy assessment and planning in Asia and the Pacific

Programme elements:

1.1 Regional energy scenes and economy

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the regional energy scenes as projected to the year 2010, including possible oil-price backlash effects (third quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical publication: Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific (fourth quarter, 1988)

(iv) Technical assistance: Advisory missions on national energy planning issues (one, second quarter, 1988; one, first quarter, 1989)

1.2 Strengthening of national capabilities in integrated energy planning and programming and management of energy demand: policy options and strategies*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on progress in national energy planning capabilities in the ESCAP region and the TCDC group on national energy planning (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical publication: Energy resources development problems in the ESCAP region (second quarter, 1988)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities in energy planning in a rapidly changing economic environment

Subprogramme 2. Accelerated development and use of new and renewable sources of energy

2.1 Assessment of energy for rural applications and integrated planning*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on rural energy planning and development (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical publication: Rural energy and integrated planning in the Asian and Pacific region (fourth quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities in rural energy planning and development

2.2 Co-operative research, development and demonstration of new and renewable sources of energy

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on new biogas developments in the Asian and Pacific region (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities in rural energy planning techniques

ENERGY (continued)

2.3 Transfer, adaptation and application of mature new and renewable energy technologies

Output:

(i) Technical publications: ESCAP Energy News (two, second and fourth quarters, 1988; two, second and fourth quarters, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities in and efficient utilization of new and renewable sources of energy

Subprogramme 3. Integrated investigation, development, conservation and efficient use of overall energy, with emphasis on conventional sources of energy

3.1 Development and utilization of coal resources

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the regional TCDC group on coal (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities in coal utilization and development

3.2 Development and utilization of oil and natural gas resources

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Oil supply trading in an era of changing oil prices and changing industry structure, with specific reference to Pacific island countries (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities in development and utilization of oil and natural gas

3.3 Energy conservation and conversion policy*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on energy conservation and conversion; (b) Missions on energy conservation (two, second and fourth quarters, 1988; two, second and fourth quarters, 1989)

3.4 Power system planning and management*

Output:

(i) Reports to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on: (a) Socio-economic impact of rural electrification (third quarter, 1989); (b) TCDC group on electric power (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Advisory missions on the optimization of the utilization of electricity generating plants (one each quarter, 1988; one each quarter, 1989); (b) Project on strengthening national capabilities in and efficient utilization of electric power systems

ENERGY *(continued)*

3.5 Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on exchange of information on the peaceful uses of nuclear techniques in the life sciences (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Support to interregional technical co-operation project within the framework of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Asian and Pacific region in the uses of nuclear techniques in the life sciences (1988, 1989)

PROGRAMME: ENVIRONMENT

Subprogramme 1: Environmental problems in the ESCAP region

Programme elements:

1.1 Environmental awareness

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) State of the environment in Asia and the Pacific (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Newsletter on environment and development issues (one, every quarter, 1988; one, every quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on promotion of environmental awareness in the ESCAP region

1.2 Strengthening the environmental dimensions of the Commission's work programme

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Reports to the Commission on special studies relating to the environmental aspects of the development of transport, and agriculture (one, second quarter, 1988; one, second quarter, 1989)

1.3 Incorporation of environmental considerations into development planning and processes*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment on integration of environmental considerations into development (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Project on integration of environment into development; (b) Project on planning and management of environmental technology

1.4 Management of terrestrial ecosystems*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment on management of terrestrial ecosystems (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on a regional network for desertification control

1.5 Protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment on the marine environment and related ecosystems (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Support to Co-ordinating Group meetings of South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (third quarter, 1988); (b) Project on protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems

PROGRAMME: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE†

Subprogramme 1: Agricultural development policy, planning and information systems

Programme elements:

1.1 Review of agricultural development policies, strategies and performance*

Output:

(i) (a) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Ad hoc expert group meeting to appraise the impact of international agricultural price instability on primary producers (fourth quarter, 1988) (intermediate output)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Guidelines on modernizing near-shore fishing operations (fourth quarter, 1988); (b) International agricultural prices, trade and impact on the socio-economic condition of primary producers (fourth quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on socio-economic development policies, strategies, and performance concerning food and agriculture covering areas such as impact of international agriculture trade on primary producers, fisheries modernization, agribusiness and investment and agriculture-industry linkages, as well as agricultural achievements in the region focusing, among others, on interaction between technological research and field application

1.2 Food supply assessment and distribution*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on agro-climatic assessment of food supplies in Asia (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on food supply assessment and distribution measures to mitigate the effects of weather aberrations

1.3 Development of agricultural information systems*

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Agricultural Information Development Bulletin (one issue, each quarter, 1988, 1989); (b) Training manual and guidelines for rural broadcasting (first quarter, 1988); (c) Directory of fertilizer-related projects in Asia (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Project on strengthening agricultural communication systems, including rural/farm broadcasting services; (b) Project on computerization of data and information on fertilizers, including strengthening the network of fertilizer information systems

1.4 Follow-up action on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the management of living resources

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on the law of the sea in respect of management of living resources (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on regional co-operation in fisheries through joint ventures and other arrangements

† Subprogramme 3, "Co-ordination of the regional inter-agency programme on integrated rural development", of the programme "Executive direction and management", is also implemented through this programme.

Subprogramme 2. Understanding of critical elements of agricultural development

2.1 Operation of the fertilizer advisory, development and information network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP)*

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Regional Information Support Service (RISS) on Agro-chemicals (monthly); (b) Agro-chemicals News in Brief (one issue, first and third quarters, 1988; two issues, second and third quarters, 1989); (c) Fertilizer Trade Information (monthly); (d) Calendar of meetings on Agro-chemicals (quarterly); (e) Country studies on supply, marketing distribution and use of fertilizers (one issue, second, third and fourth quarters, 1988, 1989); (f) Studies on fertilizer logistics management, farm-level distribution systems, pricing policies, credit availability and economics of fertilizer use (one, second, third and fourth quarters, 1988; one, third and fourth quarters, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Project on production, marketing, distribution and promotion of fertilizers; (b) Project on regional and interregional co-operation in fertilizer marketing

2.2 Agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP)

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Regional data on production, import, export and use of pesticides (one, fourth quarter, 1988, one, fourth quarter, 1989); (b) ARSAP pesticide index - revised edition (fourth quarter, 1989); (c) Agro-pesticides: their management and application - revised edition (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Project on safe handling and efficient use of pesticides; (b) Project on collection of regional data concerning production, import and use of pesticides, including preparation of a regional pesticide index

2.3 Research and development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber crops*

Output:

Technical assistance: Substantive support to the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, Bogor, Indonesia

2.4 Improving agricultural credit, marketing and extension systems

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Methods for improving price information systems (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on economic/institutional aspects of innovative methods for improving market access, credit delivery and recovery systems and extension services

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE *(continued)*

Subprogramme 3. Rural development focusing on improving the condition of disadvantaged groups

3.1 Improving the socio-economic condition of rural poor and disadvantaged groups such as small farmers, tenants, fisherfolk and women

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Study on promoting non-farm employment (third quarter, 1988); (b) Study on poverty alleviation in rural areas and in fishing communities (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on improving the socio-economic condition of the rural poor and disadvantaged groups through innovative activities for income improvement and employment creation

3.2 Utilization of agricultural residues as energy source for productive activities

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study of the socio-economic aspects of utilizing agricultural residues as an energy source (third quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on the socio-economic aspects of utilizing agricultural residues as an energy source for productive activities

PROGRAMME: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Subprogramme 1: Integrated settlements policies and planning

Programme elements:

1.1 Policies and strategies

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on settlements policies and planning

1.2 Settlements planning and development*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on regional TCDC activities in shelter and settlements planning and management

Subprogramme 2. Development of shelter, infrastructure and land

2.1 Promotion of innovative and appropriate technologies

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on promotion of innovative and appropriate building technologies

2.2 Low-income shelter development

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on delivery of shelter and basic services for low-income settlements

2.3 Land policies and management

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on land development and management

Subprogramme 3. Stimulation of institutional capabilities and public participation

3.1 Strengthening institutional capabilities through technical co-operation*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Support to the regional activities of the United Nations Regional Housing Centre, New Delhi, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Research on Human Settlements, Bandung (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Project on strengthening the network of local authorities on a TCDC basis

3.2 Public participation in human settlements financing and development*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on promotion of public participation in human settlements financing and development processes

PROGRAMME: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Subprogramme 1: Policies and strategies

Programme elements:

1.1 Regional review of industrial progress

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Meeting of Ministers of Industry (fourth quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical publication: Industrial Development News in Asia and the Pacific (one, third quarter, 1988, one, third quarter, 1989)

1.2 Industrial plans and policies

Output:

Technical assistance: Advisory missions on planning and policy formulation on industrial development (one, second quarter, 1988; one, third quarter, 1989)

1.3 Assistance to least developed countries and island developing countries*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on the least developed and island developing countries for industrial development, project identification and formulation, and promotion of industrial activities and pilot projects

1.4 Development of agro- and allied industries*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on development of agro- and allied industries

1.5 Development of small- and medium-scale industries*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Small Industries Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (one, fourth quarter, 1988; one, fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on entrepreneurship development, export-oriented industries, technology-sharing and energy conservation in small- and medium-scale industries

1.6 Investment promotion activities and enhancement of the private sector in industrialization

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on policies, investment and productivity of the private sector (one, third quarter, 1988; one, second quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on investment promotion activities

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT *(continued)*

Subprogramme 2. Resource mobilization and project development and implementation

2.1 Resource mobilization programme*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on human resources development

2.2 Programme on project development and implementation

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on sectoral industrial development (one, third quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on sectoral industrial development

Subprogramme 3. Regional and subregional industrial development

3.1 Regional industrial co-operation (ESCAP "club" for industrial co-operation)*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting on technical and economic co-operation among developing countries (one, first quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on industrial co-operation

Subprogramme 4. Enhancing the role and efficiency of industrial undertakings in the public sector

4.1 Development and improvement of technical and managerial efficiency in public sector industries

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on the improvement of technical and managerial efficiency, including privatization of public sector industries in selected developing countries (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on improvement of technical and managerial efficiency in the public sector

PROGRAMME: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Subprogramme 1: Trade expansion, trade facilitation measures and monetary co-operation

Programme elements:

1.1 Trade expansion and major trade policy issues*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of a session of the Committee on Trade (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Intergovernmental meeting on the feasibility of establishing a regional network on counter-trade facilitation (second quarter, 1988); (b) Intergovernmental meeting on the utilization of the generalized system of preferences (first quarter, 1989); (c) Project on the role of services in the economies and trade of the region and international trade negotiations; (d) Project on modalities for trade expansion between countries having different economic and social systems; (e) Project on counter-trade facilitation and long-term contracts and trading arrangements

1.2 Trade-creating joint ventures and investment opportunities

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on trade-creating joint ventures and investment opportunities (second quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on trade-creating joint ventures and investment opportunities

1.3 Monetary co-operation, trade and development finance, balance-of-payments support

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on the expansion of membership and scope of activities of the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation; (b) Project on the development of financial and credit facilities for trade expansion

1.4 Trade and customs facilitation measures

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Organization of the meeting of national trade facilitation bodies (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Project on manpower development in the fields of trade and customs facilitation

1.5 Trade in manufactures

Output:

(i) Organization of an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on an integrated programme on manufactures (first quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on an integrated programme for promotion of trade in manufactures

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE (continued)

Subprogramme 2: Trade promotion and development

2.1 Trade information services*

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Trade information source data bank (monthly); (b) Trade information source directory (quarterly); (c) TISNET trade information sheet (biweekly); (d) TIS QUICK (weekly); (e) Trade profiles (fourth quarter, 1989); (f) Prices of selected Asia/Pacific products (monthly); (g) Directory of trade promotion and development organizations (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Provision of trade information services and strengthening of the regional trade information network (TISNET) (1988, 1989); (b) Project on the development and strengthening of national and regional trade/commodity information centres

2.2 Trade promotion development*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on trade promotion development; (b) Organization of meeting of heads of national trade development and promotion agencies (third quarter, 1988)

2.3 Market and product development*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Market profiles of selected products/commodities (one, third quarter, 1988; one, fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Organization of the Fifth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (1988, 1989); (b) Project on market and product development

Subprogramme 3: Raw materials and commodities

3.1 Promotion of subregional, regional and interregional co-operation in selected raw materials and commodities of socio-economic importance to member countries of the region

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Organization of intergovernmental meetings of regional co-operative bodies in jute, silk and tropical timber (one, third and fourth quarters, 1988; one, second quarter, 1989); (b) Project on co-operation in jute, silk and tropical timber

3.2 Development of commodities of interest to the region*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on development of commodities of socio-economic interest

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE (continued)

Subprogramme 4: Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

4.1 Improvement of trade performance of least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of a session of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on improvement of the trade performance of least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

4.2 Promotion of trade and economic co-operation with least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on promotion of trade and economic co-operation with least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Subprogramme 5: Economic co-operation among developing countries in trade-related areas

5.1 Promotion of subregional, regional and interregional trade co-operation*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Project on the development of subregional and regional trade co-operation, including the Bangkok Agreement and its Standing Committee; (b) Project on interregional trade co-operation

PROGRAMME: MARINE RESOURCES

Subprogramme 1: Exploration, evaluation development and management of marine mineral resources

Programme elements:

1.1 Strengthening of national capabilities in exploration and development of marine mineral resources*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on marine geology and geophysics training

1.2 Review and appraisal of the geology, occurrence, development and management of marine resources

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy with emphasis on the specific needs of the interested developing countries of the region in marine resources development (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical publication: Study on ocean energy resources (one, fourth quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on appraisal of the geology, occurrence, development and management of marine resources

1.3 Technical support to regional and subregional projects concerning marine mineral resources and geology

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on progress of regional projects in support of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) and the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC) (two, third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Technical backstopping of ESCAP/UNDP regional projects in support of CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC (1988, 1989)

1.4 Strengthening of national capabilities and promotion of regional co-operation relating to implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on the implications of the new ocean regime deriving from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for selected subregions of Asia and the Pacific (one, fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities of interested developing countries with regard to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in selected subregions of Asia and the Pacific

PROGRAMME: NATURAL RESOURCES

Subprogramme 1: Exploration, evaluation, rational utilization and management of mineral resources

Programme elements:

1.1 Exploration, assessment and development of mineral resources

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Sales publications: (a) Atlas of Stratigraphy (vol. VIII, third quarter, 1988; vol. IX, third quarter, 1989); (b) Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region (one, third quarter, 1988; one, third quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical publications: (a) Study on industrial minerals potential in the region and the status of development in the industrial minerals sector (third quarter, 1988); (b) Study on assessment of exploration activities in the region (third quarter, 1989)

(iv) Technical assistance: Project on stratigraphic correlation between sedimentary basins of the ESCAP region

1.2 Technical support to regional and subregional mineral projects

Output:

(i) Technical assistance: Support to the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC) (1988-1989)

1.3 Strengthening of national capabilities of investigation and development of mineral resources*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on regional mineral resources development

1.4 Management and utilization of mineral resources in support of economic and social development plans*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: (a) Review of mineral development in the region, 1985-1988 (second quarter, 1989); (b) Study on the impact of the structural changes and the effects of conservation, substitution and recycling on the mineral industry of the region (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on training activities on the changing patterns in the mineral industry and on comparative geologic modelling in resources assessment and exploration

1.5 Geology and urban development*

Output:

(i) Technical publications: Atlas of urban geology (one, third quarter, 1988; one, third quarter, 1989)

NATURAL RESOURCES (continued)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on thematic mapping of volcanic hazards in the urban environment and exploration, assessment and development of construction materials

Subprogramme 2. Rational development, management and utilization of water resources

2.1 Support for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on status of implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the end of the first decade (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical publication: (a) Guidelines for preparation of national master water plans (second quarter, 1989); (b) Study on development and conservation of ground-water resources in selected least developed countries and developing island countries in the region (third quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: (a) Expert group meeting to review and finalize draft guidelines for preparation of national master water plans (first quarter, 1989); (b) Advisory missions on water resources development (four, 1988; four, 1989)

2.2 Promotion of regional co-operation in water resources development*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the co-ordination of the activities of the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific (third quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical publications: (a) Water quality monitoring systems in the ESCAP region (third quarter, 1989); (b) Water-use data systems in the ESCAP region (second quarter, 1989)

(iv) Technical assistance: (a) Support to the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (first and third quarters, 1988; first and third quarters, 1989); (b) Project on water-use statistics, water quality, environmental considerations in water resources development and promotion of TCDC in water resources

2.3 Mitigation of damage from cyclones, floods and droughts

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on problems caused by natural disasters in selected least developed countries and developing island countries of the region and long-term effective measures to mitigate the effects of disasters (second quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Support to Typhoon Committee (1988, 1989); (b) Support to Panel on Tropical Cyclones (1988, 1989)

NATURAL RESOURCES *(continued)*

2.4 Information and training in water resources development*

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Water Resources Journal (one each quarter, 1988; one each quarter, 1989); (b) Confluence (one each, second and fourth quarters, 1988; one each, second and third quarters, 1989); (c) Water Resources Series (one, fourth quarter, 1988; one each, second, third and fourth quarters, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on the regional network for training in water resources development, phase II

2.5 Non-conventional water development

Output:

Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on assessment of experience in application of solar and wind energies in water resources development and prospects for application in the region (third quarter, 1989)

Subprogramme 3. Cartography and remote sensing

3.1 Promotion of regional co-operation in the application of remote sensing techniques for efficient management of natural resources and the environment

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical publication: Study on current status of application of remote sensing techniques for efficient assessment, development, utilization and management of natural resources and the environment (second quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities in the application of remote sensing techniques for efficient assessment, development, utilization and management of natural resources and the environment

PROGRAMME: POPULATION

Subprogramme 1: Population and development

Programme elements:

1.1 Formulation and implementation of integrated population policies and programmes for development*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Population and Social Development (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Asia and the Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development (fourth quarter, 1988); (b) Ad hoc expert group meeting on developing methodologies for review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development (third quarter, 1988) (intermediate output); (c) Comparative study and systems analyses of the inter-relationships between women's role and status and population changes (fourth quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Advisory missions on population and development matters (one each, third and fourth quarters, 1988; one each, third and fourth quarters, 1989)

1.2 Mortality, morbidity, aging and development*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on emerging issues of the aging of population (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Advisory missions to assist in the analysis of infant and childhood mortality differentials (one each, third and fourth quarters, 1988; one each, third and fourth quarters, 1989)

1.3 Urbanization, population distribution, migration and development*

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Study on urbanization patterns and policies in Asia and the Pacific (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Study on urbanization and the status of women (fourth quarter, 1989)

1.4 Population composition, estimates and projections

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Estimates of demographic indicators for Asian and Pacific countries (first quarter, 1988; first quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Advisory missions on demographic analysis and population projections (two, third quarter, 1988; two, third quarter, 1989)

1.5 Human resources development in population

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on human resources development in population

POPULATION (continued)

Subprogramme 2. Population policies

2.1 Support to countries in developing and implementing population policies and family planning programmes*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Population and Social Development (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Project for backstopping national fertility research and family planning evaluation activities; (b) Missions to promote TCDC in family planning (two, 1988; two, 1989)

2.2 Promotion of new approaches in service delivery systems

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on the introduction of community participation in respective national family planning programmes

2.3 Improvement of skills of family planning programme personnel and researchers

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on skill development in family planning management information systems and the use of microcomputers for survey analysis and programme evaluation

2.4 Changing role of women and family planning

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study on the changing role of women and acceptance of family planning practices (third quarter, 1988; third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on the changing role of women and acceptance of family planning practices

2.5 Studies on fertility, family planning and related policies and programmes*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Study related to management information systems, acceptance of family planning and determinants of fertility (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on improvement of management information systems, family planning motivation and practices and determinants of fertility

Subprogramme 3. Population information

3.1 Information support to member countries for integration of population and development, policy formulation and programme implementation*

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Asia-Pacific Population Journal (four issues per year); (b) Population Headliners (12 issues per year); (c) Population Research Leads (three issues per year); (d) Ad hoc publications - brochures, data sheets etc. (one or two issues per year)

POPULATION (continued)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on translation of selected ESCAP technical publications into national languages

3.2 Assistance in development of national population information centres and networks in ESCAP member countries*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Organization of TCDC workshop on population information for staff of national population information centres (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Project on technical assistance and backstopping to population information centres and UNFPA country programme execution; (c) Fellowships for country project personnel in national population information centres (three, third quarter, 1988; three, third quarter, 1989)

3.3 Co-ordination of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN)

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Asia and the Pacific and world-wide documents on population topics (ADOPT) (12 issues in 1988; six issues in 1989); (b) Asia-Pacific POPIN Newsletter (four issues per year); (c) Recommended titles in population (four issues per year); (d) Directory of population data bases in Asia-Pacific region (fourth quarter, 1988); (e) Report of Asia-Pacific POPIN expert group meeting (1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Project on Asia-Pacific POPIN; (b) Project on development of regional and subregional population information systems and networks in co-operation with the POPIN global programme; (c) Missions to promote the concept of population information networks (two, first quarter, 1988; two, first quarter, 1989)

3.4 Development of a regional population data bank

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on development of a regional population data bank

PROGRAMME: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Subprogramme 1: Institutional and policy infrastructure for science and technology

Programme elements:

1.1 Improvements in science and technology policy and institutional structure*

Output:

(i) (a) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements (third quarter, 1989); (b) Ad hoc expert group meeting on integration of women in technological development (second quarter, 1989) (intermediate output)

(ii) Technical publication: Regional end-of-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development (fourth quarter, 1988)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on strategies for technological development of the ESCAP region

1.2 Assessment of technological capabilities and needs*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting on technological capabilities and needs (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on in-depth assessment of technological needs and capabilities in Asia and the Pacific

1.3 Strengthening of research and development organization and management*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on strengthening of research and development organization and management

1.4 Promotion of the application of energy-efficient technology

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on energy conservation in commercial and domestic sectors

Subprogramme 2: Strengthening the technological capabilities of member countries

2.1 Substantive backstopping of regional institutions

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (1988, 1989); (b) Support to the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (1988, 1989)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (continued)

2.2 Upgrading of negotiating capabilities and improvement of terms of acquisition of technology*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Revised training manual on the acquisition of foreign technologies and negotiation and execution of contracts (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on upgrading capabilities for acquisition of foreign technologies

2.3 Promotion of technology transfer in specific areas

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Advisory missions on specific problems relating to technology transfer (two, second and fourth quarters, 1988; two, second and fourth quarters, 1989); (b) Project on technology transfer

2.4 Promotion of intraregional technology trade and diffusion of technological innovations*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Directory of marketable technology of the ESCAP region (first quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on diffusion of technological innovations

2.5 Strengthening of project generation capabilities, engineering design and consultancy services

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on industrial consultancy development

2.6 Standardization and related activities

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental meeting of heads of standards institutions (second quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on standardization and quality control

2.7 Technology for selected industries

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on technology application for selected industries

2.8 Development of human resources*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on development of human resources for technological progress

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY *(continued)*

Subprogramme 3. Monitoring major breakthroughs in science and technology

3.1 Assessment of new technologies

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on assessment of new technologies

3.2 Assimilation and development of new technologies*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on research, development and demonstration projects in selected areas of technology

PROGRAMME: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Subprogramme 1: Popular participation

Programme elements:

1.1 Strengthening of national mechanisms for the integration of women in development*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Population and Social Development on the regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publication: Guidelines on upgrading the legal status of women (third quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: (a) Advisory services to strengthen national mechanisms for the integration of women in development (three, 1988; three, 1989); (b) Project on strengthening of national mechanisms for the integration of women in development

1.2 Participation of women in development

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) Annotated bibliography on women and development in Asia and the Pacific (second quarter, 1988); (b) Regional directories on women's participation in development (first and fourth quarters, 1989); (c) Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific Newsletter (second and fourth quarters, 1988; second and fourth quarters, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Advisory services to promote the participation of women in development (six, 1988; six, 1989); (b) Project on promoting the participation of women in development

1.3 Assessment of the situation of youth in development* (NEW)

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Population and Social Development on training youth for participation in development (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Review of youth policies in the ESCAP region (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Youth development information publication (one, second and fourth quarters, 1988; one, second and fourth quarters, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on assessing the situation of youth in development

1.4 Mobilization of youth for development

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Regional directory of governmental and non-governmental organizations working for the mobilization of youth for development (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Ad hoc expert group meetings on critical issues facing rural, migrant and urban youth, including skills development, unemployment and crime (one each in second and third quarters, 1988; one each in second and fourth quarters, 1989); (b) Advisory services to strengthen national efforts in mobilizing youth for development (three, 1988; three, 1989); (c) Project on promoting the participation of youth in development

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

1.5 Promotion of opportunities for the participation of the disabled and aging in development (NEW)

Output:

(i) Reports to the Committee on Population and Social Development on the regional situation of the disabled and aging (two, fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Studies on the integration of the aging in development, including social security and social services (fourth quarter, 1988; fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Handbook on community awareness programmes concerning disability (fourth quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: (a) Advisory services to promote the participation of the disabled and aging in development (one, 1988; one, 1989); (b) Project on promoting the participation of the disabled and aging in development

Subprogramme 2: Social development policies and co-ordination

2.1 Integrated social development planning*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Population and Social Development (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Report to the Committee on Social Development on current issues in the field of integrated social development planning and policy (second quarter, 1988)

(iii) Technical assistance: (a) Advisory services on strengthening national efforts in social development planning and policy (four, 1988; four, 1989); (b) Project on promoting integrated social development planning

2.2 Policy analysis of emerging social development issues* (NEW)

Output:

(i) (a) Report to the Committee on Population and Social Development on the regional social situation (fourth quarter, 1988); (b) Report to the Commission on the status of the family in the context of socio-economic change (fourth quarter, 1988); (c) Report to the Commission on the impact of science and technology on disadvantaged population groups (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publication: Study on consumer protection issues in the ESCAP region (first quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on selected emerging social development issues

2.3 Participation of non-governmental organizations in promoting social development* (NEW)

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Population and Social Development on the role of non-governmental organizations in promoting social development (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publication: Study on measures to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations in social development (first quarter, 1989)

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening co-ordination between non-governmental organizations and Governments in promoting social development

2.4 Social development information system

Output:

Technical publications: (a) Social Development Newsletter (one, first, second and third quarters, 1988; one, first, second and third quarters, 1989); (b) Compendium of social development indicators in the ESCAP region (third quarter, 1988); (c) Study on indicators for the assessment of social conditions and trends (third quarter, 1989)

2.5 Facilitation of human resources development

Output:

(i) Reports to the Commission on: (a) A draft integrated plan of action on human resources development in the ESCAP region (first quarter, 1988); (b) The implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (first quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical publications: Studies on major issues of human resources development in the ESCAP region (first quarter, 1988; first quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on the facilitation of human resources development policies and programmes in the ESCAP region

Subprogramme 3. Health and development

3.1 Development of basic community services*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Population and Social Development on current issues in the delivery of basic community services (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publication: Regional survey of community participatory approaches in the provision of basic community services (second quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on strengthening national capabilities for community participation in basic community services

3.2 Promotion of drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes* (NEW)

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Population and Social Development on conditions and trends in drug abuse and drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Compendium of drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes (third quarter, 1989); (b) Data base on drug abuse (1989); (c) Guidelines and recommendations for a standard format for drug abuse data collection, analysis and presentation (fourth quarter, 1988)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on promoting drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

PROGRAMME: STATISTICS

Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

Programme elements:

1.1 Promotion, co-ordination and management of statistical development activities in the region

Output:

(i) (a) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Organization of a working group of statistical experts (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Reports to the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics on various aspects of statistical development and information service activities (12, fourth quarter, 1989)

(iii) Reports to the Commission on selected issues in statistical development and information services (two, first quarter, 1988; one, first quarter, 1989)

(iv) Report to United Nations Statistical Commission, twenty-fifth session (first quarter, 1989)

(v) Technical publication: Statistical Newsletter (quarterly)

(vi) Technical assistance: Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (1988, 1989)

1.2 Promotion of overall national statistical capabilities*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Sample surveys in the ESCAP region (one, third quarter, 1988, one, third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Missions to countries to advise on general statistical organization and development (two, third quarter, 1988; two, third quarter, 1989); (b) Project on strengthening national statistical capabilities

1.3 Development of economic statistics analysis, including national accounts*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Revised manual on international trade statistics in the ESCAP region (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on the development, improvement and analysis of economic statistics, including national accounts

1.4 Development of social, demographic and other related statistics*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Manual on socio-economic indicators and on statistics on women (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on the development and improvement of social, demographic, and other related statistics

STATISTICS (continued)

1.5 Government information systems^{a/}

Output:

- (i) Report to the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics on a review of government computerization (fourth quarter, 1989)
- (ii) Technical publication: Government Computerization Newsletter (quarterly)
- (iii) Technical assistance: Project on government computerization

Subprogramme 2: Statistical information services

2.1 Collection of basic data relating to all fields of statistics, their edit and maintenance in time series records, and their retrieval for dissemination through special compilations and secretariat publications

Output:

- (i) Technical publications: Asia-Pacific in Figures (one, first quarter, 1988; one, first quarter, 1989); in addition, ad hoc information services and special compilations are provided
- (ii) Sales publications: (a) Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly); (b) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (one, first quarter, 1988, one, first quarter, 1989); (c) Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (one, second quarter, 1988; one, second quarter, 1989)

2.2 Development of a network of statistical data bases within ESCAP

Output:

This activity will not result in any standard final output delivered directly to member Governments. The network of statistical data bases planned to be established within ESCAP under this programme element will use certain standard procedures for data collection, storage, retrieval, manipulation, analysis and dissemination. Apart from the benefit of in-house use of such a co-ordinated network of data bases, member Governments should benefit through a reduction or elimination of duplicative data requests from different ESCAP units, as well as through greater consistency in the statistical information disseminated by ESCAP. Prototypes of such data base systems may be replicated in developing countries, based on ESCAP experience.

^{a/} This programme element is implemented by the Data Processing Section of the Division of Administration, deriving the resources from the programme on administration and common services.

PROGRAMME: TRANSPORT I (TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM)

Subprogramme 1. General transport planning and facilitation of international traffic

Programme elements:

1.1 Strategies, policies and planning for transport development*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Reports to the Commission on progress of implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade (one, first quarter, 1988; one, first quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical publication: Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (one, second quarter 1988; one, second quarter 1989)

(iv) Technical assistance: Project on promotion of public awareness of the role of transport and communications and multimodal transport systems in the national development process

1.2 Development of urban and public transport*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on techniques for urban and public transport planning and urban traffic management

1.3 Environmental impact of transport planning

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on the applicability of environmental impact assessment and cost-benefit aspects of environmental management in transport planning

1.4 Facilitation of international surface transport

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on facilitation of international transport

Subprogramme 2. Development of highways and highway transport

2.1 Formulation of strategies for development of highways and highway transport*

Output:

(i) Substantive preparation and servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of highway experts (third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on development of and trends in roads and road transport

2.2 Rational use of energy in transport*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on research and development in the utilization of natural gas and evaluation techniques for energy conservation in the transport sector

TRANSPORT I (TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM) (continued)

2.3 Development of improved and low-cost road transport infrastructure*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on low-cost motorized means of transport, optimum design standards and analysis of rural transport systems

2.4 Improvement of road construction and maintenance

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on information systems relating to road fleets and improvement of road maintenance management

2.5 Improvement of traffic engineering

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on application of electronic data processing systems in traffic engineering

2.6 Road traffic safety and accident prevention*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on educational road safety campaigns

2.7 Promotion of regional and international road transport*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on promotion of regional and international road transport, including the Asian Highway, and improvement of efficiency in transport companies through application of electronic data processing

2.8 Manpower development and training in roads and road transport*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on improvement of skills of road transport executives through computer-assisted management techniques

Subprogramme 3. Development of railways and railway transport

3.1 Railway development planning*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of: (a) Intergovernmental railway group meeting (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) Railway research co-ordination group meeting (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Review of railway development plans of the countries in the region (phase I) (second quarter, 1989); (b) Study on existing co-operative arrangements in the region in the field of railways (second quarter, 1988)

(iii) Technical assistance: (a) Project on railway development planning; (b) Organization of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Railways of South Asian Countries (1989)

TRANSPORT I (TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM) (continued)

3.2 Development and strengthening of intraregional and interregional railway linkages*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on the Trans-Asian Railway network and the Asian Railway master plan (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Review of the development of railway linkages between the ESCAP and ECE regions (third quarter, 1989); (b) Study on the possibility of using the existing sections of the Trans-Asian Railway for the development of rail-cum-sea transport (third quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on the Trans-Asian Railway network and Asian Railway master plan

3.3 Optimum utilization of railway infrastructure and rolling stock, including maintenance*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on ESCAP activities in the field of optimum utilization of railway infrastructures and rolling stock, and maintenance (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on the technical, managerial and operational aspects of railway transport

3.4 Modernization of railways, including technology transfer*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on modernization of railways (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical publication: Review of modern railway technology (second quarter, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on improvement of railway safety and modernization of railway telecommunication systems

3.5 Development of regional and interregional co-operation through the Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group*

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Support to the meetings of the Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group and sub-groups (1988, 1989); (b) Project on promotion of regional and interregional co-operation in the field of railways

3.6 Railway manpower development and training*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on railway manpower development, including newly-established railway statistics and information systems

TRANSPORT I (TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM) (continued)

Subprogramme 4. Development of air cargo transport

4.1 Promotion of economic aspects of air cargo transport

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Guidelines on the role of air cargo transport in multimodal transport systems (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on an air cargo management system applicable to the ESCAP developing countries

Subprogramme 5. Development of communications infrastructure

5.1 Promotion of telecommunication development

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on the socio-economic impact of telecommunication development in rural areas

5.2 Promotion of regional co-operation in the development of postal services and evaluation of their social and economic impact*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on the social and economic impact of improvement in postal services in rural and isolated areas

Subprogramme 6. Development of tourism

6.1 Role of tourism in promotion of appropriate development strategies and policies

Output:

Technical assistance: (a) Expert group meeting on measurement of the economic impact of tourism by input-output analysis (fourth quarter, 1988); (b) Project on enhancing the role of tourism

6.2 Planning for co-ordinated tourism development

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on planning and fostering of tourism growth

PROGRAMME: TRANSPORT II (SHIPPING, PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS)

Subprogramme 1. Development of maritime policy and institutions

Programme elements:

1.1 Maritime policy*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Report to the Committee on regional developments in shipping, ports and inland waterways (fourth quarter, 1988)

(iii) Technical assistance: Project on the formulation of a regional maritime development strategy

1.2 Maritime legislation

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on maritime legislation

1.3 Maritime information service

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on enhancement of the maritime data base and development of maritime transport statistics

1.4 Maritime training and education

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on development of maritime training and education

Subprogramme 2. Development of merchant marines and shipping services

2.1 Shipping management and operations*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on shipping management and operations

2.2 Ship construction, repair and maintenance

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on enhancement of ship construction, repair and maintenance

2.3 Fleet development and financing*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on fleet development and financing

TRANSPORT II (SHIPPING, PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS) *(continued)*

2.4 Co-operation in shipping

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on co-operation in shipping

Subprogramme 3. Port development

3.1 Port development policy, planning and construction

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Port statistical review (one, second quarter, 1988; one, third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on port planning requirements and meetings of chief executives of port authorities

3.2 Port operations, containerization and multimodal transport systems

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on container operations and equipment, establishment and strengthening of port training institutes and multimodal transport systems

3.3 Port management services*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Revision of port management information system (PORTMIS) (third quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on management and marketing strategies, techniques and middle-level personnel

3.4 Port computerization (Transport Decade)*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: ESCAP port computer handbook (2nd edition) (fourth quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on port computerization and software development, and exchange of port computer staff on a TCDC basis

3.5 Port pricing and investment (Transport Decade)*

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on implementation of improved financial management procedures and port pricing and investment

TRANSPORT II (SHIPPING, PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS) (continued)

Subprogramme 4. Development of inland water transport

4.1 Policy and planning*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Audio-visuals on inland water transport (one, third quarter, 1988; one, third quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: (a) Ad hoc expert group meeting to review activities and future programme of action in inland water transport (third quarter, 1988); (b) Project on improvement of information and statistical systems on inland water transport

4.2 Development and maintenance of inland waterways*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Guidelines for design of navigation canals (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on development and maintenance of waterways, including low-cost dredging techniques

4.3 Fleet improvement

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Standard designs and technical specifications of river coasters (third quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on development, management, economic and technical operations of inland water transport fleets

4.4 Development of terminals and land facilities

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on development and maintenance of terminals and landing facilities

4.5 Upgrading of dredging capability

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on operational and management aspects of dredging and related hydrographic surveying and sedimentology, equipment processes and instrumentation

Subprogramme 5. Shippers' organizations and co-operation

5.1 Establishment and strengthening of national shippers' organizations

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on the promotion of shippers' organizations

TRANSPORT II (SHIPPING, PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS) (continued)

5.2 Promotion of regional and subregional co-operation among shippers' organizations

Output:

Technical assistance: Project on promotion of co-operation among shippers' organizations

5.3 Cargo consolidation, freight booking and chartering activities*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Guidelines on the establishment and management of a freight booking centre (third quarter, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on cargo consolidation and freight booking

5.4 Strengthening of freight forwarders' organizations*

Output:

(i) Technical publication: Manual on freight forwarding (fourth quarter, 1989)

(ii) Technical assistance: Project on the establishment and strengthening of national freight forwarders' associations and organizations

PROGRAMME: TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Subprogramme 1. Securing an effective code of conduct and other international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations

Programme elements:

1.1 Support to the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in securing and implementing an effective code of conduct and other international and regional arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations

Output:

Reports to the Commission on the current status of the code of conduct on TNCs and other international and regional arrangements and agreements relating to TNCs (one, 1988, one, 1989)

1.2 Provision of assistance to ESCAP member Governments in securing and implementing an effective code of conduct and other international and regional arrangements relating to transnational corporations

Output:

(i) Technical publications: Study on issues related to international and regional arrangements relating to TNCs (one, 1988)

(ii) Technical assistance: Advisory mission on issues related to the code of conduct and co-operative arrangements concerning TNC operation in the ESCAP region (one, 1989)

Subprogramme 2. Minimizing the negative effects of transnational corporations and enhancing their contribution to development

2.1 Regional support to the UNCTC global research programme

Output:

Reports to the Commission on the role and impact of TNCs in priority sectors in the ESCAP region as identified by the Commission on Transnational Corporations (one, 1988, one, 1989)

2.2 Research on transnational corporations in the region*

Output:

(i) Report to the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics on main issues in the field of transnational corporations (1988)

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Studies on specific issues regarding the activities of TNCs (two, 1988); (b) Studies on TNC activities in least developed and developing island countries (one, 1988, one, 1989); (c) Studies on TNCs in selected industries (two, 1989); (d) Studies on impact of TNCs on the economic and social development process (one, 1988, one, 1989)

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS *(continued)*

Subprogramme 3. Strengthening the capability of host developing countries in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations

3.1 Support to UNCTC in the provision of advisory and information services to member Governments*

Output:

(i) Reports to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the provision of advisory, training and information services in the ESCAP countries (one, 1988, one, 1989)

(ii) Servicing the annual session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations (one, 1988, one, 1989)

3.2 Provision of advisory and information services to member Governments*

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics (1988)

(ii) Technical publication: TNC Review (one, 1988, one, 1989)

(iii) Technical assistance: (a) Workshop/seminar on issues relating to transnational corporations (one, 1988); (b) Ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on TNCs (1989)

Appendix

SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1988-1989

		Resource requirements 1988-1989			
		RB	RA	XB	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
		-- (work-months)	--	--	--
PROGRAMME: DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES					
1.1	Analysis of and assistance in special economic and social policy issues of major concern to the region*	20	-	-	-
1.2	Review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade*	10	-	-	-
1.3	Comparative analysis of strategies, policies, policy instruments and institutions for economic and social development in the region	30	-	-	56
1.4	Studies on opportunities and mechanisms for subregional, regional and interregional co-operation	24	-	-	80
2.1	Strengthening of development planning methods and capabilities	12	-	-	600
2.2	Development modelling and projections*	48	-	-	174
2.3	Research and assistance in public finance	24	-	-	70
3.1	Monitoring and review of progress in implementing the Substantial New Programme of Action in the region*	18	-	-	-
3.2	In-depth studies on problems of special concern to the least developed countries of the region	18	-	-	77
3.3	Assistance to the least developed countries in formulating and executing policies and action plans, programmes and projects to accelerate development*	18	-	-	140
4.1	Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*	90	-	-	-
4.2	Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on major development issues and problems	24	-	-	30

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES (continued)

Resource requirements 1988-1989			
RB -- (work-months)	RA	XB --	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
8	24	96	522
12	-	-	112
4	-	-	90
360	24	96	1 951

PROGRAMME: ENERGY

1.1	Regional energy scenes and economy	25	8	-	-
1.2	Strengthening of national capabilities in integrated energy planning and programming and management of energy demand: policy options and strategies*	36	-	-	495
2.1	Assessment of energy for rural applications and integrated planning*	23	-	-	550
2.2	Co-operative research, development and demonstration of new and renewable sources of energy	15	-	-	595
2.3	Transfer, adaptation and application of mature new and renewable energy technologies	22	-	-	186
3.1	Development and utilization of coal resources	18	-	-	175
3.2	Development and utilization of oil and natural gas resources	29	-	-	66
3.3	Energy conservation and conversion policy*	12	8	-	127
3.4	Power system planning and management*	20	8	-	145
3.5	Peaceful uses of nuclear energy	4	-	-	-
		204	24	-	2 339

PROGRAMME: ENVIRONMENT

1.1	Environmental awareness	8	-	16	293
1.2	Strengthening the environmental dimensions of the Commission's work programme	12	-	-	-
1.3	Incorporation of environmental considerations into development planning and processes*	6	-	60	987
1.4	Management of terrestrial ecosystems*	10	-	18	425
1.5	Protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems*	12	-	26	539
		48	-	120	2 244

PROGRAMME: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

<i>Resource requirements 1988-1989</i>				
	<i>RB</i> <i>-- (work-months)</i>	<i>RA</i>	<i>XB</i> <i>--</i>	<i>XB funds</i> <i>(thousands of</i> <i>US dollars)</i>
1.1 Review of agricultural development policies, strategies and performance*	41	-	-	111
1.2 Food supply assessment and distribution*	16	-	-	77
1.3 Development of agricultural information systems*	24	-	8	397
1.4 Follow-up action on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the management of living resources	5	-	-	56
2.1 Operation of the fertilizer advisory, development and information network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP)*	42	-	24	816
2.2 Agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP)	6	-	64	305
2.3 Research and development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber crops*	14	-	-	-
2.4 Improving agricultural credit, marketing and extension systems	32	-	-	130
3.1 Improving the socio-economic condition of rural poor and disadvantaged groups such as small farmers, tenants, fisherfolk and women	40	-	-	175
3.2 Utilization of agricultural residues as energy source for productive activities	20	-	-	52
	240	-	96	2 119

PROGRAMME: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1.1 Policies and strategies	9	-	17	200
1.2 Settlements planning and development*	6	-	17	115
2.1 Promotion of innovative and appropriate technologies	8	-	-	70
2.2 Low-income shelter development	15	-	6	160
2.3 Land policies and management	11	-	-	160
3.1 Strengthening institutional capabilities through technical co-operation*	19	-	-	176
3.2 Public participation in human settlements financing and development*	4	-	8	55
	72	-	48	936

<i>Resource requirements 1988-1989</i>				
	<i>RB</i> <i>-- (work-months)</i>	<i>RA</i>	<i>XB</i> <i>--</i>	<i>XB funds</i> <i>(thousands of US dollars)</i>
PROGRAMME: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT				
1.1 Regional review of industrial progress	18	-	-	-
1.2 Industrial plans and policies	5	12	-	-
1.3 Assistance to least developed countries and island developing countries*	15	-	-	60
1.4 Development of agro- and allied industries*	34	-	-	110
1.5 Development of small- and medium-scale industries*	36	-	-	125
1.6 Investment promotion activities and enhancement of the private sector in industrialization	17	-	12	120
2.1 Resource mobilization programme*	20	-	-	120
2.2 Programme on project development and implementation	18	-	-	60
3.1 Regional industrial co-operation (ESCAP "club" for industrial co-operation)	12	12	24	40
4.1 Development and improvement of technical and managerial efficiency in public sector industries	17	-	12	60
	192	24	48	695
PROGRAMME: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE				
1.1 Trade expansion and major trade policy issues*	46	12	-	72
1.2 Trade-creating joint ventures and investment opportunities	16	-	-	163
1.3 Monetary co-operation, trade and development finance, balance-of-payments support	8	-	-	50
1.4 Trade and customs facilitation measures	28	-	-	185
1.5 Trade in manufactures	21	-	-	90
2.1 Trade information services*	48	-	48	234
2.2 Trade promotion development*	35	12	-	77
2.3 Market and product development*	34	-	-	29
3.1 Promotion of subregional, regional and interregional co-operation in selected raw materials and commodities of socio-economic importance to member countries of the region	36	12	-	44

Resource requirements 1988-1989				
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE (continued)				
	RB -- (work-months)	RA	XB --	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
3.2 Development of commodities of interest to the region*	16	12	-	44
4.1 Improvement of trade performance of least developed, land-locked and island developing countries	12	-	-	66
4.2 Promotion of trade and economic co-operation with least developed, land-locked and island developing countries	12	-	-	52
5.1 Promotion of subregional, regional and interregional trade co-operation	24	-	-	140
	336	48	48	1 246
PROGRAMME: MARINE RESOURCES				
1.1 Strengthening of national capabilities in exploration and development of marine mineral resources*	16	-	-	100
1.2 Review and appraisal of the geology, occurrence, development and management of marine resources	8	-	-	-
1.3 Technical support to regional and subregional projects concerning marine mineral resources and geology	11	-	-	-
1.4 Strengthening of national capabilities and promotion of regional co-operation relating to implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*	24	-	-	100
	59	-	-	200
PROGRAMME: NATURAL RESOURCES				
1.1 Exploration, assessment and development of mineral resources	26	-	-	83
1.2 Technical support to regional and subregional mineral projects	8	-	-	-
1.3 Strengthening of national capabilities of investigation and development of mineral resources*	20	-	48	180
1.4 Management and utilization of mineral resources in support of economic and social development plans*	20	-	-	160
1.5 Geology and urban development*	24	-	-	160

NATURAL RESOURCES (continued)

Resource requirements 1988-1989			
RB -- (work-months)	RA	XB --	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
2.1 Support for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan*	35	24	-
2.2 Promotion of regional co-operation in water resources development*	56	-	4
2.3 Mitigation of damage from cyclones, floods and droughts	40	-	-
2.4 Information and training in water resources development*	34	-	8
2.5 Non-conventional water development	17	-	-
3.1 Promotion of regional co-operation in the application of remote sensing techniques for efficient management of natural resources and the environment	9	-	60
	289	24	120
			1 682

PROGRAMME: POPULATION

1.1 Formulation and implementation of integrated population policies and programmes for development*	13	-	22	145
1.2 Mortality, morbidity, aging and development*	14	-	-	87
1.3 Urbanization population distribution, migration and development*	17	-	2	254
1.4 Population composition, estimates and projections	7	-	-	8
1.5 Human resources development in population	13	-	12	421
2.1 Support to countries in developing and implementing population policies and family planning programmes*	13	-	8	20
2.2 Promotion of new approaches in service delivery systems	10	-	-	165
2.3 Improvement of skills of family planning programme personnel and researchers	4	-	12	178
2.4 Changing role of women and family planning	12	-	-	125
2.5 Studies on fertility, family planning and related policies and programmes*	25	-	40	690
3.1 Information support to member countries for integration of population and development, policy formulation and programme implementation*	16	-	24	102

POPULATION (continued)

Resource requirements 1988-1989			
RB -- (work-months)	RA	XB --	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
3.2 Assistance in development of national population information centres and networks in ESCAP member countries*	14	-	24 94
3.3 Co-ordination of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN)	8	-	24 106
3.4 Development of a regional population data bank	2	-	24 29
	168	-	192 2 424

PROGRAMME: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1.1 Improvements in science and technology policy and institutional structure*	18	-	-	50
1.2 Assessment of technological capabilities and needs*	8	-	36	13
1.3 Strengthening of research and development organization and management*	8	-	-	120
1.4 Promotion of the application of energy-efficient technology	8	-	-	250
2.1 Substantive backstopping of regional institutions	8	-	-	-
2.2 Upgrading of negotiating capabilities and improvement of terms of acquisition of technology*	6	6	-	60
2.3 Promotion of technology transfer in specific areas	12	18	-	60
2.4 Promotion of intraregional technology trade and diffusion of technological innovations*	8	-	6	180
2.5 Strengthening of project generation capabilities, engineering design and consultancy services	8	-	4	100
2.6 Standardization and related activities	12	-	8	150
2.7 Technology for selected industries	10	-	6	180
2.8 Development of human resources*	12	-	4	400
3.1 Assessment of new technologies	10	-	-	50
3.2 Assimilation and development of new technologies*	16	-	8	860
	144	24	72	2 473

STATISTICS (continued)

2.2 Development of a network of statistical data bases within ESCAP

Resource requirements 1988-1989			
RB -- (work-months)	RA	XB --	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
14	-	24	25
192	24	96	327

**PROGRAMME: TRANSPORT I (TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS
AND TOURISM)**

1.1	Strategies, policies and planning for transport development*	28	-	6	135
1.2	Development of urban and public transport*	14	-	6	120
1.3	Environmental impact of transport planning	12	-	30	115
1.4	Facilitation of international surface transport	20	-	2	10
2.1	Formulation of strategies for development of highways and highway transport*	7	-	4	52
2.2	Rational use of energy in transport*	6	-	8	60
2.3	Development of improved and low-cost road transport infrastructure*	7	-	9	90
2.4	Improvement of road construction and maintenance	8	-	4	54
2.5	Improvement of traffic engineering	11	-	5	53
2.6	Road traffic safety and accident prevention*	5	-	6	33
2.7	Promotion of regional and international road transport*	5	-	8	50
2.8	Manpower development and training in roads and road transport*	5	-	4	50
3.1	Railway development planning*	16	-	14	50
3.2	Development and strengthening of intraregional and interregional railway linkages*	12	-	14	53
3.3	Optimum utilization of railway infrastructure and rolling stock, including maintenance*	12	-	14	25
3.4	Modernization of railways, including technology transfer*	14	-	14	35
3.5	Development of regional and interregional co-operation through the Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group*	10	-	16	50
3.6	Railway manpower development and training*	12	-	10	40

		Resource requirements 1988-1989			
TRANSPORT I (TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM) (continued)		RB -- (work-months)	RA	XB --	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
4.1	Promotion of economic aspects of air cargo transport	26	-	-	75
5.1	Promotion of telecommunication development	3	-	18	30
5.2	Promotion of regional co-operation in the development of postal services and evaluation of their social and economic impact*	3	-	-	30
6.1	Role of tourism in promotion of appropriate development strategies and policies	14	-	12	50
6.2	Planning for co-ordinated tourism development	14	-	12	56
		264	-	216	1 316
PROGRAMME: TRANSPORT II (SHIPPING, PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS)					
1.1	Maritime policy*	10	-	2	470
1.2	Maritime legislation	7	-	-	277
1.3	Maritime information service	4	-	-	162
1.4	Maritime training and education	7	-	-	350
2.1	Shipping management and operations*	16	-	28	1 669
2.2	Ship construction, repair and maintenance	5	-	4	265
2.3	Fleet development and financing*	10	-	6	340
2.4	Co-operation in shipping	4	-	4	18
3.1	Port development policy, planning and construction	12	-	12	120
3.2	Port operations, containerization and multimodal transport systems	12	-	6	70
3.3	Port management services*	12	-	9	224
3.4	Port computerization (Transport Decade)*	15	-	14	414
3.5	Port pricing and investment (Transport Decade)*	15	-	9	355.5
4.1	Policy and planning*	13	-	2	357.5
4.2	Development and maintenance of inland waterways*	16	-	6	48.5
4.3	Fleet improvement	7	-	-	84
4.4	Development of terminals and land facilities	7	-	-	93

TRANSPORT II (SHIPPING, PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS)
(continued)

Resource requirements 1988-1989			
RB -- (work-months)	RA	XB --	XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
4.5	Upgrading of dredging capability	4	- 18 318
5.1	Establishment and strengthening of national shippers' organizations	10	- - 24.5
5.2	Promotion of regional and subregional co-operation among shippers' organizations	7	- - 72
5.3	Cargo consolidation, freight booking and chartering activities*	9	- - 90
5.4	Strengthening of freight forwarders' organizations*	14	- - 177
216		- 120	5 999
PROGRAMME: TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS			
1.1	Support to the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in securing and implementing an effective code of conduct and other international and regional arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations	4	- - -
1.2	Provision of assistance to ESCAP member Governments in securing and implementing an effective code of conduct and other international and regional arrangements relating to transnational corporations	4	- - -
2.1	Regional support to the UNCTC global research programme	12	- - -
2.2	Research on transnational corporations in the region*	20	- - 200
3.1	Support to UNCTC in the provision of advisory and information services to member Governments*	20	- - -
3.2	Provision of advisory and information services to member Governments	12	- <u>b/</u> <u>b/</u>
72		- -	200
Total:		3 048 240	1 368 28 585

a/ This programme element is implemented by the Data Processing Section of the Division of Administration, deriving the resources from the programme on administration and common services.

b/ Input to be provided by UNCTC.

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

None of the resolutions adopted at the forty-fourth session of the Commission have financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Subsidiary body and officers	Session	Document symbol of report ^{a/}
Committee on Population	Fifth session Bangkok 17-21 August 1987	E/ESCAP/591
<i>Chairman:</i> Mrs. Rosita L. Fondevilla (Philippines)		
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i> Mr. Shankar Raj Pathak (Nepal)		
Mr. Zhong Shukong (China)		
<i>Rapporteur:</i> Mr. David Lander (Australia)		
<i>Chairman of the Drafting Committee:</i> Mr. P.K. Umashankar (India)		
Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment	Tenth session Bangkok 23-28 September 1987	E/ESCAP/592
<i>Chairman:</i> Mrs. Rataya Chantian (Thailand)		
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i> Mr. W.D. Ailapperuma (Sri Lanka)		
Mr. Remy Perelman (France)		
<i>Rapporteur:</i> Ms. Christine Reyes (Philippines)		
Committee on Natural Resources	Fourteenth session Bangkok 27 October-2 November 1987	E/ESCAP/593
<i>Chairman:</i> Mr. Phol Songpongs (Thailand)		
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i> Mr. Nuruddin M. Kamal (Bangladesh)		
Mr. Seyed Ahmad Hakim (Islamic Republic of Iran)		

^{a/} Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions Liaison Unit at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers	Session	Document symbol of report ^{a/}
Committee on Natural Resources (<i>continued</i>)		
<i>Rapporteur and Chairman of the Drafting Committee:</i>	Mr. A.J. Surjadi (Indonesia)	
Committee on Agricultural Development	Seventh session Bangkok 16-20 November 1987	E/ESCAP/594
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr. Abu Bakar Bin Mohammad Noor (Malaysia)	
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Mr. Michael Graham Adams (Australia)	
	Mr. Zhang Shi-Xian (China)	
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Mr. Dudung A. Adjid (Indonesia)	
<i>Chairman of the Drafting Committee:</i>	Mr. T.B. Shrestha (Nepal)	
Committee on Statistics	Seventh session Bangkok 24-30 November 1987	E/ESCAP/595
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr. Azwar Rasjid (Indonesia)	
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Mr. Andrew Turua (Cook Islands)	
	Mr. P. Venugopal (Malaysia)	
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Mr. W. McLennan (Australia)	
Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications (Transport, Communications, and Tourism Wing)	Eleventh session Bangkok 14-18 December 1987	E/ESCAP/596
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr. H.B. Abeyratne (Sri Lanka)	
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Mr. Chamlong Salikupta (Thailand)	
	Mr. Othman Rijal (Malaysia)	
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Ms. Kathleen G. Heceta (Philippines)	

Annex IV

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Publications

<i>Title</i>	<i>United Nations publications sales number</i>
<u>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1987</u>	E.88.II.F.2
<u>Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific</u>	
Vol. XXXVII, No. 2, December 1986	E.87.II.F.9
<u>Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1981 and 1985</u>	E/F.87.II.F.11
<u>Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific</u>	
Vol. XVII, Nos. 1 and 2, March and June 1987	E.87.II.F.10
Vol. XVII, No. 3, September 1987	E.87.II.F.12
Vol. XVII, No. 4, December 1987	E.87.II.F.16
<u>Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 22</u>	E.88.II.F.4
<u>Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific</u>	
Vol. XVII, No. 1, March 1987	E.87.II.F.7
Vol. XVII, No. 2, June 1987	E.87.II.F.13
Vol. XVII, No. 3, September 1987	E.87.II.F.14
Vol. XVII, No. 4, December 1987	E.87.II.F.17
<u>Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1986-1987</u>	E/F.88.II.F.1
<u>Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 59</u>	E.87.II.F.8
<u>Water Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific: Some Issues and Concerns (Water Resources Series No. 62)</u>	E.87.II.F.15

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/591	Report of the Committee on Population on its fifth session	7(a)
E/ESCAP/592	Report of the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment on its tenth session	7(a)
E/ESCAP/593	Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourteenth session	7(a)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/594	Report of the Committee on Agricultural Development on its seventh session	7(a)
E/ESCAP/595	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its seventh session	7(a)
E/ESCAP/596	Report of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications (Transport, Communications and Tourism Wing) on its eleventh session	7(a)
E/ESCAP/597 and Corr.1	Work of the Commission since the forty-third session	4(a)
E/ESCAP/598	Review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy	4(b)
E/ESCAP/599	Report of the progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 261 (XLIII) on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries	4(c)
E/ESCAP/600	Draft ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development	5
E/ESCAP/601	International trade in primary commodities: policy issues and implications for policy action	6
E/ESCAP/602	Selected issues in the field of food, agriculture and rural development	7(a)
E/ESCAP/603	Report on the feasibility of setting up an institute of public finance in the Asian and Pacific region	7(a)
E/ESCAP/604	Transnational corporations and foreign direct investments in Asia and the Pacific	7(a)
E/ESCAP/605	Industrial restructuring and investment promotion measures in developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region	7(a)
E/ESCAP/606	Enabling strategies for human settlements development towards the year 2000	7(a)
E/ESCAP/607	Report of the Secretary-General on policy guidelines for the harmonization of activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in science and technology for development	7(a)
E/ESCAP/608	Report on the implementation of resolutions 247 (XLII), on forecasting, planning and development of technological human resources, and 256 (XLII), on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions	7(a)
E/ESCAP/609	Ministerial-level conference on the environment in Asia and the Pacific, 1990	7(a)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/610	Report on progress in implementation of the decisions of the Meeting of Ministers of Trade of Members and Associate Members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	7(a)
E/ESCAP/611	Main issues in the fields of natural resources and energy	7(a)
E/ESCAP/612	Population distribution and development: implications for policy decisions	7(a)
E/ESCAP/613	Co-ordination of technical assistance for statistical development activities	7(a)
E/ESCAP/614	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 246 (XLII) on statistical services in Asia and the Pacific	7(a)
E/ESCAP/615	Establishing an organizational framework: the key to government computerization	7(a)
E/ESCAP/616	Maritime sector development: initiation of the regional strategy option projects	7(a)
E/ESCAP/617	Background to a social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific: implementation of special ESCAP mandates in the field of social development	7(a)
E/ESCAP/618	Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994: review of progress of implementation	7(b)
E/ESCAP/619	Report on the administrative and financial issues related to the Commission's regional institutions	7(c)
E/ESCAP/620	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	7(c)
E/ESCAP/621	Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	7(c)
E/ESCAP/622	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	7(c)
E/ESCAP/623	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	7(c)
E/ESCAP/624	Pacific energy development programme	7(c)
E/ESCAP/625	Regional energy development programme: project progress report	7(c)
E/ESCAP/626	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	7(c)
E/ESCAP/627	Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas	7(c)
E/ESCAP/628	Report of the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, 1987	7(c)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/629	Report of the Typhoon Committee	7(c)
E/ESCAP/630 and Corr. 1	Programme changes for the biennium 1988-1989	7(d)
E/ESCAP/631 and Corr. 1-3	Extension and revision for 1990-1991 of the medium-term plan, 1984-1989	7(d)
E/ESCAP/632 and Corr. 1 and 2	Tentative calendar of meetings, 1988/89	7(d)
E/ESCAP/633	Report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1986-1987	7(d)
E/ESCAP/634	Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	7(d)
E/ESCAP/635	Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries	7(e)
E/ESCAP/636	Report on the Commission's activities in the Pacific and the implementation of Commission resolution 244 (XLI)	8
E/ESCAP/637	Revised schedule of legislative committees	9
E/ESCAP/638	Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources	10
E/ESCAP/639	Technical co-operation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1987: information papers presented by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development	10
E/ESCAP/640	Date and venue of the forty-fifth session of the Commission	12
E/ESCAP/641	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/642	Consideration of the application of the Territory of American Samoa for associate membership in ESCAP	13
E/ESCAP/643	Establishment of a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh	7(a)

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East", and

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, China, the Cook Islands, Democratic Kampuchea, Fiji, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Kiribati, Niue, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the

Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to

participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category I, subject to the provisions of rule 6; and

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of

the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its sub-commissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its sub-commissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6(b), decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving co-ordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories I and II on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category I will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in category II will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category I or II either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54 (d) and (e) shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUB-COMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, sub-committees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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