



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

(1 May 1977 - 17 March 1978)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1978**

SUPPLEMENT No. 8

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.

E/1978/48

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination	IRF	International Road Federation
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by the Commission	ITC	UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre
ADB	Asian Development Bank	ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ANRPC	Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries	LRCS	League of Red Cross Societies
APCC	Asian and Pacific Coconut Community	MTN	Multilateral trade negotiations
APCWD	Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development	NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
APDAC	Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre	OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
APDI	Asian and Pacific Development Institute	OTC	United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	PC	Pepper Community
CCOP	Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas	RCD	Regional Cooperation for Development
CCOP/SOPAC	Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas	SEATAC	South East Asian Agency for Regional Transport and Communications Development
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance	SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa	SPC	South Pacific Commission
ECDC	Economic co-operation among developing countries	SPEC	South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe	SWDCAP	Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America	TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia	UIC	International Union of Railways
EEC	European Economic Community	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
GSP	Generalized system of preferences	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ILO	International Labour Organisation	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization	UPU	Universal Postal Union
IMF	International Monetary Fund	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 1977 to 17 March 1978, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 532nd meeting on 17 March 1978. It is submitted for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Commission's terms of reference.

Chapter I

ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. DRAFT DECISION FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

2. At its 532nd meeting, the Commission unanimously approved the following draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

"....Annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

"At its meeting, on 1978, the Council:

"Took note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the period 1 May 1977 to 17 March 1978 and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in chapters III and IV of the report."

B. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

3. The Commission draws the attention of the Council to the following resolutions contained in chapter IV:

180 (XXXIV). Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s

181 (XXXIV). Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries

182 (XXXIV). Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions

183 (XXXIV). Strengthening the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Commission

184 (XXXIV). Human settlements

185 (XXXIV). Strengthening the capacity of the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of the population problems of the region

186 (XXXIV). Relationship between the Committees on Population and on Social Development

187 (XXXIV). International Year of the Child

188 (XXXIV). The Commission's activities in the Pacific

189 (XXXIV). Mekong Committee

190 (XXXIV). Support for the Lumbini development project in Nepal

4. In addition to the above resolutions, the Commission draws the attention of the Council to its various decisions concerning its programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, as well as major activities planned in different sectors. The most notable of these decisions are contained in chapter IV.

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

5 The programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979, as endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-third session, was further streamlined in the course of the year in the light of resolution 170 (XXXII), programme changes recommended by legislative committees and other bodies were prepared for consideration and endorsement by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, and certain organizational arrangements were made within the secretariat to facilitate implementation of the streamlined programme of work

6 Also during the year, the Joint CTC/ESCAP Unit on Transnational Corporations was established to undertake regional activities related to such corporations

7 The following are some of the major achievements during the year (a) various studies were initiated to prepare the regional contribution to the strategy for the third United Nations development decade, (b) the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer was inaugurated at Bangalore, India, on 16 July 1977, (c) five participating countries signed the project document for the establishment of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery and the first session of the Network's Technical Advisory Committee was held in January 1978, (d) seven countries signed the Agreement Establishing the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, (e) preparations for a draft blueprint for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region progressed, (f) 14 countries ratified the Constitution of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and the preparatory work for the Telecommunity's inaugural session was completed, (g) preparations continued for the establishment of a regional co-ordination centre for research and development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tubers in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific, and (h) a proposal for an ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO fertilizer advisory, development and information network for Asia and the Pacific was put forward by the Committee on Agricultural Development and expected to be implemented during the latter part of 1978

8 Another important achievement during the year was the reactivation of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (in the form of an Interim Committee) In January 1978, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam agreed to set up the Interim Committee to continue the work pending the resumption of the participation of Democratic Kampuchea The first meeting of the Interim Committee was held in February 1978 at Hanoi

9 Progress was observed in the co-ordination of activities among the regional training and research institutions, and the first session of the Intergovernmental Governing Council, the members of which were elected during the thirty-third session of the Commission, was convened at Bangkok from 2 to 4 November 1977

A. ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

10 The Committees on Agricultural Development, Development Planning, Natural Resources, Shipping, and Transport and Communications, and Trade, and the Special Body on Land-locked Countries held meetings during the year under review The ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry was held in lieu of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology In accordance with their terms of reference, the Committees on Population, Social Development and Statistics did not meet during the year

11 Details concerning the meetings held are given in annex II to this report

Agricultural development

12 The following meetings were held during the period under review

ESCAP/FAO Regional Planning Consultation in Preparation for National Workshops to Promote Small Farmer Group Farming in Asian Countries, Bangkok, June 1977

Expert Group Meeting on the Organization of a Regional Information and Advisory Service on Chemical Fertilizer, Bangkok, September 1977

ESCAP/FAO Consultative Meeting on the Promotion and Marketing of Fertilizer for Small Farmer Food Production, Bangkok, October 1977

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops, Bangkok, December 1977

13 The ESCAP/FAO Regional Planning Consultation discussed and agreed on a uniform approach to the country case studies of successful group farming systems and to the national village-level small farmer workshops, which would utilize case studies to promote similar groupings

14. The Expert Group Meeting discussed operational details of a regional advisory, development and information service on chemical fertilizer and stressed the need for its early establishment. Its recommendations led to a proposal for a regional ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO fertilizer network to become operational in the second half of 1978, the establishment of which was further recommended at the second session of the Committee on Agricultural Development. The proposal was a direct follow-up of the work carried out by the secretariat under the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP) with FAO co-operation, which included market survey work, special field studies, workshops and other information and advisory functions in close collaboration with the technical departments of the Governments concerned. Preparations were being made to arrange for the necessary inputs from various sources into the regional fertilizer network.

15. The ESCAP/FAO Consultative Meeting provided a regional forum for the exchange of country experience and information, the presentation of country reports and a discussion on specific issues related to fertilizer promotion, marketing and use. The Meeting also generated concrete project proposals to overcome certain short-comings in fertilizer marketing, management and application, some of which were being pursued as national projects and one as a regional project on fertilizer retailer training.

16. The *Ad Hoc* Expert Group Meeting reviewed two regional studies prepared by the secretariat and 12 country studies dealing with production, utilization, demand/supply and research aspects of CGPRT crops. It identified high-priority areas in research and development of those crops at the national and regional levels. It suggested that, with a view to achieving maximum co-ordination with FAO, the FAO projects could be combined with the CGPRT regional project of ESCAP. The single project could then be submitted to UNDP for financing.

17. In pursuance of Commission resolution 174 (XXXIII) on regional co-operation in the development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tubers, secretariat staff held discussions with the Government of Indonesia regarding the provision of host facilities for the proposed regional co-ordination centre. As a result, the Government appointed a liaison officer to expedite the establishment of the centre. Potential donor agencies and relevant agricultural research institutions were approached to facilitate its establishment and operation. The Executive Secretary also wrote to FAO to the effect that appropriate action could be taken to formulate a single regional project.

18. Correspondence with the Government of the Republic of Korea was in progress concerning the holding of a workshop to study the *Saemaul Undong* movement. The Governments of Australia and the United Kingdom

had provided financial assistance for holding the workshop.

19. Following the recommendations of the Committee on Agricultural Development, the Government of Japan was approached to finance a project to strengthen activities under the agricultural information development scheme. Among other things, the project would handle continued publication of the *Agricultural Information Development Bulletin*.

Development planning

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

Consultants' Group on New Patterns and Strategies of Development for the Asia and Pacific Region during the 1980s (second session), Bangkok, May 1977

Symposium on Tropical Hardwoods, Pattaya, Thailand, October 1977

Expert Group on Development Policy and Planning (fourth session), Bangkok, November 1977

ESCAP/FAO Joint Planning Meeting in preparation for National Workshops to Promote and Train Rural Women in Income-raising Group Activities, Bangkok, February 1978

21. At the second session of the Consultants' Group, the work carried out thus far was reviewed and an outline agreed upon for the ensuing phases. It was decided to complete the programme of country papers under phase I, and to commission consultants to undertake work on several studies dealing with major development issues in the region.

22. The Symposium on Tropical Hardwoods, organized by ESCAP in co-operation with FAO, UNCTAD and ITC, considered supply management, buffer stocks, long-term contracts and other pressing issues relating to tropical hardwoods. The Symposium was attended by five producing countries of the region and its report was used as a basis for discussion at the UNCTAD Third Preparatory Meeting on Tropical Timber. The Symposium recommended, *inter alia*, that an intergovernmental organization of tropical timber-producing countries be set up immediately to accelerate the development of timber and timber products industries, and to promote and strengthen regional co-operation among tropical timber-producing countries in the region.

23. After 1 January 1978, the secretariat activity relating to raw materials and commodities development, which had been undertaken in the context of both development planning and promotion of international trade was rearranged so that henceforth it would be undertaken primarily in the international trade sector.

24. The fourth session of the Expert Group on De-

velopment Policy and Planning was convened to discuss the preparation of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977* and to examine the work programme in the field of development planning during the 1978-1979 biennium. There was discussion of the ongoing work on development strategies for the 1980s and it was felt that there was a need for a future orientation towards issues of economic management, rather than the setting of quantitative targets.

25. The ESCAP/FAO Joint Planning Meeting saw the launching of an important project designed to raise the income of women and their families in rural areas through the promotion of wider participation by women in remunerative activities. The Meeting was attended by national co-ordinators from nine developing ESCAP countries and plans were made for country workshops to be held in each of those countries during 1978 to further the training of women village leaders.

26. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977* was prepared in two parts. Following a concise analysis of recent economic developments and emerging policy issues in the countries of the region, the main body of the *Survey* consisted of an analysis of the impact of the international economic crises on the developing economies of the region during the period 1972-1976. Two issues of the (now biannual) publication *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* were close to publication, one of which dealt with the problems of education and employment in the region. Plans were also made for the publication of a monograph series to be called *Development Papers* arising from research carried out by the secretariat.

27. The secretariat was much preoccupied with the discussion and formulation of future development strategies, as the end of the Second United Nations Development Decade drew nearer. The major research project on new patterns and strategies of development in the ESCAP region had already yielded a number of country papers, and more papers were being prepared. In parallel with this activity, consultants were commissioned to prepare papers on issues of key importance to the future complexion of development, including food supply, domestic resource mobilization, investment and technology, labour utilization, the role of the public sector, asset and income distribution, trade and balance of payments, foreign investment and foreign assistance. Work on long-term growth projections of developing ESCAP economies undertaken by Soka University in Japan was also to be incorporated into this study. Research was also under way on a computer model which would form the basis for short-term growth projections and economic forecasting. Work on the broader patterns of future strategies was being enhanced by two further projects: a study of economic development and structural change in the post-war period, and a seminar, scheduled for March 1979, on the role of the environment in development planning. The fruits of various aspects of research into future

development strategies would form the basis of the 1979 *Survey*.

28. In the field of rural planning, three projects were nearing completion: two concerned with techniques of manpower planning and employment creation, with special reference to rural works programmes, and one on poverty and social participation. Phase I of a fourth project, designed to give support to women engaged in income-raising activities in rural areas, was completed. During the year, a third workshop for middle-level planners on techniques for the review and appraisal of development progress was convened; preparations were commenced for a seminar-cum-study tour for Asian planners to take place in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in August 1978; and the services of the regional adviser on development administration were extended to several countries and encompassed such activities as improving management services and the design of administrative systems.

29. During the year under review, the secretariat was concerned with several important projects on problems of raw materials and commodities. Four of those projects were of direct joint interest to producers of key commodities in the region and work on all of them was substantially completed. A report was produced for APCC, which identified shipping problems and recommended solutions to them; two further reports were to be prepared and disseminated, one on a jute buffer stock policy involving five producers of the region, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Nepal and Thailand, and the other on the pepper economies of three non-Asian producers. Finally, work was progressing on an important computer-based study of world demand projections for natural rubber and was expected to be completed in 1978.

30. A further project of direct interest to another regional grouping, the ASEAN countries, was also pursued. This concerned an analysis of the scope for automotive complementation among the five member countries; industry profiles on each country were completed.

Industry, housing and technology

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

Regional Preparatory Meetings for Consultations on Agro-based Industries:

Leather and Leather Products, Bangkok, May 1977;

Oils and Fats Industry, Bangkok, May 1977

Regional Conference on Human Settlements, Bangkok, May 1977

Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific of the Advisory Committee on the Application of

Science and Technology to Development (ACAST) (thirteenth session), Bangkok, June 1977

Exposition and Workshop on Small-scale Building Materials Industries for Rural Development, Bandung, August 1977

Meeting of Eminent Persons Preparatory to the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry, Bangkok, August-September 1977

ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry, Bangkok, November 1977

First Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Bangkok, December 1977

ESCAP/UNEP Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Protection Legislation, Bangkok, December 1977

Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (first session), Bangkok, January 1978

Intergovernmental Meeting on Agro- and Allied Industries, Bangkok, January 1978

32. The findings of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Consultations on Leather and Leather Products constituted the basis of an issue paper for the global meeting organized by UNIDO at Innsbruck, Austria, in November 1977. The findings of the meeting on the oils and fats industry were used in preparing an issue paper for the global meeting organized by UNIDO at Madrid, Spain, in December 1977.

33. The Regional Conference on Human Settlements recognized that action in human settlements matters was the responsibility of Governments, with aid agencies playing only a supporting role. It recommended: (a) the adoption by Governments and international organizations of bold policies leading to more livable human settlements; (b) the formulation of a viable regional programme on human settlements; (c) the development of an information system on human settlements matters; (d) the involvement of more human settlements programmes under TCDC arrangements; (e) the granting of priority to the needs of the least developed landlocked and island States; (f) a programme exercise by an interagency task force, headed by ESCAP, to ensure co-ordinated action on human settlements programmes; (g) the renaming of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology as "Committee on Industry, Human Settlements and Technology".

34. The Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific of ACAST concluded that: (a) the preparation of the national papers should be delegated to ESCAP by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD); (b) the

subjects to be discussed should be both of a general nature, to allow broad participation, and restricted, to permit an in-depth discussion; (c) the revised World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development would constitute an excellent background document for UNCSTD; and (d) the corresponding revision of the regional plan of action for Asia and the Pacific should be undertaken only after that of the World Plan of Action had been accomplished.

35. The Exposition and Workshop on Small-scale Building Materials Industries for Rural Development recognized the need to strengthen building and building materials industries so as to improve efficiency and increase productivity. It recommended: (a) exchange of experience on better utilization of indigenous building materials and techniques; (b) improvement of the existing communication network in order to achieve better exchange of research results and the adoption of a co-ordinated approach; and (c) co-operation in research on small-scale building materials, exchange of researchers, and further studies on ferro-cement, clay and bamboo and dimensional standards for materials and components.

36. The Meeting of Eminent Persons Preparatory to the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry identified issues which would assist the ministerial meeting in formulating positive industrial policies and strategies as well as mechanisms with which to strengthen co-operation among the developing countries.

37. The ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry, which consisted of two parts, a Senior Officials' Meeting and the Meeting of Ministers themselves recommended: (a) the establishment of a club to promote industrial co-operation among the countries of the region, particularly the least developed countries, with the ESCAP secretariat serving as a liaison; and (b) the establishment of an *ad hoc* group of ministers which would address itself to the problems of implementation of new industrial policies and strategies involving breaking new ground and adopting innovative approaches.

38. The First Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNCSTD concluded that: (a) one of the objects of UNCSTD should be to generate the political will to use science and technology for development; (b) the idea of countries preparing position papers was sound since it gave countries an opportunity to analyse developments and plan for the future; (c) the national papers should cover the following five subjects: food and agriculture, natural resources, energy, health and nutrition, and industrialization; (d) the nodal role of ESCAP should be emphasized in the preparation of national papers; and (e) the regional paper should examine, against those five subjects, such horizontal factors as human resources development, infrastructure, scientific and technological information, technology transfer and extension services. It should also elaborate on the obstacles common to the region and make concrete recommendations on how to tackle them.

39. The ESCAP/UNEP Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Protection Legislation concluded that: (a) the environmental issues among the countries necessitated enactment of national legislation on environmental protection and establishment of environmental authorities; (b) ESCAP should continue its initiative in collecting and disseminating information, provide technical assistance, foster educational and promotional activities, prepare a directory of experts and institutions in the region and undertake studies; (c) regional co-operation was called for in the implementation of environmental protection education programmes; and (d) the ESCAP region should keep abreast of global developments so that its documentary bases in support of legal activities, academic research and teaching aids were brought up to date.

40. The Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery examined the 1977-1979 work plan for the Network and made recommendations on the promotion of close collaboration between the participating national institutes.

41. The Intergovernmental Meeting on Agro- and Allied Industries recommended: (a) the organization of individual meetings on agricultural machinery preparatory to the UNIDO global meeting; on fertilizers preparatory to the second UNIDO meeting; on leather and leather products; on the oils and fats industry; on the integrated dairy industry; on the integrated silk industry; on the essential oils industry; on industrial utilization and recycling of agro-industrial wastes and by-products; and on integrated agro-industrial complexes; (b) the establishment of a regional pesticide development programme; (c) the continuance of the post-harvest technology project; (d) continued efforts to establish low-cost and low-capacity rice bran stabilization plants, and publication of a manual on animal-drawn carts; and (e) studies on linkages between industry and agriculture.

42. The Regional Centre for Technology Transfer was inaugurated at Bangalore, India, on 16 July 1977.

43. Surveys on post-harvesting technology were carried out in Burma, Pakistan and Thailand.

44. Agreement has been reached to start the first prime-mover industry project for land-locked countries in the western part of Nepal under the Netherlands assistance programme.

45. Under the programme of TCDC, arrangements have been completed, with the assistance of the Governments of Australia and India, to hold a workshop on integrated dairy industries in India in April.

46. At the request of the co-ordinating office for ASEAN projects, a project entitled "Information network on appropriate technology in agriculture, industry and management" has been prepared for submission to UNDP for funding.

47. Arrangements were made with the Government of India to publish a manual on animal-drawn carts.

48. With the financial support of the Netherlands Government, the draft manual on physical planning of rural centres was completed.

49. The study on housing management and tenant education is near completion, while that on the building industry continued.

50. A questionnaire eliciting national requirements in the field of human settlements is under preparation and will be sent to developing countries of the region. The replies received will constitute a basis for formulating the regional programme on human settlements.

51. With the financial assistance of the Government of Australia, arrangements have been completed to field a three-man mission to explore the possibilities of upgrading the existing facilities and widening the scope of work of the two United Nations Regional Housing Centres located at Bandung and New Delhi.

52. The Task Force on the Human Environment fielded missions to Iran, the Philippines and Sri Lanka in 1977. Following the decisions made at a tripartite review held in November 1977, UNDP wound up the project as at 31 December 1977 and turned over the residual functions of the Task Force to ESCAP and/or the UNEP Regional Office in Bangkok, as appropriate.

53. With extrabudgetary resources provided by the Governments of India and Japan, a fact-finding mission on industrialization in non-metropolitan areas was fielded to Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand in April-October 1977. A consolidated report based on individual country studies and a draft project document were completed for consideration by an intergovernmental meeting in March 1978.

54. Preparations were undertaken for the holding of an intergovernmental consultative meeting among national development planning bureaux, with the participation of development banks, on the establishment of regional industries.

55. Preparations are well under way for holding the Third Seminar on Foreign Investment and Tax Administration in ESCAP developing countries at Sydney, Australia, in 1978.

56. The following publications were issued: (a) *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*, No. 14; (b) *Industrial Development News: Asia and the Pacific*, No. 13; (c) *Report of the ESCAP Consultative Mission on the Essential Oils Industry*; (d) *Newsletter on Science and Technology for Development*, Issue 1, November 1977, and Issue 2, January 1978; and (e) *Foreign Investment and Tax Administration*, volume II, 1977.

International trade

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

Standing Committee on the Bangkok Agreement (first special session), Bangkok, June 1977

Meeting of Directors of National Trade Development and Promotion Agencies, Bangkok, September 1977

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Seminar on a Common Fund, Bangkok, September 1977

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Workshop on Rules of Origin and Harmonization of Customs Tariff Nomenclatures and Trade Statistics, Bangkok, September 1977

Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (fourth session), Bangkok, October 1977

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Workshop on Trade Facilitation and Development of Least Developed Landlocked Countries, Bangkok, October 1977

Consultative meeting with representatives designated by the signatory Governments to become members of the Council of the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Bangkok, October-November 1977

Expert Group Meeting on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November 1977

ESCAP/UNCTAD/Commonwealth Secretariat Joint Seminar on Multilateral Trade Negotiations for ESCAP Developing Countries, Bangkok, November 1977

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting for the Establishment of a Regional Export Credit Insurance Scheme, Geneva, December 1977

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Clearing Union (sixth session), Kathmandu, January 1978

Trade expansion and monetary co-operation

58. At the fourth session of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement, the first round of bilateral negotiations between Afghanistan and the Bangkok Agreement countries took place. As a preparatory step in implementing some of the basic provisions of the Agreement, the Workshop on Rules of Origin and Harmonization of Customs Tariff Nomenclatures and Trade Statistics was organized jointly by the ESCAP and UNCTAD secretariats, with financial support from UNDP and technical assistance from EEC.

59. The Expert Group Meeting on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific was convened to suggest the principles and guidelines for a blueprint for trade co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, on the basis of which the secretariat prepared a draft blueprint which

was submitted for the comments of the Committee on Trade at its twenty-first session. Those comments will be taken into account by the secretariat in revising the blueprint before submitting it to the member Governments for their further consideration.

60. The Board of Directors of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) adopted its report for 1977. It also decided to request its Technical Committee to recommend measures to make the clearing procedures simpler and more efficient. The value of transactions channelled through ACU had increased from AMUs (Asian monetary units) 22.3 million in 1976 to AMUs 68 million in 1977 (one AMU is equivalent to a special drawing right allocated by IMF). At the request of the Board, the secretariat continued to function as the Board's secretariat and also to provide technical assistance.

61. The regional MTN project, together with its ASEAN segment, continued its work relating to studies on various specific technical aspects of the negotiations. In addition to providing technical assistance and organizing advisory missions, the project staff participated in a seminar on international trade in textiles with particular reference to the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (Multi-Fibre Agreement) held at Hong Kong in May 1977, which was organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat with the co-operation of the Government of Hong Kong and of ESCAP, UNCTAD and GATT. A third seminar on MTN for ESCAP developing countries was organized jointly by ESCAP and the Commonwealth Secretariat in November 1977 for senior officials directly involved in the negotiations. The main emphasis of the seminar was on those problems and issues which were of immediate and critical importance to developing ESCAP countries in the final phase of the negotiations.

Trade promotion and development

62. The ESCAP Trade Promotion Centre (TPC) has made significant progress in carrying out its various activities under its four categorized units, namely, the professional development services, the market/product development services, the trade information services and the trade promotion advisory services.

63. Since the inauguration of the trade information services of TPC in November 1976, a great deal of interest has been generated in the region, resulting in a substantial demand for the use of its facilities. The project on regional advisory services in trade information, which became operational in mid-1976, has now been harmoniously linked with the trade information services to serve the national trade information units of the members and associate members of ESCAP. Assistance rendered by the project has included in-service training in all aspects of trade information activities; help in planning the layout, organization and administration of trade information centres; formal training courses in trade information services; exporters' work-

shops; guidance in the development of exporters' registers; preparation of foreign trade directories; help in establishing national information networks; assistance in designing computerized systems for trade information services; and other types of assistance. The other services of TPC have also undertaken varied activities in the areas of professional development, market/product development and advisory and consultancy services in trade promotion matters. Training courses, both inter-country and within-country, were organized for business executives and government officials under the ASEAN training programme in trade promotion and export marketing. In addition, TPC staff made contributions as lecturers and/or consultants to several national training programmes, such as: the seminar on export marketing, in March 1977 at Kathmandu; the seminar on export market research and joint export marketing, in May-June 1977 at Manila; the training course on trade documentation, in March 1977 at Bangkok; the Second ASEAN Orchid Congress, in April 1977 at Jakarta; and the seminar on export marketing of food products, in July 1977 at Kuala Lumpur. Programming missions to Bangladesh and Indonesia were carried out to explore the training needs and existing teaching facilities in the respective countries. A market survey in Japan was completed for tropical cut flowers and another survey is in progress for wooden furniture. Assistance has also been rendered to the ASEAN Trade Fair 1978 in Manila as well as advisory and consultancy services to developing countries in the region in product improvement and adaptation and related subjects. With respect to project RAS/10/27, "Market research in support of the Bangkok Agreement", a pilot market study was undertaken in four participating countries (Bangladesh, India, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka) in order to assess trade prospects for products of export interest to each of those countries.

64. The Meeting of Directors of National Trade Development and Promotion Agencies provided an opportunity for representatives from national trade promotion organizations to exchange views and experiences and make suggestions and recommendations as to the types of activities they wished TPC to pursue.

Raw materials and commodities

65. Following up the recommendations of the Symposium on Tropical Hardwoods referred to in paragraph 22 of this chapter, co-operative measures on tropical timber were being formulated by the secretariat for the consideration of an expert group meeting on tropical hardwoods scheduled to be held in late 1978. The report and the recommendation of the Symposium were presented as a regional input to the UNCTAD Second Preparatory Meeting on Tropical Timber held at Geneva in October 1977.

66. The secretariat organized, participated in and serviced the ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Seminar on a Common Fund.

67. The secretariat assisted ANRPC, APCC and PC in the planning, formulation and implementation of projects.

68. Advisory services on raw materials and commodities were provided to member countries and commodity communities in the region. Advisory services and assistance were provided to ANRPC and APCC in the formulation of project proposals on the improvement of natural rubber statistics and a field survey on remunerative levels of prices of coconut products, respectively, and in trade promotion and development. Similar services and assistance were provided to PC.

69. A study entitled "Shipping problems of coconut products and by-products from the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community member countries to the world market" was completed and submitted to APCC at its fifteenth session, held at Bangkok in July 1977. A workshop to consider in detail the follow-up to the recommendations of the study will be held at Suva, Fiji, in June 1978. Assistance was also provided to PC in the implementation of a study on the pepper economy in Brazil and Madagascar.

Measures for the facilitation of international trade flow, and insurance and reinsurance

70. At its twenty-first session, the Committee on Trade endorsed a specific activity in the work programme on work for the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law. The secretariat is expected further to elaborate possible co-operative activities at the regional level in close collaboration with UNCITRAL, UNCTAD and other international bodies dealing with legal questions relating to international trade.

71. On the basis of the findings of the *Ad Hoc* Expert Group Meeting for the Establishment of a Regional Export Credit Insurance Scheme, a draft Agreement for such a scheme has been prepared. An intergovernmental expert group meeting is scheduled to be convened in November 1978 to consider and finalize the draft Agreement.

72. The Agreement Establishing the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, which was finalized at the Second Round-table Meeting on the Asian Reinsurance Co-operation, is open for signature by interested developing member countries of the region. It is hoped that the Corporation, which is expected to function as a professional reinsurer accepting business from the insurance markets in member States as well as other markets of the region and elsewhere, will commence operations in the course of 1978. The Corporation is expected to invest a sizable proportion of its funds within the region and also to serve as a regional centre for the collection of insurance information and the development of expertise in insurance and reinsurance. It could thus play a useful role in promoting collective self-reliance as well as regional co-operation in the fields of insurance, international finance and investment. So far seven countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, have signed the Agreement.

Assistance to least developed, land-locked and developing island countries

73. The secretariat has been giving increased attention to the special needs of the land-locked, least developed and developing island countries. The UNDP-financed project on assistance to least developed land-locked countries (RAS/72/077) has entered its second phase and a new work plan has been formulated, placing more emphasis on promoting joint co-operation between the land-locked and transit countries. At the Workshop on Trade Facilitation and Development of Least Developed Landlocked Countries, participants from both land-locked and transit countries were able to exchange views and explore solutions to their problems. The participants recognized the importance of the Workshop in improving mutual understanding between the land-locked and transit countries and recommended the organization of such forums on a regular basis.

74. With regard to the secretariat's work in relation to the South Pacific countries, a series of seminars in trade promotion and management development will be held in Fiji, the Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea commencing in March 1978, with participants from Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Tonga. The programme is being organized by the secretariat in close co-operation with SPEC and ITC and has been geared to the scale of operations and appropriate levels of development of the island economies concerned. Similar training programmes will be organized for other island countries in due course.

Natural resources

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

Seminar and Study Tour on Electricity Distribution Systems in Urban Areas and Their Integration with Transmission Systems (Seminar at Tokyo, May-June 1977, and Study Tour at Tokyo, Hitachi, Nagoya, Osaka and Kyoto, June 1977)

Intergovernmental Meeting on Remote Sensing and Satellite Surveying, Bangkok, June 1977

Workshop on Biogas and Other Rural Energy Resources, Suva, June-July 1977

Roving Seminar on Rural Energy Development (Bangkok, July-August 1977; Manila, August-September 1977; Teheran, September 1977; Jakarta and Bandung, October 1977)

Meeting on Co-operation in ESCAP Mineral Programmes, Bangkok, November 1977

Third Regional Symposium on the Development of Deltaic Areas, Bangkok, November 1977

76. The Seminar and Study Tour on Urban Electricity Distribution Systems recommended action on the fram-

ing of certain regulations and sets of guidelines, and on the dissemination and exchange of information on specific topics. The proceedings will be published in 1978.

77. The Intergovernmental Meeting on Remote Sensing and Satellite Surveying noted that receiving stations were expected to become operational in late 1977 in Iran and 1979 in Japan, Pakistan and Thailand had decided to establish ground stations, while Indonesia had decided to establish an experimental station rather than a full-fledged operational one. Bangladesh and India were planning to establish ground stations. In view of plans for a number of stations to be established in the region, the possibility of developing a network of receiving facilities in the region was suggested.

78. The Workshop on Biogas and Other Rural Energy Resources and the Roving Seminar on Rural Energy Development both dealt with rural energy possibilities, and involved substantial local participation. Recommendations at the various venues varied in detail, but were generally related to desirable action to foster rural energy development and dissemination of information and to provide enhanced training programmes at various levels. The combined proceedings of the Workshop and the Seminar will be published during 1978.

79. The Meeting on Co-operation in ESCAP Mineral Programmes agreed on information exchange, co-operation in the inventory of mineral resources, sharing of survey equipment and other matters relevant to co-operation among the Mineral Resources Section, the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre, the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre, CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC.

80. The Third Regional Symposium on the Development of Deltaic Areas, which was followed by a study tour in Malaysia in November-December 1977, identified major problems encountered and successes achieved in the development of deltaic areas in semi-arid regions and in humid tropical regions, with emphasis on swamps and lagoons in the latter case. It recommended that pilot project areas be established in one or more representative mangrove forest areas and that a symposium be arranged to discuss salinity problems in coastal and deltaic areas.

81. In the energy field, preparations are in hand for holding in 1978 an expert group meeting on biogas development at Bangkok, and, provided the necessary funds are made available, a seminar and study tour on rural electrification in the USSR and a working group meeting on energy planning at Bangkok. The latter was proposed in accordance with the advice of UNDP, the objective being to determine a framework for regional or subregional activities in the energy field. In addition to those meetings, the fifth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, scheduled to be held in 1978, will be concerned mainly with energy topics, and it is planned that the report of the working group on energy planning

will receive careful consideration by the Committee at that session.

82. Three in-depth studies are in various stages of implementation. One on "Peak load coverage with particular reference to gas turbines and hydroelectric plants", financed by the Government of Switzerland, is being printed. The Government of India has arranged for a study on the financing and management of rural electrification to be carried out under TCDC, and the work is well advanced. A proposed study on the optimization of electricity generating plant is under detailed discussion with a donor country. In addition to the above studies a recurrent publication, *Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1975 and 1976*, has been compiled.

83. In the field of mineral resources development, good progress had been made with the project on stratigraphic correlation of the sedimentary basins of the ESCAP region, with the assistance of an expert provided by the Government of Australia on a non-reimbursable basis. Four of the proposed set of 13 maps have been printed and distributed as drafts for comment and review and a fifth is almost ready for distribution. National compilations of stratigraphic column provided by Malaysia have been printed and distributed together with explanatory texts. Contributions from other countries are being prepared for publication.

84. A meeting of the working group on this subject is scheduled to be held at Bangkok in November 1978, in conjunction with the Third Regional Conference on Geology and Mineral Resources of Southeast Asia.

85. Work has started on the compilation of the basic geological data of the ESCAP region for review and analysis of the available information, in order to provide a better basis for further study and investigation of the mineral resources of the region. The first phase of the work has been discussed with regard to the geologic structure and the geology of metal-bearing igneous complexes of the south-eastern part of the Asian continent. A review of evaporite deposits (source of potash and rock salt) has also been made.

86. The Bouguer Anomaly Map of the western part of the ESCAP region was published and distributed. Some delays were encountered in the checking and finalizing of the drafts of the second edition of the Mineral Distribution Map of Asia, comprising four sheets; they are expected to be sent for printing during the first half of 1978. Those maps are a further illustration of the application of TCDC: using data provided by member countries, the compilation of the first map was carried out in India and of the second in Iran, without charge.

87. In the field of water resources development and in compliance with the recommendation of the Committee on Natural Resources that water resources statistics be published in the *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the*

Pacific, countries have been requested to supply the necessary data.

88. Studies on the following subjects were prepared by consultants: (a) measures to improve the performance of the rural sector in irrigation projects; (b) institutional, administrative and financial arrangements for water resources development; and (c) the feasibility of utilizing coastal and estuarine storage for fresh-water supplies.

89. Four issues of the *Water Resources Journal* and one issue of the *Water Resources Series, Proceedings of the Symposium on Social and Non-economic Factors in Water Resources Development*, were published and distributed. Two other manuscripts of the *Water Resources Series, Proceedings of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Natural Resources* and *Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on Community Preparedness and Disaster Prevention* were completed and sent for printing.

90. Steps were taken in consultation with WMO, WHO and UNESCO to organize an expert group meeting on the improvement of water resources data systems for the adequate and efficient quantitative and qualitative assessment of water resources in developing countries.

91. Comments were sought from countries on possible inter-country programmes as a follow-up to the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in January 1977, and the Inter-governmental Meeting on Remote Sensing and Satellite Surveying in June 1977. Plans for co-operative activities in training, research and development in the use of remote sensing were being developed in consultation with OTC and UNDP. Consideration was also being given to co-operative activities in thematic mapping.

Population

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

Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Human Settlements, Bangkok, June 1977

Expert Group Meeting on Population and Development Planning, Bangkok, July 1977

Working Group Meeting on Development of an Evaluative Scheme of Organizational Determinants of Family Planning Programme Performance, Bangkok, July 1977

Expert Group Meeting on Socio-economic Measures Affecting Fertility Behaviour with Special Emphasis on Actionable Programmes, Bangkok, September 1977

Training course for family planning programme administrators in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, September-October 1977

Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Economic Development in Subnational Areas, Bangkok, September-October 1977

National Seminar on the Utilization of Research Findings for Family Planning Programme Development, Manila, October 1977

National Workshop of ESCAP Population Correspondents in Bangladesh, Joydevpur, November 1977

Subregional training course on the analysis of fertility and mortality data, for nine countries in the Pacific, Hamilton, New Zealand, November-December 1977

First Workshop of ESCAP Population Correspondents in the South Pacific Region, Suva, December 1977

Workshop Nos. I and II for ESCAP Population Correspondents in India, New Delhi, February 1978, and Bombay, March 1978

93. The Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Human Settlements recommended, *inter alia*, that (a) migration surveys should be conducted in the region to cover the gaps in knowledge which could not be covered by the analysis of census data, (b) the time period for the recently started comparative study of the relationship of migration and urbanization to development should be extended to take into account those migration surveys, (c) an inventory and content analysis of policies to influence population movement and human settlement patterns should be undertaken by ESCAP as a first step in the evaluation of such policies and (d) an expert group meeting on international migration in Asia and the Pacific should be convened to provide the groundwork for a thorough study of the volume and characteristics of international migration, including such matters as the "brain drain", labour migration and migration barriers.

94. Among the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Development Planning were that (a) an intensive survey should be undertaken of current practices in member countries with regard to the integration of population factors in development planning and the information disseminated among Governments, institutions and scholars in the region and (b) training courses should be organized to update the skills of persons engaged in integrating population factors in the development planning process.

95. The Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Economic Development in Subnational Areas recommended (a) the establishment by Governments of local development centres as focal points for planning and plan implementation at the lowest tier of planning administration, (b) the provision of assistance and training to planners and demographers of member countries to help them in their work of planning for subnational

areas, (c) the preparation and publication of guidelines for comprehensive subnational planning and evaluation and (d) the promotion of mutual exchanges of relevant information and studies concerning the integration of population into subnational planning among countries of the region.

96. The Expert Group Meeting on Socio-economic Measures Affecting Fertility Behaviour discussed and recommended feasibility criteria for the adoption of incentive and/or disincentive measures for increasing the level of family planning acceptance and identified areas for further research. Among other recommendations were that (a) a task force should be organized to develop a study design on acceptance of actionable incentive and disincentive measures and (b) a forum should be provided where policy makers in economic planning and family planning administrators could meet to enhance their understanding of the relationship between fertility goals and development goals.

97. Activities related to the expansion and consolidation of the ESCAP Population Correspondents' Network were centred in the organization of two Correspondents' Workshops. The Workshop for the South Pacific region recommended that (a) a regional population information clearing-house be established to collaborate with existing agencies such as SPC and the University of the South Pacific and (b) ways be found to overcome cross-cultural and language problems in disseminating information. The Workshop in Bangladesh recommended that a task force be set up to establish a population information clearing-house within the Government's Population Control and Family Planning Division. The Workshops in India focused on further development and strengthening of the Correspondents' Network through the enhanced exchange of information on research and programme implementation at national and regional levels.

98. The country monographs on the population situation of Sri Lanka and Thailand were published; work is in progress on the monographs of Bangladesh, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands; a comparative study on the relationship of migration and urbanization to development was started. A study on resource planning and allocation methods for achieving demographic goals in family planning programmes in selected countries of the ESCAP region was continued, study designs for Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore were developed and case studies were in progress in Malaysia and Singapore. Population projections for the Republic of Korea and Thailand were completed. The secretariat continued to publish the quarterly *Asian Population Programme News*, the monthly *Population Headliners*, the monthly *Asian and World-wide Documents on Population Topics* (ADOPT) and occasional studies in the Asian Population Studies Series. The second volume of *Population Research Leads*, focusing on population projections, was published. A regional project on the translation of population materials was launched. Two articles trans-

lated from Japanese into English were published. The replies of countries in the ESCAP region to the United Nations third population inquiry among Governments were analysed and a report prepared.

99. The regional population adviser assisted the Government of Burma in formulating a national population policy (still under consideration) and a national fertility survey connected with the World Fertility Survey. He also advised the Government of Afghanistan regarding the questionnaires proposed to be used in that country's 1978 population census and the improvement of reporting forms in use in the national family guidance programme. He conducted a training course on statistical methods and fertility and mortality measures for the statistical staff of the Family Guidance Association and Ministry of Health of Afghanistan. He also assisted the Government of Maldives extensively in preparing for its forthcoming population census.

100. The secretariat assisted the Government of Thailand in formulating a draft proposal for a UNFPA-funded project to set up a national population clearing-house and documentation centre at Bangkok. It helped Indonesia and Pakistan to draft proposals for national information and documentation networks on population and family planning. It helped to provide short-term consultancy services to Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand on the use of the ESCAP family planning programme target-setting system. The Ministry of Plan Implementation of the Government of Sri Lanka was assisted in preparing a project proposal for setting up a national population commission, particularly with regard to the nature of the demographic studies to be undertaken, the formulation of an integrated and action-oriented family planning programme and the setting-up of a population information system.

Social development

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

Regional Workshop on Methods and Techniques of Promoting People's Participation in Local Development, India, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, December 1977

Meeting on Post-MTS Training Activities and Developmental Perspectives, Bangkok, December 1977

102. The Regional Workshop, organized by the secretariat in co-operation with the International Council on Social Welfare and SWDCAP and financed by the Government of the Netherlands and the Queen Juliana Fund, consisted of two phases. The first phase comprised the study tours undertaken simultaneously in India the Philippines and Sri Lanka to review projects of the Gandhigram Rural Institute, the *Barangay* Movement and the *Sarvodaya Shramadana* Movement and the second phase was the workshop held at the Com-

munity Development Training Centre of the Community Development Department, Government of Thailand, located at Nakhon Nayok. The Workshop discussed the critical issues and problems experienced in the member countries relating to the promotion of people's participation in local and rural development, including the promotion of leadership and institution-building and the training required by field-level workers, change agents and volunteers actively involved in developmental projects at the grass-roots level. The Workshop recommended follow-up action, including (a) the organization of interdisciplinary short-term training programmes on people's participation specially designed for project managers, planners, trainers and supervisors; (b) the establishment of a clearing-house and documentation centre on people's participation to be promoted jointly by ESCAP and SWDCAP; and (c) publication of a more comprehensive version of the annotated bibliography on people's participation and case studies on specific aspects of people's participation in development.

103. The Meeting on Post-MTS Training Activities and Developmental Perspectives was organized to review and assess the achievements of the mobile training scheme's in-country training in the respective countries. Some of its recommendations were that: (a) experts and resource persons should be exchanged on an in-country basis in the ESCAP region, especially among countries involved in MTS; (b) a clearing-house should be established at ESCAP headquarters to facilitate the flow of information regarding the process of integrated rural development and social welfare; (c) ESCAP regional advisers should provide support to consolidate and strengthen training institutions and programmes in the region; (d) the countries concerned should advise UNDP to incorporate in its country programmes the support needed to institutionalize the MTS methodology and approaches in the training components of various development projects; and (e) OTC should consider extending the MTS operation until the end of 1980.

104. Advisory services in the field of training in social work and community development were provided by the secretariat to: (a) the Republic of Korea in March-April, to assist the National Social Welfare Training Centre with regard to staff development; (b) Singapore and Malaysia in May, to plan a study tour for Republic of Korea social welfare in-service trainers; (c) Bangladesh in July, to assist in a workshop on the development of indigenous teaching materials for social work education; (d) Burma in August, to advise UNICEF on the selection of a training consultant requested by the Government; and (e) India in September, to assist the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, in the development of indigenous teaching materials.

105. Advisory services in the field of social welfare aspects of family planning were provided to the Republic of Korea in April, to assist the Government in inter-relating social aspects of development in the population and family planning activities; Malaysia in July, to

undertake a teaching assignment on social aspects of family planning at the Universiti Sains; and Bangladesh in August, to assist in developing a training programme for population activities of out-of-school youth.

106. The regional adviser on integrated rural development planning assisted the Government of Papua New Guinea in reviewing the social dimensions of some regional development projects supported by IBRD and ADB.

107. The OTC-financed mobile training scheme for the training of front-line and supervisory developmental personnel in the land-locked and least developed countries completed its assignment in Bangladesh from February to November 1977 to assist in the training of trainers and supervisors of local developmental cadres of integrated rural development programmes.

108. Four country case studies on "the role of rural women in community life" were completed in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. A similar study in Pakistan was under preparation. These studies will be discussed at an expert group meeting in April/May 1978, with a view to recommending guidelines for strengthening the activities of rural women and women's organizations in improving the life of their own communities.

109. Three issues of the *Social Work Education and Development Newsletter* were published during the year.

Shipping, ports and inland waterways

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

Four regional workshops on shippers' co-operation:

Calculation of Ocean Transport Costs (level II), Bangkok, April 1977

Port Services and Costs, Bangkok, September 1977

Freight Study Units, Bangkok, September 1977

The Legislative Environment of Shippers, Bangkok, November-December 1977

Two country-level workshops on shippers' co-operation:

Calculation of Ocean Transport Costs, Port Moresby, May 1977

Calculation of Ocean Transport Costs, Jakarta, November-December 1977

Second Meeting of Representatives of Governments, Shippers and Commodity Organizations on Cargo Consolidation, Kuala Lumpur, October 1977

UNCTAD/ESCAP Seminar on Port Planning, Manila, October 1977

1977 ESCAP Study Tour to Europe, October-November 1977

111. The main recommendations of the workshops on shippers' co-operation concerned: (a) the urgent need for shippers to acquire knowledge and skills of their own to analyse transport requirements; (b) the establishment of a suitable data and information service and the provision of advisory services to shippers; (c) the continued organization of workshops and seminars on specialized subjects of shipping and ports; (d) regional as well as subregional co-operation among shippers' councils in the region, with adequate support from the Governments; (e) the need for internationally standardized port tariffs and tariff nomenclatures; (f) the formation of an association of freight study units and similar organizations in the ESCAP region and assistance in facilitating the exchange of their personnel; (g) implementation of the project on economic statistics of shipping; (h) recruitment of regional advisers on economic statistics of shipping and freight study units to provide advisory services and assistance; and (i) increased financial and expert assistance for early implementation of shipping projects by UNDP and the developed maritime countries.

112. *Manpower development.* In addition to organizing an intensive training programme, a survey was started on manpower requirements in the ESCAP region, in order to assess the needs of the countries in the field of shipping and port personnel. In that connexion, the secretariat is also in the process of making available to the countries of the region a number of scholarships in the field of maritime science offered by the USSR Government.

113. *Development of maritime policy and institutions.* In continuing to assist the member countries in implementing the project on economic statistics of shipping (L.2 scheme), the secretariat provided advisory services on shipping statistics to several countries, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka. In the field of international multimodal transport, the secretariat assisted UNCTAD in seeking information on existing or proposed regulations applicable to international multimodal transport operators, and on the requirements which should be imposed on such operators in the ESCAP countries. Advisory services were also rendered to the member countries in that field. Preparations were under way for an inter-governmental consultative meeting on an international multimodal transport convention to be convened at Bangkok in mid-1978.

114. *Development of merchant marine and shipping services.* A study on a regional shipping network was undertaken with the assistance and co-operation of the Government of the Netherlands. The study was expected

to be completed by mid-1978. Advisory services in the field of merchant marine and shipping services were also rendered to several countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Iran, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand. A study on liner services between Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Europe and back was undertaken with the assistance of the Government of Norway under the ship users' co-operation project (SUCOP). The study was presented to government officials and shippers.

115. *Development of ports and port management.* Advisory services were rendered to Fiji and the Philippines on improvement and modernization of existing ports and port facilities. The report of the Seminar on Port Development for Unit Loads and Containerization held in Hong Kong in 1976 was published and disseminated to member countries of the region. A study was also undertaken on possibilities of job creation with the introduction of modern transportation methods. The purpose of the study was to assess the effects on the labour situation caused by the change from traditional to modern transportation systems and cargo-handling methods in the ports of the region.

116. *Inland waterways and water transport.* With the assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany, the secretariat undertook a survey of inland water transport in several developing countries, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. Subsequently, a long-term programme of work in the field of inland waterways was prepared and endorsed by the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications at its first session.

117. *Shippers' organizations and co-operation.* In addition to organizing a number of workshops, the secretariat also rendered advisory services in matters relating to the establishment and management of shipper's councils or similar organizations, operation of freight forwarders' organizations, cargo consolidation, freight booking and ship chartering. A data and information service (DIS) was also established with the aim of providing shippers and shippers' organizations with the information required for decision making.

Transport and communications

118: The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Railway Suburban Transport, France, May-June 1977

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Railway Rolling Stock Maintenance and Repair, Japan, September-October 1977

119. The Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Railway Suburban Transport noted, *inter alia*, that: (a) all cities with a population of one million or over, as well as those which would reach that parameter within a period

of five years, should start planning their urban and sub-urban traffic on an integrated basis; (b) in the context of all economic and social factors, including cost, energy consumption and environment factors, railways should be given particular preference; (c) since public transport catered primarily for social requirements, its special feature was to provide utility services to the community (it was noted, however, that in France, for example, the Government and local authorities, as well as employers served by a public transportation network, shared the deficit on public transport); and (d) the French National Railways were not required to pay tax duty on fuel, which gave more room for railway development in general and railway public transport in particular, as compared with transportation systems of the ESCAP developing countries, which had to pay duty on fuel.

120. The Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Railway Rolling Stock Maintenance and Repair recommended that, in view of the increasing energy problems faced by most developing countries of the region, the planning and development of railways should be given higher priority in the modernization of the transport network systems of those countries. The secretariat was therefore requested to undertake a study on energy consumption and other economic factors relevant to the different modes of transport in the developing countries of the ESCAP region as justification for higher priority for railway projects, so that a greater allocation could be provided for the general development plans and programmes of those countries. The secretariat was also requested to undertake studies on: (a) modern technology for checking up on repairs to locomotives through the application of computer systems and the possibility of phased introduction of such technology to the railway administrations of the region; (b) modern anti-corrosion technology to prolong the life of rolling stock and railway equipment; and (c) measures to prevent environmental pollution.

121. In the field of highways and highway transport, assistance was rendered to the Government of Afghanistan in a pre-feasibility study for seeking assistance for and implementing the project to construct the middle section of the Afghan Central Road, Asian Highway route A-77. Advisory services were also rendered to the Government of Iran in connexion with its present and future highway development programme. Assistance was given to the Government of Fiji in the preparation of a study and proposal for future development of Suva city transport and traffic.

122. An ESCAP railway mission visited Afghanistan to assist in the establishment of the new Afghan railway network. It also assisted the State Railway of Thailand with reference to the proposed construction of an elevated railway track in and around the Bangkok metropolitan area. The same mission went to Bangladesh to complete the survey report on the railway extension from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar. A study/survey on reconditioning and/or replacement of some of the long-

span wrought iron bridges in Sri Lanka is expected to be undertaken in 1978.

123. In the field of telecommunication, the regional experts of the ESCAP/ITU Unit assisted the member countries in implementing the Asian telecommunication network. The survey of transmission routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan was completed. A survey for the Afghanistan-India troposcatter link was also undertaken to determine the most suitable site for location of the terminal station on the Afghanistan side. A detailed route survey for the Peshawar-Kabul microwave link was completed and 15 possible sites were examined. Technical assistance was also given to the Government of Afghanistan in the selection of routing arrangements for domestic and inter-country routes; to the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand in identifying technical assistance requirements and formulating project proposals; to the Government of Nepal in planning transmission routes and developing multiplex schemes; and to the Government of the Philippines in formulating a project to upgrade the Telecommunication Training Institute.

124. An ESCAP/UNCTAD/FALPRO (Special Programme on Trade Facilitation) mission visited the Lao People's Democratic Republic and rendered technical advice on ways and means of improving its customs and transit procedures. The mission also undertook a study of Thai export and import documentation and procedures in order to standardize and simplify those procedures.

125. The ESCAP Joint Roving Team of Railway Experts, comprising two experts from India, two from Japan, one from the USSR and three railway officers from the ESCAP secretariat, visited Sri Lanka in February-March 1977 at the Government's request. The following problem areas were stressed: (a) commercial transport co-ordination and traffic costing; (b) problems of mechanical and civil engineering; signalling and telecommunication; (c) train operations; and (d) railway electrification.

126. The Constitution of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, which was adopted by the Commission at its thirty-second session, has since been ratified by 14 countries of the region. Ratification by the host country is now awaited before the inaugural session can be convened. In the meantime the preparatory work for holding the inaugural session is in progress.

Statistics

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

Working Group on the Regional Programme for Organizing the 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing, Bangkok, May 1977

Regional Workshop on the Computer Edit of Censuses and Surveys, Bangkok, August 1977

Working Group of Statistical Experts (Second Session), Bangkok, November 1977

128. The Working Group on the Regional Programme for Organizing the 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing was specifically concerned with reviewing the Asian recommendations for population and housing censuses used by many countries of the ESCAP region for their 1970 round of censuses, and reformulating them, in the light of the experience gained, for the 1980 round, in view of the emerging needs for detailed data from censuses for administrative, planning and policy purposes. Particular attention was devoted to concepts and definitions used in population and housing censuses, census methodology and procedures, use of sampling in censuses, use of the census as a sampling frame, data processing, and tabulations desired from census information. The deliberations were subsequently used in compiling the publication *Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses*, which is being printed for distribution among countries of the region. Those recommendations also formed the regional input into the interregional expert group meeting organized by the United Nations Statistical Office and held in January 1978 to formulate the global recommendations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses.

129. The Regional Workshop on the Computer Edit of Censuses and Surveys noted that through active promotion by ESCAP there was widespread use of the COCENTS system in the region for processing census data. That had led to an improvement in the productivity of programming personnel and in timeliness in the completion of basic tables containing census results. The Workshop then addressed itself to two critical areas which adversely affected the timeliness of statistical reporting, namely, data entry and editing of input data. With respect to editing, the Workshop recognized that the need for editing at the enumeration stage and data entry stage could be minimized through adequate training and simplified procedures. Computer-aided edit, which was more comprehensive, was, however, essential for consistency checks, and in that regard several edit package programmes such as CONCOR, XTALLY, TLLAN and CANEDIT were considered. The Workshop saw greater potentialities in CONCOR because of its relationship to COCENTS, and suggested early completion of all developmental work relating to CONCOR and its distribution to allow potential users time for implementation on their own sites prior to the 1980 round of censuses.

130. The Working Group of Statistical Experts provided a highly useful mid-term review of statistical activities in the countries as well as in the secretariat. It also deliberated on the needs of the region for training statistical manpower, the value of advisory and consultancy services, the schedule of technical meetings and the agenda for the third session of the Committee on Statistics. The future of the Working Group was specifically

discussed and the experts recommended, for the consideration of the Committee on Statistics, that the Group should meet approximately midway between sessions of the Committee; that its functions should be determined at each session of the Committee; and that its composition and funding should also be determined by the Committee.

131. The *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1976* (the ninth issue) and a technical supplement to the 1974 *Yearbook* were published. The second issue of the *Handbook on Cereal and Fertilizer Statistics of ESCAP Countries* is under preparation and will be issued soon. Periodic issues of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific* and the *Statistical Indicators for ESCAP Countries* were also released. *Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific*, volume XII, was published and volume XIII was sent for printing. The thirteenth report on *Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region* has been prepared and will be ready for distribution soon.

132. A circular letter was addressed to countries of the region listing the technical meetings which those countries had suggested, through the Committee on Statistics, as being useful and necessary, with a view to exploring the possibilities of holding such meetings using TCDC principles. It could be discerned from the replies that some countries might host seminars/workshops/working groups by providing either host facilities only or some costs of participation as well. One such meeting, the Seminar on Statistics for Rural Development, is scheduled to be held at New Delhi in April 1978, with the Government of India providing host facilities and technical papers, and the Government of the Netherlands and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation providing the travel and subsistence costs of most participants.

133. Preparations were started for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics, which is being organized at the global level by the United Nations Statistical Office. A circular letter was sent to countries requesting information on their plans for participation and an indication of any technical advisory service requirements in that connexion. At the same time material was gathered on the current state of industrial statistics and inquiries in the countries of the region.

134. At the suggestion of the secretariat, the Government of India organized an 18-week *ad hoc* course in data processing for six trainees from Afghanistan early in 1977. In keeping with the high priority attached to statistical training by the Committee on Statistics and again by the Working Group of Statistical Experts at its second session, and in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office, the secretariat circulated a questionnaire on the training of statistical personnel in the ESCAP region. The information received is being analysed for consideration by the Committee on Statistics at its third session. The secretariat continued to work closely with SIAP in all technical matters.

135. Pursuant to a request from the United Nations Statistical Office, the secretariat collected copies of all statistical questionnaires, *ad hoc* or other, sent to countries by the secretariat. At the seventh session of the Statistical Commission Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, India undertook to carry out a review of the statistical questionnaires that countries complete for international statistical agencies.

136. Close co-ordination of the activities of the secretariat with the statistical activities of SPC was fostered. The special needs of smaller Pacific island countries were regularly assessed through correspondence and through visits to those countries by regional advisers and staff members.

137. Advisory services were maintained in the fields of national accounts, social and demographic statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, organization of population and housing censuses, and computer processing of census and sample survey data. Regional advisers visited Bangladesh, Burma, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Information systems and documentation services

138. The programme for information systems and documentation services in its present form is a new activity providing for a greater measure of co-ordination of the secretariat's ongoing sectoral programmes in information, and also enhancing their substance through the use of data processing equipment.

139. The need for an information programme has been stressed by the Commission at earlier sessions. During the last few years, problems of information management have been reviewed by an expert group, by outside specialists and by Headquarters, which seeks a common approach to information transfer throughout the United Nations system. One outcome of those reviews has been that the Executive Secretary has transferred the Data Processing Section from the Statistics Division to the Division of Administration, with effect from September 1977. The Division of Administration is henceforth responsible for the Library, documentation and data processing, which operate as common services for the secretariat.

140. Since its recent inception the programme has mostly been concerned with internal aspects of information, starting with the indexing of ESCAP documents. The indexing of documents bearing symbols was begun towards the end of 1977. It provides for the entry of document descriptions in a computerized file, and for their subsequent retrieval by symbol, title, author or subject-matter etc., as required. A check list of the documents issued for each meeting is also being designed.

141. Meanwhile, a study has been started on the sectoral information systems within ESCAP, so as to improve the co-ordination of those systems and to obtain the requisite machine facilities for their activities. The study has required that each information system be identified and described, its inputs and outputs defined and the resources for its computer support given in terms of machine time, data entry and systems programming needs.

142. The ESCAP Library specializes in materials needed for research in economic and social development within the region. Apart from books needed for research, its collection focuses on government documents and serial publications of its member States. The size of the collection (about one hundred thousand items) and the need to provide adequate referral and research assistance to its users and to enable it to respond to the additional demands being placed upon it, make it necessary that the Library be strengthened. Further modification and modernization of the Library's work, in the light of present and future needs, are proceeding as fast as resources permit.

143. These initial activities have been geared towards the development of a more active regional programme in bibliographic information. When current plans have been implemented, ESCAP will be in a better position to inform countries and research institutions of the information generated by or held in ESCAP, relevant to their own development needs.

Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

144. Much of the work undertaken since the thirty-third session of the Commission to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries is referred to in the sections of the present chapter dealing with particular sectors. In addition to those activities in various sectors, the secretariat has participated substantively in (a) the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be convened at Buenos Aires in August-September 1978, and (b) the continuing interagency consultations to co-ordinate United Nations activities aimed at assisting ECDC. UNDP and UNCTAD, respectively, are the lead agencies in these two global initiatives, but in both cases the important role of the regional commissions has been acknowledged. As well as participating in various preparatory meetings for the Buenos Aires Conference, ESCAP helped to prepare a joint paper by the five regional commissions for the Conference, and commenced planning for a follow-up meeting at the regional level. In the field of ECDC, a contribution was made to the cross-organizational programme analysis which UNCTAD would submit to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in May 1978.

145. Meanwhile, the secretariat finalized the preparation of the third ESCAP TCDC handbook, comprising a roster of experts of developing ESCAP countries. This complemented two earlier, well-received publications covering training courses and consultancy services and several other information activities in the fields of trade and statistics.

146. The secretariat commenced preliminary planning for the strengthening of the capability of the central office of ESCAP to perform several core functions with respect to promoting TCDC in the region, including the collation and dissemination of information, promotion and brokerage for technical exchanges among countries and institutions, collaboration with substantive divisions, institutes and other agencies to enhance TCDC elements in specific inter-country projects, and development of mechanisms for the operation and financing of TCDC activities.

147. Meanwhile, pursuant to resolution 171 (XXXIII), increased efforts have already been made to enhance the TCDC element of projects and fellowship programmes with which ESCAP is associated and to utilize advisers, experts, consultants and subcontractors from developing countries in ESCAP research and other activities as much as possible. During 1977 about 60 per cent of those services originated in developing member countries, including 7 out of 11 regional advisers, and improvements were formulated for the ESCAP fellowship programme. Several new inter-country projects were designed with substantial inputs intended to be provided by developing countries, both individually and through TCDC institutions such as commodity communities. Notable examples of joint research that commenced or were planned in 1977 occurred in the fields of coconut production cost structures, natural rubber statistics and the manpower needs of smallholdings, administrative machinery for the regulation of transnational corporations, and ports and shipping. An interregional project was commenced with ECLA on the operations of transnational corporations in export commodities. In addition, greater use was made of national institutes in developing countries for fellowship programmes; and several developing countries provided host facilities for specialized meetings, training courses and seminars, in some of which other countries were able to participate at their own expense.

Integrated rural development

148. The Committees on Agricultural Development, Natural Resources, Shipping, and Transport and Communications and Trade reviewed and made suggestions for the improvement of activities relating to those sectors that have been included in the ESCAP integrated programme on rural development.

149. The ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry and the Intergovernmental Meeting on Agro- and Allied Industries similarly reviewed and made suggestions

for streamlining activities relating to that sector in the integrated programme on rural development.

150 Details of the decisions/recommendations of the legislative committees and intergovernmental meetings for particular sectors and progress in the implementation of specific activities included in the integrated programme on rural development are indicated against each relevant sector in part A of the present chapter, information on the interagency programme on integrated rural development is given in part C

Transnational corporations

151. The Committee on Development Planning, at its second session, discussed the research programme on transnational corporations (TNCs) which had already commenced under the ESCAP priority programme on external financial resource transfers and the considerably expanded programme of work that had been initiated with the establishment of the Joint CTC/ESCAP Unit on Transnational Corporations.

152 The Committee recognized the importance of the work on TNCs and emphasized the need for a greater balance between activities on information and technical co-operation, and research studies on the role of TNCs. The streamlined programme of work, as proposed by the secretariat, was endorsed by the Committee

153 Draft reports on the role of TNCs in (a) the consumer electronics industry, (b) the ocean liner industry, and (c) the rubber industry were completed, as was the study of the legal agreement on the Asahan project. The preliminary surveys on the role of TNCs in the banking and food and beverages sectors in Thailand were also completed preparatory to the detailed research studies

154 Work was continuing on the role of TNCs in the banking sector in Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, the tropical hardwoods sector in Indonesia and the food and beverages sector in Sri Lanka. Work was also continuing on the study of the legal agreement on the Bougainville project, the study of legal agreements with TNCs in Indonesia, and a preliminary survey on TNCs in financial centres such as Singapore

155 In the interregional ESCAP/ECLA project on the role of TNCs in primary export commodities, the conceptual framework for such research was completed. ECA also joined the project, and intensive discussions between the three regional commissions and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (CTC) took place to improve the conceptual framework. Under the joint ESCAP/APDAC project on strengthening the bargaining position of host Governments through improvements in the administrative machinery, three country studies were due for completion by mid-1978

156 Preparatory work for studies on the role of TNCs in the tourism sector and in primary export commo-

ditities and on the linkages and balance-of-payments effects of the operation of TNCs has already commenced.

157 An information system was being developed and data on TNCs operating in the ESCAP region were being collected and analysed to provide regional support to the computerization by CTC of corporate profiles, laws, regulations, policies and contracts relating to TNCs. Information was also provided on request to Governments and individuals

158 Preparatory work commenced for the holding of training programmes, in collaboration with CTC, for government officials from developing countries in the region in order to increase the negotiating capacity of host Governments in their dealings with TNCs. A high-level seminar will be held in April at which government officials with considerable experience in dealing with TNCs will identify the training needs of the region and provide guidelines for the training courses

Technical co-operation and related activities

159 The total value of the 1977 regional technical co-operation programmes administered by ESCAP surpassed that of 1976 to reach a record level of \$US 10,942,409. That expansion in volume of ESCAP technical co-operation activities is attributable to the increased assistance received by the secretariat from all sources, particularly extrabudgetary sources

160 In 1977, a total of 70 missions were undertaken on request by a corps of 15 regional advisers and experts to almost all the developing member countries of the region in the fields of national accounts, statistics, data processing, trade promotion, transport, shipping, industrial development and planning, population and family planning, social welfare and community development. In rendering technical and advisory services, particular attention was given to the needs of the least developed and island member countries of the region and to the priority areas indicated by the Commission

161 The United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific continued to render useful services to the countries in that area, although many of the activities had to be curtailed in 1977 owing to budgetary reductions. The United Nations provided funds which were adequate to keep the two-man team in post until 30 June 1977. Thereafter, the team functioned with extrabudgetary support. The executing agency functions for the team were transferred to ESCAP from United Nations Headquarters with effect from 1 January 1977

162 Again, as in previous years, the extrabudgetary assistance received by the secretariat from developed and developing member States in the form of funds in trust and non-reimbursable loans has made a substantial contribution towards the implementation of the secretariat's programme of activities. In that connexion, the

secretariat is particularly grateful to those countries which have initiated annual programming exercises to determine the level of their support to the Commission's activities on a year-to-year basis, thereby ensuring that funds are available for certain activities of the Commission in a given year.

163. Following the UNDP/ESCAP inter-country programming mission for ASEAN in July 1976, a number of projects for strengthening technical co-operation between ASEAN and UNDP/ESCAP were proposed and reviewed by the various agencies concerned within the United Nations system. Finally, 12 priority areas of activity were identified in consultation with the member countries of ASEAN. During 1977, intensive project preparation in those areas took place and a number of projects have already received support from UNDP. ESCAP continued its technical assistance and advisory services to ASEAN countries through the ESCAP Trade Promotion Centre and the regional UNDP/UNCTAD/ESCAP projects on trade information services and multilateral trade negotiations. Similarly, in the field of shipping and ports, ESCAP provided advisory services on economic statistics of shipping, pooling of shipping resources, cargo consolidation and shippers' co-operation.

164. At a meeting held on 13 December 1977 between the ASEAN group and UNDP/ESCAP, it was confirmed that the following seven projects would be implemented with UNDP financing:

- (a) Technical adviser for the ASEAN regional climatic atlas and compendium of climatic statistics;
- (b) Study team on the supply of and demand for food and other strategic agricultural products;
- (c) Multilateral trade negotiations;
- (d) ASEAN trade development and co-operation;
- (e) ASEAN comparative study on the development of labour-intensive industry;
- (f) Technical support to the ASEAN secretariat;
- (g) Study on the equalization of the costs and benefits of future ASEAN industrial projects.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Regional training and research institutions

165. The Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions, which was elected by the Commission at its thirty-third session, held its first session at Bangkok in November 1977. At that session, the Council reviewed the progress of the institutions, considered the work programmes and the budget proposals of the five institutions for the year 1978, examined the draft legal instruments which were under formulation for the institutions and studied

their financial problems. The Council appointed a working group further to examine the legal instruments of the institutions and proposed that a pledging conference should be held to obtain increased financial support from member Governments to overcome the financial problems.

166. The working group appointed by the Council held three meetings to consider the various drafts of the legal instruments prepared by the secretariat and provided directives with regard to the formulation of the final draft.

167. Pursuant to resolution 175 (XXXIII), the secretariat has continued its efforts to co-ordinate the work programmes of the regional institutions. The proposals of the Co-ordinating Committee in this regard were examined in detail by the Council, which approved the programme of action proposed by the Committee with a view to evolving a common framework for the work programmes of the regional institutions by 1980.

Asian and Pacific Development Institute

168. The 1977 work programme of APDI was characterized by greater emphasis on subregional and country-level activities, relatively greater emphasis on research directly concerned with problems of poverty, an increasing component of field trips in Thailand and neighbouring countries in the regional and subregional programmes and greater involvement by the Institute in the Pacific subregion.

169. The Advisory Committee of the Institute, which was appointed in 1976, held its second session in February 1977 and its third in January 1978. At those sessions, the Committee was able to examine the 1978 work programme and evaluate the activities conducted in 1977.

170. There were 368 participants from 27 countries in the regional, subregional and country training programmes of the Institute. In addition, 113 scholars and practitioners from the region attended different meetings conducted by APDI.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

171. The seventh general course was held from October 1976 to March 1977 and was attended by 31 participants from 19 ESCAP countries. The eighth advanced course, held in June 1977 and attended by 17 participants, dealt with the planning and conduct of sample surveys, with emphasis on error control. The ninth advanced course, which was held in May-June 1977 and was attended by 12 participants, was on the 1980 world census of agriculture.

172. SIAP also conducted four country courses in Bangladesh, Iran, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. A total of 98 participants attended.

173. The eighth general course was inaugurated on 3 October 1977 and is being attended by 31 participants from 18 ESCAP countries.

174. The Advisory Committee of the Institute held its first session in February 1977. It carried out an exhaustive review of the structure of the general course, which led to fundamental changes starting with the eighth general course.

Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre

175. During the year under review, APDAC conducted 16 seminars, expert group meetings, workshops and training courses at the regional, subregional and country levels. Those activities were conducted in the broad programme areas of management development, public enterprise management, management of rural development and regulatory administration. As part of its work programme, the Centre also carried out several research studies in the field of rural organizations in rural development, investment prices and returns in public enterprises, and managerial civil services in Asia. These research studies were fed into the training programmes conducted by the Centre.

176. APDAC also brought out eight publications during the period under review on such subjects as an integrated approach to budgeting, the development of management consultancy capability, the role of rural organizations in rural development, modular instruction, employee motivation in public enterprises, and rural development training.

177. The Advisory Committee of the Centre held its second session in July 1977 to evaluate the 1976 and 1977 work programmes and examine the programme proposals for 1978.

Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific

178. During the period under review, SWDCAP held an expert group meeting on the development of indigenous teaching materials and training resources concerning the problems and needs of urban children and family life in Asia and the Pacific. It also held two preparatory technical meetings of social workers and social work educators as well as two workshops on innovative non-formal education and social welfare strategies for working within poverty groups in Bangladesh, India, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. The Centre also participated in the Regional Workshop on Methods and Techniques of Promoting People's Participation in Local Development and in a seminar on processes and approaches to social policy formulation and planning with special emphasis on the role of social workers. A total of 176 participants from 14 Asian and Pacific Countries attended the training courses.

179. The Advisory Committee of the Centre held its second session in July 1977 in order to examine the 1978 work programme and review the Centre's initial activities.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development

180. During the year under review, APCWD provided advisory services to the Government of Iran in the formulation of that country's sixth development plan and on the implementation of the UNDP country programme and UNFPA guidelines on women in Iran. The Centre also participated in the *ad hoc* interagency meeting on preparations for the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, and in a UNFPA project formulation mission related to the fourth five-year plan of the Republic of Korea.

181. APCWD convened an expert group meeting in December 1977 to help to develop a framework for its 1978-1979 work programme. Twenty-six participants attended the meeting and outlined the priority areas for action by the Centre in its initial phase.

182. The newly appointed Advisory Committee of the Centre held its first session in February 1978 to consider the work programme for the Centre's initial phase.

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

183. No meetings of the Mekong Committee as such were held during the period under review, as the Governments of Democratic Kampuchea and Viet Nam had not, up to the end of the period in question, named their new representatives. Several meetings were held, however, to bring about an early reactivation of the Committee and, in January 1978, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam agreed to set up the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin to continue the work pending the resumption of the participation of Democratic Kampuchea. The first meeting of the Interim Committee was held at Hanoi in February 1978.

184. As at 31 December 1977, the cumulative total of resources contributed or pledged to the Mekong development scheme generally or to specific projects sponsored by the Mekong Committee by 25 countries, 18 United Nations agencies and related organizations, 6 foundations and many private institutions and businesses stood at the equivalent of \$US 360.4 million, representing an increase of nearly \$5 million during the year. Of this sum, 27 per cent has been expended or committed for pre-investment work and 73 per cent for construction; 41 per cent has been contributed or pledged by the Governments of the riparian countries themselves and 59 per cent by co-operating programmes.

185. The work programme for 1977 contained 55 projects, subdivided into 167 activities, about half of which had to remain in abeyance throughout the year,

mostly owing to the temporary inaccessibility of various sites for the purposes of project execution. For some of the activities held in abeyance, preparations were made for work to be carried out, circumstances permitting, in 1978.

186. Economic and social statistics were collected and compiled with a view to the eventual publication of the tenth issue of the *Annual Statistical Bulletin*. The 1975 *Hydrologic Yearbook* was published with assistance from New Zealand early in 1977 and the two volumes of the 1976 *Yearbook* are expected to be ready at the beginning of 1978.

Hydrologic network

187. The hydrologic network maintained by the Mekong Committee and government agencies of the riparian countries was expanded in 1977 with the addition of 17 hydrologic and 8 meteorologic stations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. The operation of the network in those countries was satisfactory. While no data were received from Democratic Kampuchea or Viet Nam, data from the latter are expected to become available later in 1978.

Pa Mong mainstream project

188. Work was almost completed on the comprehensive four-year Pa Mong optimization and downstream effects studies which commenced in 1973. A final review of the results is being made prior to completion of the report for publication early in 1978.

Delta development

189. All field activities continued to be held in abeyance. However, in connexion with the Pa Mong optimization and downstream effects studies, the evaluation of the effect of upstream reservoir regulation on sea-water intrusion in the estuarine system, completed in 1976, was followed in 1977 by a first effort to adapt the TIDAL model for studies on sea-water intrusion.

Tributary projects

190. Work continued on the irrigation systems linked to several of the tributary projects completed in northeast Thailand during the past decade, among them the Lam Dom Noi, Lam Pao and Nam Pong projects.

191. The \$40 million extension of the Nam Ngum project in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to increase the installed capacity from 30 to 110 MW and expand the transmission system accordingly, continued on schedule towards completion in 1978. Ten countries are contributing to the funding of this project.

Economic planning activities

192. Attention has been focused on studies on resettlement, including the study of resettlement alternatives for the Pa Mong project. Work was completed on a manual for the economic appraisal of projects, and a preliminary version of a set of three documents on project appraisal was issued.

Navigation and transport

193. The secretariat of the Committee continued its

basic work in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and along the Lao/Thai border relating to surveying, charting, marking and dredging in the Mekong to improve navigation conditions. This included assistance for hydrographic surveys, channel marking, bank protection and construction of port and ferry landings.

Flood forecasting

194. Under the experimental flood forecasting programme, daily forecasts were provided during the high-water season, for nine mainstream stations on the Mekong in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand.

Agriculture

195. Work continued on the agricultural development programme sponsored by the Committee, which includes agricultural planning studies (the Vientiane Plain, northeast Thailand, the Vietnamese part of the delta etc.), experimentation and demonstration farms, pioneer agriculture projects and other irrigation projects. Further progress was made in the implementation of three pioneer agriculture projects in northeast Thailand.

Fishery development studies

196. Preparations were made for the construction of a pilot fish farm in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1978, and for a similar project in northeast Thailand, which, subject to availability of funds, is to be initiated in 1978.

Environmental studies

197. An environmental impact study of the Nam Pong project in northeast Thailand was completed in 1978 and its findings included an assessment of the positive and negative effects of the project on primary resources (water and land) as well as on the population's living standards, especially with regard to nutrition and health (with reference to waterborne diseases).

198. With assistance from the Ford Foundation, an integrated ecosystem study entitled "Nam Pong environmental management research project" was launched. It focuses on the lake's role as bioreactor, the economic and health situations of different groups of people, changes in land-use patterns and negative as well as positive feedbacks to changes in the environment.

Mineral surveys

199. All activities relating to mineral resources were held in abeyance in 1977, pending procurement of data or access to field areas, except the potash exploration programme in Thailand, which was being brought to a conclusion by the Thai Department of Mineral Resources.

Social development and public health

200. During 1977, the socio-economic surveys of the irrigated areas, resettlement areas and reservoir fishermen's villages, in connexion with the environmental investigation of the Nam Pong basin, were being conducted for the Mekong Committee by Khon Kaen University. The final report is under preparation. A

report on the field work completed for the study of changes in socio-economic conditions and land use at the Lam Pao project in northeast Thailand, following the introduction of irrigation, is expected to be ready in early 1978. Entomological observations and studies on malaria vector mosquitoes were continued in two project sites in northeast Thailand under the Thai national malaria eradication programme. A special 12-month study of the impact of the Nam Pong project on the spread of malaria in the region was conducted for the Mekong Committee by the Malaria Unit of the Thai Department of Communicable Diseases. A report on this study is under preparation.

Interpretation of satellite imagery

201. With assistance from France, work continued on the preparation of thematic resource maps based on satellite imagery and other remote sensing data. Maps showing land use, morpho-pedology and land capability on the scale 1:1,000,000 were completed. A joint programme of research on the computer processing of remote sensing data by the Mekong Committee and the Asian Institute of Technology was also completed, and the final report on the study was published.

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

202. The fourteenth session of CCOP was held at Manila from 21 September to 4 October 1977. The following meetings were organized under the auspices of the Committee during the period under review:

Seminar on Generation and Maturation of Hydrocarbons in Sedimentary Basins, in co-operation with the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE), Manila, September 1977

Northwest Quadrant Panel of the Circum-Pacific Map Project, in co-operation with the Circum-Pacific Council on Energy and Mineral Resources (third meeting), Manila, September 1977

Joint Working Group with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) on the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IDOE) Programme for Studies of East Asia Tectonics and Resources (SEATAR) (third session), Manila, September 1977

203. The CCOP Project Office continued to perform the important functions of encouraging and assisting national and regional initiatives and mobilizing bilateral and multilateral assistance to undertake surveys, research and scientific studies and related activities for the developing member countries of CCOP. The total value of such assistance and contributions in cash and in kind in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee for 1977 reached the equivalent of over \$3 million.

204. The meeting of the tripartite review of the UNDP-assisted project on technical support for regional offshore prospecting in east Asia was held at Manila in September 1977, concurrently with the fourteenth

session of CCOP. The meeting reviewed the work of the project and formulated its new programme and scope of activities, including specific emphasis on meeting the priority needs of the developing member countries. The member countries, UNDP and the executing agency endorsed the proposal for the extension to 1981 and the expansion of the project. For the new phase of the project (1978-1981), UNDP formally approved about \$US 3 million, which includes \$US 934,400 from its own funds and \$US 2 million from the OPEC Special Fund that was made available to UNDP in late 1977. The final project document for this phase was approved by UNDP and circulated to the member Governments; it is expected that the document will be formally signed by the representatives of the member countries while attending the thirty-fourth session of the Commission.

Field and advisory services

205. Advisory services were rendered to CCOP countries in several fields, including (a) assistance to the Geological Survey of Malaysia in the development of the programme of its Quaternary Geology Section, which was newly established with advice and assistance from the CCOP Project Office in 1976; (b) field assistance in the continuation of the tin investigations in the Taiping coastal plain of Malaysia; (c) assistance to the Geological Survey of Indonesia in the preparation of a request for bilateral support in the establishment of a unit for Quaternary geology; (d) assessment of the status of computer data processing and consideration of the requirements for establishing a computer-based storage and retrieval system for geological data in Indonesia; and (e) continuation of heat-flow measurements in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand.

Surveys

206. Extensive research cruises were carried out in Indonesian and Philippine waters from February to May 1977 by the RV *Valdivia* of the Federal Republic of Germany, with the participation of several scientists from Indonesia and the Philippines and the senior marine geophysicist of the CCOP Project Office; 2,200 line-km of simultaneous seismic reflection and magnetic profiles and 38 km on 14 seismic refraction lines with a total length of 2,238 km, and 814 side scan sonar profiles were made, together with 400 stations, including 126 coring stations with a total core recovery of 214 m. Heavy mineral analysis recovered 370 pre-concentrates at the laboratory in Seremban. The most promising area is a 15-km broad strip in the vicinity of Port Dickson and Cape Rachado parallel to the coast; the highest cassiterite concentrations are on and near two northern granite complexes within the broad strip.

207. In connexion with the east Asia IDOE programme, the RV *Thomas Washington* of the United States carried out research cruises in the Andaman Sea and south-east Asia, the RV *Robert D. Conrad* cruise in Philippine waters and RV *Atlantis II* cruise in the Banda Sea, with the participation of scientists from Indonesia and Thailand.

Training

208. Japan continued to provide its annual seven-month group training course in off-shore prospecting in 1977, which included eight participants from CCOP member countries. As scheduled, the Seminar on Generation and Maturation of Hydrocarbons in Sedimentary Basins was held successfully at Manila in September 1977, with 84 participants from member and co-operating countries, under the joint sponsorship of CCOP and ASCOPE. The Government of Japan has provided the Philippines with assistance in the form of on-the-job training of geophysicists in the compilation, processing and interpretation of aeromagnetic data with the use of computers. The Netherlands Government provided training courses in techniques for drilling in unconsolidated sediments and in Quaternary geology. One Malaysian geologist was in Switzerland undergoing training in age-dating techniques.

Technical studies

209. Technical Bulletins Nos. 10 and 11 have been compiled, edited, printed and issued. The proceedings of the Symposium on Quaternary Geology of the Malay-Indonesian Coastal and Offshore Areas, held at Kuala Lumpur in November 1976 in conjunction with the tenth anniversary session of CCOP, have been published as Technical Publication No. 5. CCOP *Newsletter*, volume 4, has been issued. A final report has been submitted on the joint survey of the mineral potential in the Strait of Malacca undertaken by the Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia and Malaysia with the assistance of the Republic of Korea.

Co-operation with other bodies and TCDC

210. The successful seminar on hydrocarbons at Manila in September 1977 under the joint sponsorship of CCOP and ASCOPE was the first in the series of specific projects to be undertaken jointly by the two organizations. The Project Office continues to maintain close co-operation with agencies and organizations concerned with marine science and technology. TCDC will be further encouraged and facilitated in such measures, as exemplified by the offers of Indonesia and the Republic of Korea to consider making available their research vessels *Kri Jananidhi* and *Tam Hae* respectively, for shipboard training of personnel from other member countries. Pursuant to a recommendation by CCOP, the IOC General Assembly at its last session adopted a resolution to the effect that in the establishment of a West Pacific group (WESTPAC) IOC welcomed the suggestion of CCOP to co-operate closely with WESTPAC in programmes of marine geological and geophysical research in the vicinity of the CCOP member countries. Close contact has been maintained with the three other regional bodies connected with mineral resources that had been sponsored by ESCAP and were receiving support from UNDP (CCOP/SOPAC, the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre and the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre. Geoscientists of the CCOP member countries are being urged to participate in the second Circum-

Pacific Energy and Mineral Resources Conference, of which CCOP is one of the sponsors; CCOP efforts in east Asia will be put on display, especially the maps resulting from SEATAR projects.

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

211. The sixth session of CCOP/SOPAC was held at Port Moresby from 11 to 17 October 1977.

212. The following meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee during the period under review:

Ad Hoc Meeting of Specialists on the Geodynamics of the Fiji Plateau, Honolulu, August 1977, convened jointly by CCOP/SOPAC and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

213. During the past year, the Technical Secretariat carried out reconnaissance surveys in the waters off the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, and assisted national projects in waters off Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

214. On-the-job training was provided to the national technical personnel on all of those cruises. Japan provided on-the-job training to a Fijian national aboard its research vessel in January 1978. About 18 trainees from CCOP/SOPAC member countries were given a 16-week basic geology course at the University of the South Pacific with assistance provided by project personnel.

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

215. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Organizational Aspects of the ESCAP Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre was held at Bangkok in August 1977.

216. A number of recommendations were made at the Meeting and Indonesia's offer of Bandung as the Centre's permanent headquarters was accepted.

217. The draft Statute agreed on at the Meeting outlines the scope and functions of the Centre. This draft is to be reviewed by the Governing Council of the Centre which will be elected during the thirty-fourth session of the Commission: as called for by the Meeting, the secretariat has made arrangements for the election to the Governing Council of nine members and associate members of ESCAP.

218. The Meeting called for the utilization of existing national facilities for the development of a network of regional laboratory services in selected specialist areas. It generally endorsed the plan of operations of the Centre for the period 1977-1981. The importance of training was stressed, and a number of countries offered training facilities and services.

219. The Meeting was advised of the following pledges of cash contributions by the developing countries towards the Centre's operating costs:

- Indonesia: \$5,000 per year (in addition to providing host facilities)
- India: \$2,000 per year
- Malaysia: \$5,000 per year
- Thailand: \$4,000 in the first year; contributions in subsequent years to be determined

220. Subsequently, Iran pledged an annual cash contribution of \$1,500 and sent the cash for the first year. The Philippines also sent a cash contribution of \$2,000, and pledged similar amounts annually.

221. The Meeting was informed that UNDP would provide funds for a project manager for the Centre for a period of two years.

222. Japan informed the Meeting that \$100,000 had been made available for the Centre in 1975 and again in 1976. Future contributions would be considered on an annual basis in addition to the provision to the Centre of the services of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

223. In addition to cash contributions, India offered the services of three experts and assistance in mineral exploration, geohydrology and coal-mining techniques. Australia, France and the USSR indicated their willingness to provide expert services, while the Federal Republic of Germany recalled its long-standing interest and involvement in the Centre and would consider requests for assistance. During 1977, the Centre continued to operate within the framework of the ESCAP Natural Resources Division. At the end of 1977 the Centre comprised three experts, two provided by the Federal Republic of Germany and one by Japan; an additional expert was expected from Japan.

224. During 1977, 11 countries were served by the Centre. Six reports were prepared and submitted to the countries concerned; the remaining reports were in the process of preparation. In addition to providing technical advisory services on a range of matters related to mineral exploration in specific areas, work continued on the development of a scheme for the systematic inventory of geological and minerals data. The Centre's current efforts are focused on guidance in the establishment of national inventories, based on project investigations by the Centre's expert.

225. The Project Manager, funded by UNDP, took up his appointment in Bangkok early in March 1978.

Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre

226. No meetings were held during the period under review.

227. Following the signing of the Agreement and the project document for UNDP financial support in April

1977, the development of the programme has been slow, largely owing to delays in the ratification of the Agreement and the appointment of representatives to the Board of Management. The Agreement came into force on 10 February 1978. Plans are being made to hold the first session of the Board from 24-29 April 1978. The UNDP allocation for 1978 was just under \$400,000, which, though less than the amount that had been sought, should permit the rapid development of the Centre's programme.

Typhoon Committee

228. The tenth session of the Typhoon Committee was held at Tokyo from 25 to 31 October 1977.

229. The Committee recommended that ESCAP and WMO organize a review mission in the first half of 1978 to evaluate country requirements and programmes and draft a long-term plan of action for the Committee.

230. As urged by the Commission, ESCAP and WMO successfully negotiated with UNDP for the continuation of its support to the Typhoon Committee at the present level through 1978 and 1979.

231. After consultations with ESCAP, the Typhoon Committee secretariat hydrologist accompanied a team sent by the Government of Japan to conduct a detailed survey of the Mae Klong River basin in Thailand during November-December 1977, for the purpose of designing the telecommunication network and finalizing plans for a flood-forecasting and warning system for the basin.

232. Preparations for extending flood-forecasting systems to cover major river basins in the Philippines have been actively pursued, while the river basins in Sabah and Sarawak were selected for the installation of flood-forecasting systems.

233. The publication *Guidelines for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness in Tropical Cyclone Areas*, prepared jointly by ESCAP, WMO and LRCS, was printed and distributed.

234. In compliance with a decision of the Typhoon Committee at its tenth session, ESCAP, working in close consultation with WMO, took the necessary steps to organize a review mission to determine the future direction of the Committee's activities.

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

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

WMO/ESCAP informal planning meeting for the establishment of a co-ordinated programme of storm-surge data acquisition in the Bay of Bengal, Bangkok, November 1977

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (fifth session), Lahore, February 1978

236. At the informal planning meeting, which was organized in co-operation with WMO, the location of stations, selection of instrumentation, installation, maintenance and operation aspects for storm-surge data acquisition in the Bay of Bengal were discussed.

237. The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones discussed the problems encountered and progress achieved in implementing its programme of work as well as the assistance required to support national efforts.

238. In general, progress in the implementation of the hydrological component of the technical plan was hampered by the lack of equipment required to improve the hydrological and telecommunication networks for the flood-forecasting and warning systems.

239. In response to further representations from ESCAP and WMO, UNDP agreed to provide funds not only for the chief technical adviser for two years but also for the post of an expert in electronics and telecommunication for 18 months to the end of 1979. The Panel also received a message at Lahore just before the end of its fifth session that UNDP would also provide funds to support the services of a hydrologist for six months each in 1978 and 1979. The chief technical adviser assumed his duties in February 1978.

240. A further important development was the provision of funds by UNEP for the purchase of equipment for additional tide gauge stations in the Bay of Bengal, which were essential for the development of improved methods of predicting storm surges in the areas, and the offer of funds for an expert to assist countries in the analysis of available data with a view to improving prediction techniques.

C. RELATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Subsidiary bodies

241. In planning and implementing activities in the food and agriculture sector, the secretariat has not only ensured interdivisional co-ordination and complementarity but has also received close co-operation and assistance from various United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, such as FAO and UNIDO. Following the second session of the Committee on Agricultural Development, a joint ESCAP/FAO review was held at Bangkok to discuss the ESCAP programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, mainly in order to ascertain the availability of FAO inputs to the programme and to avoid duplication of work.

242. In the field of development planning, joint projects were commenced on the promotion and training of rural women (with FAO); environmental aspects of alternative development patterns (with UNEP); trans-

national corporations in primary industry (with ECLA); projections of economic growth (with Soka and Kyoto Universities, Japan); and relationships between structural change and development (with the International Development Centre, Japan). Close co-operation continued with APDAC in several aspects of development administration; with APDI and the United Nations Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, in the continuation of a series of workshops for middle-level planners; and with the three commodity organizations covering natural rubber, coconut and pepper. As well as receiving advisory services, these communities were assisted in the formulation and execution of several research studies. Also with respect to raw materials, assistance was provided to the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation among Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries to service a meeting of the Working Group of Experts on Producers' Co-operation among Developing Countries.

243. In the field of industry, housing and technology, the secretariat has maintained close co-operation with UNCTAD and UNIDO in the establishment of the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer. Among the ESCAP/UNIDO ventures, the following activities may be mentioned particularly: a programme on coconut processing technologies organized in the Philippines in July 1977; projects on identification and strengthening of indigenous technology, subcontracted to the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand and the Central Food and Technological Research Institute, Mysore, India; strengthening and modernization of the technological performance of medium-scale and small-scale industries in the Philippines; development of alternative rice-bran stabilization units of low capacity and low cost; and establishment and operation of the contract-research network, in collaboration with the Denver Research Institute in the United States. A meeting of representatives of the regional offices of all United Nations specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies located in Bangkok was held in July 1977 to adopt a concerted approach to the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The secretariat maintained close co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning on human settlements matters. The project document for the UNEP/ESCAP group of experts' meeting on human settlements technology was finalized and preparatory work for convening the meeting was started. Two project proposals entitled "Formulation of a regional programme for the ESCAP region" and "Establishment of a regional information system" were submitted to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for funding.

244. In the field of trade, close working relations were being maintained with various United Nations bodies and international agencies such as UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, GATT, ITC, UNCITRAL, EEC, SPEC, the Com-

monwealth Secretariat, ICC, ICA, the ASEAN secretariat, the Japan External Trade Organization and PC

245 In the field of natural resources, liaison was maintained with the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport and UNEP on activities concerning rural energy and water resources development. There was close contact with UNIDO and FAO on the expert group meeting on biogas development. ECA was also kept informed of this and of remote sensing matters. The secretariat participated in various meetings, including the Fifth Meeting on Global Impacts of Applied Microbiology sponsored by UNEP and UNESCO, the Asian Working Group on Solar Energy arranged by UNESCO and the International Solar Energy Congress. As in previous years, a close relationship was maintained with UNESCO and its associated projects in the geological field, as well as with other organizations concerned. Liaison was maintained with the appropriate divisions of other regional economic commissions and with other members of the ACC Sub-Committee on Water Resources Development. Co-operation with WMO, UNDRO and LRCS continued in the provision of technical and administrative support to the Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones. Strong support was provided by UNEP, which had financed the services of an ecologist for the Third Regional Symposium on the Development of Deltaic Areas. A number of informal meetings were held with the regional offices of UNDP, UNEP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO concerning the establishment of an interagency task force on water for the ESCAP region. Representatives of the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Division, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and UNESCO attended the Intergovernmental Meeting on Remote Sensing and Satellite Surveying in June 1977 and the ESCAP adviser in that field attended the second session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Outer Space Affairs in Paris in September 1977.

246 In the field of population, the secretariat participated in the UNFPA Minimum Population Programme Mission to Viet Nam in June 1977, meetings of the ACC Sub-Committee on Population and the UNFPA Inter-Agency Consultative Committee at Geneva in May 1977, the eighth session of the United Nations Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections at Amman, Jordan, in May 1977, the UNFPA Inter-Agency Consultative Committee *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Regional Advisory Services in New York in August 1977, and the United Nations Working Group on Comparative Analysis of World Fertility Survey Data at Geneva in December 1977. The secretariat also participated in the following WHO meetings: a seminar on documentation in the field of human reproduction, a meeting on family life cycle methodology, and a regional meeting on primary health care. It also participated in a meeting of the Sub-Committee of United Nations Interagency Librarians. In addition, representatives of the secretariat attended a number

of meetings organized by various international and national bodies on related subjects.

247 Co-operation with UNICEF in strengthening UNICEF-assisted social services projects in the countries of the region continued. A second study tour by Republic of Korea social welfare in-service trainers in selected countries of the region took place in November-December 1977. ESCAP, the Asian Youth Council and the Hong Kong Council of Social Services sponsored the Third Regional Youth Conference on "Youth Development through Involvement" in Hong Kong. In co-operation with the Asian Youth Council and the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, ESCAP provided technical assistance and resource persons in national and regional training programmes for youth leaders and youth workers in different aspects of youth work. ESCAP and the United Nations Volunteers sponsored the Workshop on Appropriate Technology and Domestic Volunteer Services. Representatives of the secretariat attended various meetings, including the first meeting of the ACC Inter-agency Task Force on Youth Programmes, the third meeting of the International Year of the Child Advisory Group, the Asian Regional Conference on the Family as a Unit of Welfare in National Planning, sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the International Union of Family Organizations, the Third Asian Youth Forum on Community Development, the Asian Youth Seminar: Youth and Co-operation Movement, a meeting of the International Committee for the United Nations Decade for Women, and the International Seminar on the Status of Children in the World Today.

248 There was close co-operation between ESCAP and UNCTAD with regard to the activities of both secretariats and the formulation of maritime project proposals relating to shipping and ports. In matters of maritime training, the IMCO and ESCAP secretariats were in close consultation, particularly in the provision of advisory services to the ESCAP countries. In the field of inland waterways and coastal shipping, the secretariat worked closely with the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport in New York. In the implementation of the project on economic statistics of shipping (L 2 scheme), ESCAP was in close consultation with the United Nations Statistical Office in New York and with UNCTAD. The secretariat also worked very closely with FAO in matters concerning the transport of forestry products. In addition, the secretariat maintained close co-operation with such subregional groupings as ASEAN, RCD and SPEC and with the commodity organizations in matters of shipping and ports.

249 In the planning and implementation of various projects and programmes in the field of transport, communications and tourism, co-operation has been received from the following specialized agencies and other organizations in their respective fields: the United

Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, UNDP, ILO, ICAO, IBRD, UPU, ITU, ADB, WTO, IRF, UIC and SEATAC.

250. In the field of statistics, the secretariat continued its close co-operation with the specialized agencies and other organizations. Representatives of those bodies were regularly invited to participate in technical meetings, and the secretariat was represented in those of their meetings that had statistical content. Two papers were prepared for meetings held outside Bangkok: "Experience in the collection of mortality data in recent censuses and surveys in the ESCAP region", for the WHO regional meeting held at Alexandria, and "Energy statistics in the ESCAP region", for the Expert Group on Classification and Measurement of Energy Statistics convened by the United Nations Statistical Office in New York. The secretariat was represented at the first session of a joint United Nations/EEC expert group on world-level classifications, held at Brussels in November 1977, and the meeting of the Expert Group on the Global Recommendations for the 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing convened by the United Nations Statistical Office in New York in January 1978.

Interagency programme on integrated rural development

251. Eight meetings of the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development and 17 meetings of the Interagency Task Force on Integrated Rural Development were held during the year, at Bangkok. The participating agencies and organizations, besides ESCAP, are APDI, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO.

252. The purpose of those meetings was to develop well-thought-out and co-ordinated action projects under the interagency co-ordinated plan of action for integrated rural development in the ESCAP region in support of national programmes for the redressal of rural poverty. The Committee and the Task Force served as regular forums for interagency consultations and for liaison, as a co-ordinated group, with national focal points for rural development. They also succeeded in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources to undertake specific projects and activities under the plan of action. An additional function was to maintain liaison with the global-level ACC Task Force on Rural Development.

253. The following were among the major activities undertaken during the period under review.

Country-level activities

254. OTC, ESCAP and the regional interagency mechanism initiated collaborative work on on-the-job training in implementing integrated rural development projects. Exploratory missions were fielded to Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines during October and November 1977 to discuss various aspects of the training projects, with a view to meeting local require-

ments and conditions. Further consultations with the Governments are in progress.

255. On the invitation of the Government, an interagency mission left for Maldives on 8 February 1978 in order to help to devise an over-all rural development strategy and identify specific projects for assistance by the Interagency Committee. The mission, which consisted of representatives of ESCAP, UNIDO, UNEP, ILO and FAO assisted by resident experts from all the agencies in Colombo/Male, investigated technical assistance possibilities for strengthening national capabilities for compact area planning and for education in the context of rural development.

256. On behalf of the interagency mechanism in the region, ESCAP led the exploratory mission of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development to Samoa in July 1977. The mission's report, containing a number of suggestions and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the country's village development programme, was submitted to the Government. Follow-up work was initiated by the UNDP Regional Representative for the South Pacific at Suva, Fiji.

Inter-country activities

257. A meeting of national liaison officers designated by participating member Governments for the purpose of implementing the interagency co-ordinated plan of action was held at Bangkok in January 1978 by the Interagency Committee. At the meeting, participating national liaison officers came up with tentative project suggestions on a country-by-country basis. The projects related to such key aspects of integrated rural development as in innovative grass-roots-level training, institutional development for target groups, decentralized area planning, monitoring and evaluation. The projects would be undertaken upon receipt of formal requests from the Governments and with reference to availability of resources.

258. A joint APDAC/ESCAP policy-level seminar on training strategies in support of integrated rural development was held at Seoul in October 1977 in collaboration with the Interagency Committee and the Institute for *Saemul Undong* Studies of Seoul National University. The seminar focused specifically on issues connected with identification of groups of people, officials and non-officials, to be trained for integrated rural development work, the objectives in respect of each group, as well as institutional structure and methodology for improved training. The occasion was used to expose the participants to the rural development programmes and approaches of the Republic of Korea.

259. Preparatory action was initiated under the auspices of the Interagency Committee to provide an effective regional input to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in 1979, and a consultant was appointed by FAO for that purpose. Preparations were in progress for undertaking micro-level studies in selected areas and for holding an expert group meeting in May 1978.

Chapter III

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

260. The thirty-fourth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Building, Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 17 March 1978.

261. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Cook Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong and Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

262. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Turkey attended. A representative of Switzerland attended under Council resolution 860 (XXXII). A representative of the Holy See also attended under Council decision 244 (LXIII).

263. The session was also attended by officials from United Nations Headquarters, representing the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, and by representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

264. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Food Council.

265. 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, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization.

266. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization, Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, European Economic Community, Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration, Pepper Community, Regional Cooperation for Development, South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, South Pacific Commission and World Tourism Organization.

267. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations in category I were present: International Chamber of Commerce, International Co-operative Alliance, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Organization for Standardization, International Planned Parenthood Federation, League of Red Cross Societies, World Confederation of Labour and World Veterans Federation, as also the following in category II: Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration and Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association.

268. An official of the Institute for International Partnership of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation attended as a guest of the ESCAP secretariat.

269. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(XXXIV)/INF.1.

270. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission at its 522nd meeting elected Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi (Iran) as Chairman.

271. 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 two Vice-Chairmen be held in abeyance, and nine Vice-Chairmen were elected, namely: the Hon. Andrew Peacock (Australia), H.E. Mr. M.N. Huda (Bangladesh), Mr. Lu Tzu-po (China), H.E. Mr. Mohan Dharia (India), H.E. Mr. Koichiro Aino (Japan), the Hon. Mr. Badri Prasad Shrestha (Nepal), H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe

(Sri Lanka), H.E. Mr. Upadit Pachariyangkun (Thailand) and H.E. Mr. Hoang Bich Son (Viet Nam)

272 The Commission appointed a Committee of the Whole to consider agenda items 7 and 8. The Committee elected H.E. Mr. Prok Amranand (Thailand) as Chairman and Mr. M. Muhiuddin (Bangladesh) and Mr. A.T. Jayakoddy (Sri Lanka) as Vice-Chairmen.

273. The Commission also appointed a Technical and Drafting Committee. Thus Committee elected Mr. Carlos P. Ramos (Philippines) as Chairman and H.E. Mr. B. Dashtseren (Mongolia) and Mr. Chura Bahadur Hamal (Nepal) as Vice-Chairmen.

274 The Chairman announced at the Commission's 528th meeting that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, she and the Vice-Chairmen, constituting the credentials committee, had examined the credentials of the delegations. The Vice-Chairmen from China and Viet Nam had expressed their reservations with regard to the qualifications of the representatives of one country. With those reservations recorded, the committee had found the credentials of all the representatives to be in order.

B. AGENDA

275 At its 522nd meeting the Commission unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening addresses
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L/7/Rev.1 and Corr 1, E/ESCAP/L/8 and Corr 1 and 2)
4. Policies, programmes and perspectives for the development of the ESCAP region
 - (a) *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977 "The International Economic Crises and Developing Asia and the Pacific"* (E/ESCAP/L/12 and Corr 1 (English only), E/ESCAP/L/12/Add 1 and Corr 1 (French only))
 - (b) Regional development strategies for the 1980s: medium- and long-term proposals (E/ESCAP/80 and Corr 1)
5. Extrabudgetary assistance: pledging (E/ESCAP/62 and Corr 1-3, E/ESCAP/63 and Add 1, E/ESCAP/92 and Corr 1 and Add 1)
6. Programme changes, 1978-1979, and medium-term plan, 1980-1983 (E/ESCAP/74 and Corr 1 and 2 and Add 1, Add 2 and Corr 1 and Add 3, E/ESCAP/75 and Corr 1, E/ESCAP/81 and Corr 1)

7. Review of progress and consideration of issues in various fields of activity of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/59-61, E/ESCAP/68, E/ESCAP/70-73, E/ESCAP/76 and Corr 1, E/ESCAP/77, E/ESCAP/78 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/79, E/ESCAP/81 and Corr 1, E/ESCAP/82-85, E/ESCAP/87 and Add 1, E/ESCAP/88, E/ESCAP/89 and Corr 1, E/ESCAP/91 and Corr 1, E/ESCAP/93)
8. Progress reports on regional institutions and special regional projects
 - (a) Regional institutions (E/ESCAP/69 and Add 1, E/ESCAP/86)
 - (b) Special regional projects (E/ESCAP/64-67, E/ESCAP/96, E/ESCAP/L/9-11)
9. Findings and recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/94 and Corr 1)
10. Any other business (E/ESCAP/90, E/ESCAP/95)
11. Annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/ESCAP/L/13)

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

276 At the request of His Excellency Mr. Upadit Pachariyangkun, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government, acting as Chairman at the opening meeting, His Excellency Mr. Kriangsak Chomanan, Prime Minister of Thailand, declared the session open. The Executive Secretary read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

277. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the people and Government of Thailand, welcomed those attending the session.

278 He noted that besides being a vast repository of technical information and expertise, as well as a forum for international meetings at various levels, the importance of the United Nations, and of ESCAP, was mainly due to the fact that there was no better alternative to international co-operation in an interdependent world for promoting peaceful progress and understanding in the region and the world at large.

279 The current international economic system had proved to be inadequate and there was a real need for a major overhaul of the existing international economic order. The new international economic order represented a hope for the future of developing nations since it aimed essentially at redressing imbalances which had for too long existed in the relationship between the

rich and the poor nations. The emerging consensus on how to work together on various economic issues provided a source of new hope and optimism. There was, indeed, growing recognition that the developed and the developing countries had related long-term interests and that there was a need for both to adopt practical solutions to the problems facing the poorer nations constituting the majority of the world community. In that context, Thailand was most gratified by the General Assembly's decision, in resolution 32/197, to appoint a Director-General for Development and International Co-operation to render assistance in carrying out the functions of the Organization in the economic and social fields. The Thai Government placed great priority on social and economic development, especially in the rural areas.

280. Before development projects could be expected to yield benefits, conditions of peace and stability must prevail in the area. His Government's foreign policy was therefore aimed at seeking friendly co-operation and understanding with all countries, particularly its immediate neighbours and member countries in the region. The progress so far achieved was very encouraging, as was evidenced by the activities of the Interim Mekong Committee in harnessing the abundant resources of that great river. The Government and people of Thailand were hopeful that the fourth riparian State would in due course resume participation in the project.

281. In his message, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that, during the last phase of the Second United Nations Development Decade, it was time to take stock of past experience and performance in order to identify major issues and attempt to formulate priorities for the future. Although considerable progress had been made during the current decade towards enhancing international co-operation and economic interdependence, not only among the developing countries themselves, but also between them and the developed countries, much remained to be done, and the United Nations was the forum to tackle the global issues.

282. He was confident that the committee recently established by the General Assembly to deal with the entire range of economic issues would be able to give further impetus to efforts aimed at securing a new international economic order.

283. The initiative of ESCAP in undertaking a forward-looking appraisal of developments and policy issues in the light of the role envisaged for the regional commissions under the General Assembly's resolution on restructuring was particularly welcome, and would have a bearing on the determination of priority objectives and on their implementation.

284. The Secretary-General was fully confident that ESCAP would make a significant contribution to the success of the special session of the General Assembly

in 1980 and that its activities would pave the way for the adoption of new international co-operation.

285. He felt that vigorous efforts, determination, ingenuity and the ability to work together were all that were necessary to face the challenge that lay ahead in order that success in those vital endeavours could be achieved.

286. The Executive Secretary welcomed all delegations to the session and thanked the Prime Minister of Thailand for his inspiring address. The Commission was meeting at a time when issues of far-reaching significance were under consideration by the entire international community. The Second Development Decade, now drawing to a close, had witnessed less spectacular results in terms of economic development for many countries in the region. Critical problems of distribution, both between and within countries, remained to be solved, to ensure that growth was accompanied by social justice. The lack of employment opportunities appeared as if it would become increasingly serious over the next decade, especially in countries with large and rapidly expanding populations.

287. In an age of increasing global interdependence, the disturbing scenario confronting developing countries was exacerbated by problems facing the world economy as a whole. The phenomenon of stagflation in developed countries, and particularly the increasing protectionism associated with it, were major factors hampering the development efforts of the poorer economies. New initiatives, new strategies and new international relationships and structures were required in order to ensure even basic minimum living standards for a large proportion of the population of Asia and the Pacific. The major challenge was to ensure the creation of a global framework within which national development efforts and co-operation might occur. Global interdependence therefore provided developed and developing countries alike with a unique opportunity in that regard. Speedy action would be in the interest of both groups, and co-operation was also necessary to ensure that the world economy attained the degree of stability necessary for orderly growth in the developing countries.

Policies, programmes and perspectives for the development of the ESCAP region

288. In his policy statement introducing this item, the Executive Secretary observed that during the first half of the Second Development Decade a majority of the developing countries in the ESCAP region had failed to achieve the targets set in the International Development Strategy. Nevertheless, the over-all and individual performances of the developing countries in the region had improved markedly during 1976 and 1977 compared with their generally poor growth in earlier years. As indicated in the *Economic and Social Survey of*

Asia and the Pacific, 1977, there had been an improvement in the growth rates of gross domestic product and expanded trade had strengthened the balance-of-payments and reserve positions of ESCAP developing countries. Stabilization policies, good harvests and greater foreign exchange availability for imports had helped to control inflation. There was also heartening evidence of greater commitment among ESCAP developing countries to the alleviation of poverty and reduction of unemployment, and Governments had been increasingly concerned with rural development issues.

289. Better domestic economic management, favourable weather conditions, improved international economic and financial conditions and renewed world trade expansion in 1976 and 1977 had helped ESCAP developing countries to cope with the world economic crises. However, the adjustment measures which they had had to take would have a lasting impact on their economic structures and constitute an important determinant of their future capacities and patterns of growth in the 1980s. Furthermore, they were again confronted with a disturbing trend from without which was affecting their scope to export those commodities which they could produce efficiently. Stagflation in developed countries and the increasing protectionism associated with it might become major factors impeding development efforts in the next decade. Despite the recent improvement, and unless acceleration could be sustained, it appeared that the next decade would commence with a lower level of development than had been anticipated and with serious external constraints to growth.

290. A succession of externally generated crises and adverse weather conditions had caught countries off guard and policies had been dictated more by the urgency of short-term solutions than they had been based on a clear assessment of their long-term implications. Although there was still a need to formulate short-term measures to counteract the problems created by stagflation and protectionism, he hoped that in the long run recognition of the mutuality of interests in the interdependent world economic system would help to bring about world-wide economic stability, and that the 1980s would witness significant structural transformation in the developing countries, making them less vulnerable to capricious international market fluctuations or the vagaries of weather.

291. The world economic crises had demonstrated not only the intensity of global economic interdependence but also the asymmetry of interrelationships between developing and developed countries. In the formulation of strategies for the 1980s, a distinction should be made between transitory factors which could be dealt with by short-term measures and non-reversible factors requiring adjustment measures. That would help to define more precisely the role and requirements of international co-operation in assisting self-reliance by complementing the mobilization of indigenous resources,

particularly the hundreds of millions of unemployed and underemployed people.

292. The world economic crises during the decade had adversely affected the living standards of the poor. An intolerable burden of abject poverty and wasteful unemployment had a demoralizing effect on the poor and could be politically dangerous by containing the seeds of social upheaval. It would therefore be unrealistic and essentially futile to formulate any strategies for the region which ignored poverty and unemployment.

293. The time had come to draw up a new international development strategy for the next development decade, encompassing new initiatives and co-operative endeavours to forge new international relationships. A useful global strategy could be attained by a thorough assessment at the regional level; the characteristics of external and internal impediments to growth would be more apparent when the decade's last biennial review and appraisal was taken up at the Commission's next session and when the secretariat's current research project on new patterns and strategies was completed during 1979. The broad framework for a global strategy was based on the concern to restructure international economic relationships for the establishment of a new international economic order. ESCAP was responsible for the development of the operational content of that order for the region and for the implementation of the relevant global decisions in the regional context.

294. The basic issue for the coming decade was not merely rapid growth but growth with social justice. In that context, certain elements were necessary to ensure the success of a development strategy: fuller utilization of resources, increased productivity and greater participation by the poor in the development process; adequate nutrition, education and living conditions for the poor; the involvement of individuals in decision making and implementation; and increased self-reliance and a reduction in the degree of external dependence.

295. The implementation of such a strategy required a stable world order. Increased self-reliance and co-operation among themselves would strengthen the economies of developing countries and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks. However, full support was needed from the developed countries and others which had the resources to bring about a substantial improvement in the international environment. External constraints to the growth of the developing countries would be eased considerably if the developed economies could return to steady and non-inflationary growth, avoid stagflation and unemployment, allow freer access to the exports of the developing countries, restructure their own economies to place a premium on efficiency, and transfer more capital and technology to developing countries. Above all, the economically powerful developed countries should not adopt protectionist policy

measures serving short-run national interests in disregard of the considerable repercussions of such measures on developing countries and on their own long-term interests. The sanctity of free trade had formerly been worshipped; now that the developing countries were in a position to contribute to global prosperity through such a system the rules of the game were being changed. The interests of both the developed and the developing countries could be served by increasing the benefits of the developing countries from their increased participation in a new framework of global economic interdependence.

296. Through co-ordinated policies, innovative mechanisms for joint action and intensified co-operation between the developed and developing countries, progress could be made in improving the well-being of the world community and ensuring a more equitable share of the gains obtained therefrom. With concurrent action on the domestic and international scenes, there was every reason to look forward to the 1980s with optimism that the more recalcitrant problems of development could be overcome and that the world would enter a new era of steady and equitable growth.

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977: "The International Economic Crises and Developing Asia and the Pacific"

297. The Commission considered the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977* (E/ESCAP/L.12 and Corr.1), comprising two parts: "Recent economic developments and emerging policy issues in the ESCAP region, 1976-1977" and "The international economic crises and developing Asia and the Pacific". It commended the secretariat on its work in preparing the document and generally concurred with its conclusions regarding the impact of the crises during the 1970s.

298. The Commission noted that the developing countries of the ESCAP region which had suffered severe reverses on account of the international economic crises of the 1970s had stabilized their economies in the previous two years with the help of sound economic management policies, the common efforts on their part to safeguard their interests and improved weather conditions. It was concerned, however, that their terms of trade continued to be unfavourable and that little progress had been made towards reducing the vulnerability of the developing ESCAP countries to future crises, for which improved structural changes would be required. Even in the short term, the principal problems described in the *Survey* persisted to some degree in several countries. Many, for example, continued to suffer from food shortages, balance-of-payments difficulties and the effects of widespread uncertainties emanating from fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and in the earnings of export commodities. The Commission expressed particular concern that future economic progress was imperilled by the alarming spread of protectionism in a number of developed countries.

299. Satisfaction was expressed at the marked improvement in agricultural output in most countries of the region since 1976, although lower yields had occurred in some southeast Asian countries. It was recognized, nevertheless, that neither that rise in output nor the currently improved food supply conditions and stock levels were a guarantee against the effects of repeated poor harvests in the major grain producing countries of the world. Despite the improvement in world cereals stocks, current food supplies were still heavily dependent upon year-to-year variations in harvest output, and food-deficit countries remained vulnerable to the threat of shortages and sharply increased prices. Clearly, there was no reason for complacency, as neither food security nor the required rapid development of the largely agrarian economies of the region were yet within reach.

300. The Commission recognized the scale of the effort necessary to develop agriculture and reduce the vulnerability of food output to adverse climatic conditions. Several delegations pointed to the need for greatly increased irrigation and drainage facilities in order to ensure a stable and rising level of agricultural output. It was also noted that the increase in agricultural production was an important component in a massive effort for integrated rural development. However, an essential element in such an effort would be the full participation of all elements of the community, irrespective of their position in the existing economic structure. In that process of rural development it would be essential to establish strong links between agriculture and industry and bring about a dispersal of industrial activity away from metropolitan areas. The Commission noted that that subject had appropriately been a major theme in the deliberations of the recent ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry.

301. The Commission took note of the situation in several developing ESCAP countries where adverse balances on trade account had been compounded by heavy burdens of external debt-service payments, producing severely adverse balance-of-payments conditions. Several delegations referred to the fall in the prices of their countries' exports and to the fact that, despite some improvement in primary commodity exports in the previous two years, their terms of trade had failed to recover since import prices had soared. Such problems were particularly serious for the least developed countries, which were precariously dependent on their agricultural sector for economic survival.

302. Most delegations observed that their national attempts to diversify and expand exports were being thwarted by short-sighted protectionist policies in the developed market economy countries. They expressed deep dissatisfaction at the slow pace of progress in the negotiations for securing greater access to markets in those developed countries by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers. For their part, delegations from developed countries stressed their interest in freer trade and its benefits, which they felt should be pursued by both the

developed and the developing countries. They also pointed out the difficulties which they were facing in the immediately prevailing economic situation. The Commission noted the suggestion by several delegations that more intensive co-operation at the regional and subregional levels would contribute substantially to the expansion of trade among the countries of the region. In that connexion, it anticipated a significant contribution of ideas from the forthcoming meeting of ministers of trade aimed at co-operative solutions to some of those problems.

303. With regard to the burden of debt-service payments, several delegations indicated the need to augment the flow of financial resources on concessionary terms and to alleviate the existing burden of external debt. A number of developed countries informed the Commission of the continued efforts of their Governments to increase their official development assistance to developing countries in the region.

304. The Commission expressed its deep concern that there had been little progress in establishing the proposed common fund and only slow progress in implementing the Integrated Programme for Commodities, as accepted at the fourth session of UNCTAD. Nearly all delegations emphasized that that Programme should become one of the main components of the new international economic order. The Commission welcomed the work of the secretariat in the area of commodities, was warmly appreciative of the encouraging attitude of some developed countries in the region and expressed its earnest hope for fruitful negotiations and enhanced international economic co-operation in that field under the auspices of the United Nations.

Regional development strategies for the 1980s: medium- and long-term proposals

305. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/80 and Corr.1. It took note of that document and indicated the major elements and features which would be essential in an international development strategy for the coming decade and beyond. It felt that to make a positive contribution to the early establishment of a New International Economic Order, a new development strategy should embody the spirit of the resolutions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, specifying effective measures to remove the main obstacles to the independent development of the developing countries so as to enhance their individual or collective self-reliance. The new development strategy should aim at accelerated economic growth with social justice with a view to alleviating poverty. It noted that the development thrusts of many countries were in consonance with that proposed focus of the regional development strategy for the next decade. Further, it felt that the adoption of such an approach required the fulfilment of the basic needs of the people, a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, greater and more active participation by all segments of society,

particularly the poor, in the development process, and effective integrated rural development programmes. It was pointed out that the concept of basic needs should not be used as a means of preserving archaic forms of production relations or as an obstacle to economic independence.

306. The Commission emphasized that in the formulation of a new international development strategy for the 1980s, the short-comings evident in the strategy for the 1970s should be avoided. Consequently, the new strategy should not contain oversimplified global targets and unrealistic principles.

307. Several delegations were of the opinion that undue emphasis on external factors, including private foreign investments, should be avoided. The strategy should concentrate primarily on methods of attaining the goals set. It should not underestimate the share of the gains from trade which could be appropriated by transnational corporations to the detriment of developing countries. Effective measures should be envisaged to eliminate the negative consequences of the activities of the transnational corporations on the developing countries and to introduce strict governmental control over those activities in order to subordinate them to national development plans. In formulating the strategy it was essential to apply a unified approach to development analysis and planning, examine long-term trends in the economic development of the region and give prominence to the role of the public sector. In this regard, the Commission adopted resolution 181 (XXXIV) on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries. Although the resolution was adopted unanimously, one delegation drew attention to the need also to take into consideration the role of the private sector in promoting development.

308. Specifically, any new strategy should take into account pertinent differences among countries, including levels of development, the potentials for and constraints to development, and the characteristics of social systems and objectives. In the ESCAP region, it would be necessary to accommodate the special circumstances of the least developed, land-locked and developing island economies. Further, there should be flexibility in the strategy and provision of specific opportunities for periodic review and necessary redirection.

309. The Commission noted that the regional development strategy should take account of the deliberations of the several international meetings held during the course of the current decade and of the need to bring about structural changes in the world economy.

310. The Commission looked forward with interest to reviewing the results of the secretariat's work on the last biennial review and appraisal of the strategy for the current development decade and on new patterns and strategies of development for the 1980s and beyond.

It envisaged the task of the ESCAP committees and secretariat, harnessing the expertise of the region and working closely with member Governments, as being to provide the regional input into the formulation of the new strategy, in order to ensure that it took account of the special circumstances and specific needs of economic and social development in the Asia and Pacific region. Since the region comprised more than half the population of the world's developing countries, the regional strategy should contribute effectively to the early establishment of a new international economic order. In its preparations, the secretariat would find it necessary to co-ordinate its work with activities undertaken elsewhere in pursuance of the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as with its own activities in various sectors. In that connexion, one delegation proposed the convening of a session of the Committee on Development Planning by the end of 1978 for the purpose of considering the substance of the regional contribution to the new international development strategy.

311. The objectives of the strategy should include improvements in the standard of living of all people in the region, with particular concern for the improvement of the conditions of life of the poorest segments of the population in all countries, and a greater degree of participation in the process of development by sections of society at lower levels of income, and by women and youth. In view of the preponderance of population, poverty, and underutilized human resources but potential for development in rural areas, the strategy should place its primary operational emphasis on integrated rural development. In that and other contexts, it should include provision for greatly enhanced employment opportunities, better-mobilized financial resources, expanded and more widely accessible social services and improvement in human settlements and environmental standards. In connexion with all those elements, the secretariat would need to take cognizance of recent patterns of growth and the new development strategies which had evolved and been adopted by the countries of the region. Since the data currently available were generally inadequate to meet the needs of the new strategy, they should be improved in quality and coverage. New data sources would need to be developed and various data sources integrated for more effective use.

312. Notwithstanding the emphasis which had to be placed on self-reliance in the strategy, co-operation would also constitute an essential element. The Commission emphasized that, whatever the form, substance and content of the future international development strategy, the developing countries required a stable and equitable world order and world peace and security in order to carry out dynamic internal policies effectively. There were still fundamental problems in the international economic structure which required urgent attention. The Commission noted with concern the unsatisfactory progress made in the North-South dia-

logue, on which great hopes had been placed of achieving concrete and positive solutions to basic problems, and expressed its disappointment at the results of negotiations in other international forums. It re-emphasized that international co-operation should be aimed at ensuring food security and expanding opportunities for trade among countries and the transfer of a greater volume of real resources and technology to developing countries on appropriate terms. In the re-organization of international monetary and financial institutions, it would be necessary to design decision-making processes so that they became more responsive to the needs of the developing countries.

313. The Commission felt that increasing co-operation among developing countries themselves would constitute one of the important means of achieving the objectives of the new international economic order and of the international development strategy for the next decade and beyond. It noted the progress made by the secretariat in implementing resolutions 162 (XXXII) and 171 (XXXIII), but saw considerable scope for expanded efforts, both by member countries and by regional and subregional organizations. Some delegations laid emphasis on the opportunity for collective self-reliance to help developing countries to limit the effects on their economies of disturbances in the existing international economic system, while others, taking a more global view of economic interdependence, saw expanded trade and other economic co-operation among developing countries as an important contribution to international economic expansion, promoted in partnership with developed countries. The view was also expressed that economic co-operation between the developed and developing countries in the region could play a positive role as long as it was based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit.

314. The Commission welcomed the contributions which several developing countries were making to assist other developing countries in administration, health, technology, education and other fields, as well as the important role which could be played by the existing regional training and research institutions and development centres in implementing TCDC. In that connexion, the Commission noted especially the establishment of the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer, the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery and the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre. It also welcomed the reactivation of the Mekong project under an interim committee and the continuing progress in off-shore prospecting in both the east Asian and South Pacific subregions.

315. Emphasizing the expanded role which ESCAP itself might play in promoting further linkages among its developing member States, the Commission endorsed the proposal to convene a regional conference to consider the implementation of TCDC following the global conference on the subject to be held in August-September 1978. Among the areas which the Commission iden-

tified for increased co-operation were the utilization of water resources, industrial complementarities, agricultural research and transnational corporations. Several delegations drew attention to the potential for greater co-operation among south Asian countries, and to the opportunities for the least developed among ESCAP developing countries to receive assistance from the developing countries which were in a position to give it. The Commission hoped that developing member countries would work closely with the secretariat in exploiting such opportunities and that developed countries and multilateral sources of funds would emphasize support for co-operative endeavours in their assistance programmes.

316. The Commission agreed that, among its other important implications for national development, TCDC should play a particularly crucial role in facilitating ECDC. The Commission welcomed the offer by UNDP to finance a meeting at the working level to enable the subregional ECDC groupings to examine the scope and techniques for close and continuing relationships and urged the secretariat to commence preparations for convening such a meeting in co-operation with UNCTAD and other concerned international agencies. It commended the important progress made over the previous year by RCD, ASEAN and the organizations promoting co-operation among developing island nations of the South Pacific, and the commodity organizations in natural rubber, coconut and pepper. It noted with particular interest the recent developments in RCD in the fields of insurance, shipping, technology, science, development banking and planning, tourism and trade. It also welcomed the formation of the South Pacific Forum shipping line.

317. To facilitate expanded intraregional trade, an important manifestation of ECDC, the Commission commended the signing of the Bangkok Agreement, ASEAN's preferential trading arrangements, the increased utilization of the Asian Clearing Union and the imminent establishment of the Asian Reinsurance Corporation. The Commission saw scope for further arrangements along such lines. In particular, it looked forward with interest to the adoption of a regional blueprint for trade expansion and co-operation, and endorsed the proposal of the ministers of industry of the region to assist industrial co-operation through the establishment of a club and a ministerial group.

318. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 180 (XXXIV) entitled "Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s". One delegation welcomed the resolution but drew attention to the reservations it had expressed with regard to General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), which were cited in the preamble to resolution 180 (XXXIV).

Extrabudgetary assistance: pledging

319. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/62 and Corr.1-3, E/ESCAP/63 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/92 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

320. The Commission was informed that the procedural framework for discussing extrabudgetary assistance and pledging had been adopted in consultation with ACPR. The Commission was also informed of the growing needs of the countries of the region as compared with the supply of services. Voluntary contributions were necessary so that realistic programmes could be formulated to meet those needs adequately.

321. The Commission unanimously endorsed the idea of discussing extrabudgetary assistance and pledging during Commission sessions and adopted resolution 182 (XXXIV) on mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions. It also commended the thrust of the ESCAP work programme.

322. A number of countries announced their intended contributions to the work programmes of ESCAP and the regional training and research institutions for different periods of time starting from 1978, both in cash and in kind. Some members, while declaring their support for the announcement of intended contributions, informed the Commission that they were not at that time in a position to announce intended contributions but that when a decision had been reached by their Governments information concerning the contributions would be conveyed to the secretariat. Some delegations referred to the assistance they gave to the region through bilateral programmes and through other parts of the United Nations system.

323. The Commission agreed that the contributions made to the work programmes of ESCAP and the regional training and research institutions were the manifestation of a desire to co-operate for the development of the countries of the region. The Commission also felt that the discussion of extrabudgetary assistance and the announcement of intended contributions by member and associate member countries of ESCAP constituted an important step towards greater co-operation among the developing countries of the region as well as between those countries and the developed countries.

Programme changes, 1978-1979, and medium-term plan, 1980-1983

324. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/74 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3, E/ESCAP/75 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/81 and Corr.1.

325. In his introductory statement, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that since the endorsement of the programme of work and priorities,

1978-1979, by the Commission at its thirty-third session, a number of legislative bodies had met and made several proposals for changes to the work programme. He also referred to other special meetings, such as the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry held in November 1977, which had made useful recommendations that were being submitted to the Commission for endorsement. Such proposals and recommendations would be reflected in the changes to the work programme, 1978-1979.

326. The Executive Secretary drew attention to the changes that would be made in the format of the Commission's annual report to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with new instructions received from United Nations Headquarters. Unlike the practice followed in previous years, the programme of work and priorities, after receiving the endorsement of the Commission, would no longer be included in the report; instead, the report would contain only a brief analytical account a few pages in length describing the main trends or changes in the work programme. In view of that change, the revised programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, incorporating the changes endorsed by the Commission, would be issued as a separate document and circulated to Governments for information.

327. In introducing the medium-term plan, 1980-1983, he explained that it was a rolling plan prepared each time for a period of four years and that it would provide a framework within which the biennial programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, and the biennial programme budget, 1980-1981, would be prepared. He requested delegations to examine each programme carefully with a view to advising the secretariat as to whether the allocations of resources to each programme needed readjustment, whether the objectives set for programmes were the desired ones, whether the secretariat had clearly defined the problem to be addressed in each programme, whether the strategy laid out for each programme, divided into two biennia, namely, 1980-1981 and 1982-1983, followed the right course, and whether the expected impact stated for each programme was realistic.

328. The Commission re-emphasized the existing six priority areas, namely, food and agriculture; energy; raw materials and commodities; transfer of technology; international trade, transnational corporations and external financial resource transfers; and integrated rural development. It was suggested that more resources, particularly secretariat staff resources, should be allocated for the implementation of the activities under the priority areas.

329. As to the proposed programme changes, the Commission cautioned the secretariat that the proposed additions to the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, should be further scrutinized and the work programme streamlined in consultation with ACPR to

make it highly selective and pragmatic. In that connexion, it was stated that duplication should be avoided as far as possible, and that activities of lesser importance should not be pursued. It was also suggested that in future, for purposes of better management, the document on programme changes should indicate the over-all effect of the proposed changes on the status of resources.

330. The Commission endorsed the addition of a new programme, namely, information systems and documentation services, as it was felt that dissemination of information and documentation services were of great importance in providing assistance to member Governments.

331. The Commission approved the proposed programme changes contained in document E/ESCAP/74 with few adjustments and also agreed to the following additional changes.

332. (a) *Additions:*

Development of food and agriculture (01)

- (i) Regional study on terms of trade between rural and urban areas to strengthen linkages between agriculture and other sectors.
- (ii) Expert group meeting on agricultural development and development policies.

Raw materials and commodities (03)

- (i) Study on comparative profitability of investment in the production of natural rubber, coconut, pepper etc.
- (ii) Survey on the existing schemes for improvement of marketing and processing of smallholders' export commodities.
- (iii) Study on constraints faced by small farmers in utilizing the existing high-yielding plant materials and the accompanying inputs.
- (iv) Development of extension and provision of other services for the modernization of the smallholding sector for export commodities.
- (v) Development of agro-based manufacturing industries for natural rubber, coconut, pepper etc.
- (vi) Development of standard contracts and general conditions for pepper, tropical timber, rubber and coconuts.

Development of transport (13)

- (i) Study on the development of public transport.
- (ii) Seminar-cum-study tour on public transport in the USSR (1979-1980).

- (iii) Assistance in drawing up bilateral or multilateral agreements, on request, for movement of traffic across national frontiers.
- (iv) Survey on comparative operating practices for goods and passenger transport by road.

Development of communication facilities (14)

Working party of postal experts to review, evaluate, reorient and update the secretariat's existing work programme in the field of postal services (in co-operation with UPU and the Asian Oceanic Postal Union).

333. (b) *Rearrangements:*

- (i) Programme 05 to be rearranged as follows:

05. International trade, transnational corporations and external financial resource transfers

Part A. Trade expansion and monetary co-operation

Part B. Transnational corporations

Part C. External financial resource transfers

- (ii) With regard to part A, the description of the objectives would be the same as for the original 05.2. The programme components and specific activities thereunder would be as follows:

1. *Co-operation for trade expansion*

The objective of this programme component is to review the trade and trade policies of member countries of ESCAP and identify possible areas of co-operation for trade expansion. (This component includes specific activities originally appearing as 05.2 (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) and the proposed new specific activity on MTN as appearing on page 1 of document E/ESCAP/74/Add.1.)

2. *Trade promotion and development*

(The description of the objectives and all specific activities appearing under programme component 11.5 in document E/ESCAP/74/Add.1 would be given here.)

Under specific activity 11.5(i)(c), the words "including buyers' missions" have been added after "organization of trade missions" (E/ESCAP/74/Add.1, p.5.)

3. *Monetary co-operation*

The objective of this programme component is to identify areas for

regional monetary co-operation with a view to facilitating trade expansion. (This programme component includes specific activities originally appearing as 05.2 (iv) and 11.4.)

- (iii) The objectives, programme components and specific activities of the proposed part B: Transnational corporations and part C: External financial resource transfers would be as appearing in document E/ESCAP/74.
- (iv) The original programme 11, entitled "Promotion and expansion of trade and monetary arrangements", would now read as follows:

"Trade facilitation measures and insurance and reinsurance.

"The objectives of this programme are to assist member countries in coping with various technical problems involved in the practices and procedures of international trade and to develop suitable facilitation measures to secure the smooth flow of trade. Co-operation in insurance and reinsurance will also be promoted."

Programme components

1. Measures for the facilitation of international trade flow (The programme component and its objectives and specific activities appearing as 11.2 on page 2 in document E/ESCAP/74/Add.1 would be described here.)

2. *Insurance and reinsurance*

(The programme component and its objectives and specific activities originally appearing as 11.1 would be described here.)

334. (c) *Modifications:*

Development of transport

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Identification of training needs and assistance in organizing training courses and workshops, particularly on:	Seminar-cum-workshop on rural road and rural transport development with special emphasis on manpower-oriented road construction and improvement of indigenous equipment
(a) Techniques for improving rural roads and rural transport to contribute to integrated rural development	
(b) Techniques for planning integrated rural transport	

335. The Commission entrusted the Technical and Drafting Committee with the task of scrutinizing the proposed changes to the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, and of considering the medium-term plan, 1980-1983, in detail. In the course of such scrutiny, many delegations made useful suggestions on the implementation of some activities in the work programme. The Commission adopted the above amendments to the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979. It noted that the programme, revised accordingly, would be distributed to member Governments. The Commission also endorsed the medium-term plan, 1980-1983.

Review of progress and consideration of issues in various fields of activity of ESCAP

Food and agriculture

336. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/87 and Add.1 and E/ESCAP/89 and Corr.1.

337. It again stressed the importance of the role of agriculture in the economic and social development of member countries of the region and emphasized the urgency of achieving self-sufficiency in food and accelerating agricultural development. It noted with concern the further widening of the gap between rich and poor and the decline in *per capita* food production, especially in the most seriously affected countries. In order to increase production and reduce hunger and malnutrition, there was a growing commitment in the region to the development of agriculture on a priority basis. It was noted that the recent changes in policy measures and strategies were: (a) development of rural institutions, including credit, marketing and other services, to encourage the active participation of small and marginal farmers in the development process; (b) activities aiming at the creation of job opportunities; and (c) strengthening of the intersectoral growth linkage.

338. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Agricultural Development on its second session. It welcomed the streamlined programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979 prepared by the secretariat and appreciated the emphasis placed on qualitative improvements rather than on quantitative expansion of the activities. The Commission commended the secretariat on its efforts to co-ordinate activities and co-operate with other United Nations bodies, especially FAO, in the development of its work programme, in order to achieve the maximum degree of efficiency and avoid duplication. The Commission was of the opinion that, while ESCAP should concentrate its efforts on economic and social aspects of food and agriculture, technical aspects of its work should be planned and carried out either jointly with FAO or with a substantial FAO input. It was agreed that the agency best equipped technically to deal with a parti-

cular activity should be the one to undertake that activity.

339. The Commission strongly supported and commended the work carried out by ESCAP under its agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP), with extrabudgetary assistance from the Netherlands Government. It noted the proposal to transfer the activities of the scheme to a regional ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO fertilizer advisory, development and information network, by mid-1978, and felt that, in view of the considerable efforts that had been made during previous years, the ARSAP work on fertilizers should lead to the establishment of the network, which would give definite and permanent significance to the work undertaken so far. The Commission therefore strongly recommended the early establishment of the proposed network and appreciated the co-operative efforts between ESCAP, FAO and UNIDO in that respect. The Netherlands delegation indicated that its Government was considering making some associate experts available and that it had already provided part of the documentation unit.

340. As a second phase, ARSAP would continue its work on the domestic marketing and consumption of agro-pesticides. The Commission felt that proper attention should be paid to safeguarding against the negative effects of pesticides on the biological ecology of the soil. One delegation noted that the training of personnel in the use of agro-pesticides should be given high priority in the scheme.

341. The Commission commended the work done by the secretariat on coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber (CGPRT) crops and, recalling its resolution 174 (XXXIII), which had been designed to facilitate implementation of the project, again strongly endorsed the early establishment and operation of a regional co-ordination centre for research and development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tubers in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific. It underlined the need to develop alternative sources of foodgrains in solving the region's food shortages, and considered that the proposed centre would play a vital role in that field. The Commission expressed the desire that in the execution of the centre's future programme of work, full use should be made of many pertinent research activities being undertaken by the existing international agricultural research centres throughout the world, notably in Latin America, in which there were three experienced centres, in Colombia, Mexico and Peru. One delegation pointed out that the whole venture should not depend totally on "outside" funds, as it might well collapse when those funds were withdrawn.

342. The Commission urged the secretariat to concentrate on the socio-economic problems associated with the various CGPRT crops while FAO should handle the agro-technical aspects in co-ordination with ESCAP. In that connexion, the Commission strongly

urged the ESCAP and FAO secretariats to submit a single joint project to UNDP concerning financial assistance for the centre.

343. The Commission also urged the secretariat to strengthen the nucleus staff in the secretariat to prepare the ground for initiating and co-ordinating the activities of phase I of the project, as recommended in resolution 174 (XXXIII).

344. The Commission urged international agencies and developed countries to co-operate and assist in providing financial and technical support for the establishment and operation of the centre.

345. The Commission welcomed the offer by the Government of Indonesia to provide host facilities for the centre at Bogor. The representative of UNDP informed the Commission that UNDP was prepared to provide funds to assist work on CGPRT crops. The USSR reaffirmed its readiness to convene a seminar on CGPRT crops in 1979.

346. The Commission strongly endorsed the continuation of the agricultural information scheme and outlook services for food and agriculture, and in particular the *Agricultural Information Development Bulletin*. Importance was placed on continual assessment of the value of the scheme and services to receivers and users, full co-operation by ESCAP member Governments in supplying facts and figures, and the eventual provision of funding for the project from the United Nations regular budget. It was also considered that overlap with publications of other United Nations agencies should be avoided.

347. The Commission suggested that the resources of the newly established International Fund for Agricultural Development be mobilized for the benefit of the ESCAP region. One delegation expressed regret at the lack of efforts made to raise the income of small farmers through a careful study of the linkages between the agricultural and other sectors, and recommended that a regional study be conducted on terms of trade between rural and urban areas. Another delegation stressed that rural development had proved most intractable and, along with other delegations, endorsed efforts to ensure that institutional services reached down to the neglected strata. One way to achieve that was to enhance participation by the target groups.

348. The representative of the Republic of Korea stated that his Government would consult the secretariat to work out details concerning the hosting of a workshop on the *Saemaul Undong* movement.

349. Some delegations stressed that agricultural co-operatives played an important role in the development of the national economies of the member countries of the region and for that reason it had been considered that ESCAP should give adequate attention to the studies and exchanges of experiences of the agricultural

co-operatives movement in member countries of the region. As there appeared to be a consensus that the small farmer was the backbone of agriculture in most countries of the region, the emphasis should be on assisting him, through the introduction of co-operatives, to enhance his productive capacity so as to enable him to increase his income.

350. One delegation expressed the opinion that it might be useful for the future programme of work of ESCAP to include studies on developing co-operation among member countries in combating crop pests and animal diseases.

351. The Commission expressed concern at the difficulties encountered in connexion with the Asian Rice Trade Fund, and was informed that the Philippines would host an expert group meeting which would undertake an extensive study on the alternative solutions to the Fund, as recommended by the Committee on Agricultural Development at its second session. The group would present its recommendations regarding the future of the Fund to the Board of Directors for a decision.

352. The Commission endorsed the suggestion of the Committee on Agricultural Development that the activities related to the review and analysis of agricultural development plans and policies should be re-activated, and recommended the convening of an expert group meeting on the subject. It was stated that that activity would be planned in consultation and co-operation with FAO.

353. The Commission was informed of the offer made by the delegation of Bangladesh to host the third session of the Committee on Agricultural Development at Dacca.

Development planning

354. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/68 and E/ESCAP/72.

355. It recognized the need for an integrated approach to the problems of economic and social development, especially because of the necessity to achieve social justice in the course of the development process. It was of the opinion that the current need was to develop methods and techniques for the articulation and quantification of the relationships which evolved in the increasingly complex process of economic and social development. It was recognized that no single model of development would be applicable to all countries of the region, but that variations in the existing level of development, in the pertinent constraints to and potentials for development, as well as differences in the objectives envisaged by different countries, would require varied strategies among countries in their development efforts.

356. Some delegations laid particular emphasis on the benefits of national planning in development. It was

noted that document E/ESCAP/72 had recognized the need for a unified approach to development planning, incorporating both economic and social considerations, and pointed out the need to work out, within the framework of the Commission, long-term recommendations for the implementation of such a unified approach, taking into account the different economic and social systems of individual countries of the region. In that context, it was felt by some delegations that the Commission should increase its assistance to member countries of the region in the field of long-term planning, with emphasis on formulation, implementation and co-ordination of plans at different levels. Reference was made to the opportunity to draw upon the experience and expertise available in countries of the ESCAP region for that purpose.

357. The Commission emphasized the importance of the secretariat's work on the formulation of development strategies for the coming decade. It noted with interest the work of the secretariat on the project on new patterns and strategies of development in the ESCAP region for the 1980s, and the financial support being provided to that work by the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands.

358. Some delegations observed that such strategies must be built upon the foundation of an appraisal of the specific conditions currently prevailing in the developing countries of the ESCAP region and take account of their different socio-economic systems. In their view, the strategy should aim at an over-all improvement in the living standards of all people of the region and define practical measures to ensure more equitable distribution of income and wealth, facilitate alleviation of poverty and unemployment and meet other urgent social needs through accelerated economic growth. Another delegation pointed to the predominance of the agricultural sector in most developing economies of the region, in consequence of which programmes of integrated rural development should form the core of strategies for development over the next decade. Other delegations suggested that additional, selected elements should also form a part of those strategies: the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the achievement of the objectives of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the evolution of a new international economic order and the need for subregional and regional co-operation as part of that evolution.

359. Some delegations noted the need to avoid fixing unrealistic quantitative targets and including unfeasible principles in the strategies for economic and social development. There was general agreement that the formulation of regional strategies for the 1980s should be carried out in co-ordination with the work on the United Nations global strategy which was currently being developed.

360. The Commission noted that the work plan and schedule of the project had been altered in line with the

recommendation of the Committee on Development Planning, so that they would correspond more closely to work being undertaken by the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies and the Committee for Development Planning at United Nations Headquarters, and that the initial phase of the project was substantially complete. A series of country studies had been commissioned to review and appraise developments in selected member countries, identify problems anticipated in the 1980s and discuss possible policy approaches. A large percentage of the countries in the region were covered in those papers, half of which had been completed, while the remainder were expected to be finalized during 1978. The Commission noted that the second phase of the project, involving a quantitative model of the region, related to work being done by the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies to identify quantitative limits to growth during the 1980s, was under way and would be completed by October 1978.

361. The Commission was informed that the third phase, which was about to be initiated, involved the preparation of several topic papers dealing with major problem areas common to subgroups of countries. The topics would include food supply, the importance and functioning of public enterprises, questions relating to international trade, aid and investment (including the role of transnational corporations), and problems of underutilization of human resources. The Commission welcomed the arrangements that the secretariat was making for two teams of eminent economists and sociologists from the region to examine those problem areas in the context of the south Asian subregion and the southeast and east Asian and Pacific subregion. Those studies would be completed by March 1979. The Commission noted that the final phase of the project would consist of a secretariat report reflecting the work described, to be finalized after examination by an expert group before submission to the Committee on Development Planning and subsequently to Headquarters.

362. The Commission emphasized the need for the secretariat to keep in close contact with the United Nations Secretariat (Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies) and to take fully into account the relevant activities of the organizations of the United Nations system at the global level, so as to provide the necessary regional input into those activities.

363. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the USSR to host a seminar on planning in 1978. It also noted the readiness of the CMEA secretariat to participate in conducting the seminar.

364. It endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Development Planning at its second session and approved the revised terms of reference of the Committee as they appeared in paragraph 45 of its report (E/ESCAP/68).

365. In its endorsement of the Committee's report, the Commission recognized the desirability of redistributing responsibilities for specific areas of work within the secretariat to reflect more consistently the major focus of the work of its separate divisions. It noted that that had been reflected in the internal re-deployment of the secretariat's resources for work in the areas of raw materials and commodities, rural development and transnational corporations.

Industry, technology, housing and the environment

366. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/59 and E/ESCAP/76 and Corr.1.

367. It endorsed the report and recommendations of the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry, held in November 1977, and observed that the Meeting constituted one of the most important events in the ESCAP region during the previous year. The Meeting had recognized industrialization as the most important element in economic development and had indicated the new directions it should take to meet the urgent and pressing needs confronted by the developing countries of the region. The Commission observed that the Meeting had given a clear outline of the basic areas which required immediate attention. The Meeting's recommendations provided an excellent framework for the Governments to undertake reorientation of their policies and strategies in terms of their own requirements. Several member countries indicated that they had already taken steps to reorient their policies and that those steps were very much in line with the recommendations made by the Meeting. In that connexion, it was stressed that new and innovative approaches were needed to give full effect to the recommendations made by the Ministers.

368. The Commission noted that the four elements that constituted the core of the Meeting's recommendations were: (a) strengthening of linkages between industry and other sectors of the economy, particularly agriculture; (b) reorientation of industrial policies to satisfy the basic needs of the poor; (c) dispersal and relocation of industries away from metropolitan areas; and (d) development of technology suited to small- and medium-scale industries and their linkages with modern and basic industries.

369. With regard to the strengthening of linkages between industry and agriculture, the Commission observed that industry should contribute substantially to modernization of the agricultural sector, which would enhance national and regional self-reliance. That would also ensure the participation of the large masses of the rural population in the development process by making industry an integral part of rural life. In the development of the desired industries, it was observed that the product mix should be so designed as to meet the basic needs of the large masses of the rural population.

370. It was observed that the Intergovernmental Meeting on Agro- and Allied Industries, held in January 1978,

had dealt specifically with the problems of strengthening the linkages between industry and agriculture. The Commission noted that that Meeting had made a number of useful recommendations. In that connexion, the representative of India reiterated the offer of his Government to provide host facilities for the proposed regional pesticides centre. The Commission appreciated the offer of the Government of the USSR to host a seminar on agro-industrial complexes in that country in 1979. It endorsed the recommendation that another inter-governmental meeting on agro- and allied industries be organized in 1979-1980.

371. While stressing the importance of small- and medium-scale industries, the Commission observed that dispersal of such industries and their relocation away from metropolitan areas would contribute to a considerable degree to increased employment opportunities, better distribution of income and balanced development. However, an important element of such a policy related to the development and application of technologies suitable for small- and medium-scale industries, including agro- and allied industries. The Commission urged that the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer should place special emphasis on such technologies. In that connexion, the Commission agreed with the observation of the Ministers of Industry that modern and basic industries, particularly in the public sector, would have a specific role to play in any new policy of industrialization. It was also observed that the development of small- and medium-scale industries in rural and urban areas required different approaches. The establishment of such industries in the rural areas would require greater state assistance and intervention with regard to organization, marketing and development and application of technologies. The importance of human resource development was again emphasized.

372. The ESCAP project on industrialization in non-metropolitan areas had already made considerable progress and the Commission noted that surveys had been completed with respect to eight countries. It urged member countries to participate actively in the inter-governmental meeting to be held at Tokyo from 23 to 29 March 1978 in order to ensure that appropriate programmes could be evolved in that field.

373. The decision of the Ministers of Industry to convene the first meeting of an *ad hoc* group of ministers before the end of 1978 to review and assist in the implementation of its recommendations constituted an important and practical step. Although eight countries formed the nucleus of the *ad hoc* group, the Commission noted that its membership was open to all member countries of ESCAP. It urged that the work of that group should receive the fullest attention and co-operation of all the member States. It noted that a few countries had already undertaken preparatory work and studies which would contribute to the surveys to be undertaken by the secretariat. It urged all countries to undertake such studies in order to realize maximum benefits from the ministerial review.

374 The decision to establish a club of member countries to assist in the promotion of active co-operation among the developing countries, particularly in favour of the least developed countries in the region, was accepted by the Commission as a commendable step. It had the potential to concretize the objectives of the programme for TCDC. The Commission noted the preparatory work which had been undertaken by the secretariat. It also urged that steps should be taken to ensure that the club functioned on an informal basis and, to that end, regular contacts with the countries should be established through appropriate channels. In that connexion, it was stressed, however, that any new arrangements should not diminish the effective role of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology, which had the prime responsibility in that field. The Commission noted the importance of pooling resources from donor countries in order to provide a full package of assistance needed by the least developed countries.

375 The Commission recognized the importance of investment, with particular reference to the achievement of the growth targets set by the Lima Declaration of 1975. It noted that the creation of an appropriate investment climate within the context of national policies constituted an important element in industrial development. It was recognized that foreign investment could play an important role in that regard. However, the Commission urged that the activities of transnational corporations be subordinated to national interests. It noted that the secretariat had already taken several measures in the field of foreign investment and tax administration. In that connexion, it noted with appreciation the offer of financial assistance by the Government of the Netherlands in the completion of a loose-leaf document on tax systems in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission welcomed the ESCAP studies on regional tax systems, as they would contribute, to some degree, to harmonization of tax incentives. It noted the efforts being made by the secretariat to organize the Third Seminar on Foreign Investment and Tax Administration in ESCAP developing countries at Sydney later in 1978. It also noted with appreciation the offer made at the Meeting of Ministers by the Government of Japan to host an intergovernmental expert group meeting on foreign investment for policy makers at an appropriate time.

376 While recognizing the importance of exports of industrial goods, the Commission felt that ESCAP should consider initiatives for developing the export potential of member countries on a complementary basis. Such complementarity provided an excellent opportunity to develop regional co-operation. It was felt that the factor of regional industrial complementarity should be given due weight. The Commission also noted that redeployment of industries was essential to ensure their more equitable distribution. It was felt that the large markets and opportunities available within the region should be fully explored. A certain number

of countries expressed concern over the growing trend towards protectionism, particularly in the developed countries, which, if continued, would seriously hinder the achievement of the Lima targets.

377 The Commission appreciated the progress made with regard to projects of interest to the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries. With regard to the South Pacific industrial survey, it emphasized the importance of the commitment and participation of the countries concerned. It noted that the terms of reference of the survey had been agreed upon between ESCAP, ADB and SPEC. It also noted that the Commonwealth Secretariat survey would complement that project. It appreciated the interest ADB had taken in the matter and the possibility that ADB might finance nearly 50 per cent of the costs involved. It welcomed the interest expressed by Australia and New Zealand in co-operating in the survey with the proviso that the Pacific Island Governments and SPEC give prior endorsement with regard to particular needs and wishes.

378 With regard to the project on prime-mover industries, the Commission appreciated the assistance given by the Government of the Netherlands in the implementation of that project in Nepal and the provision of a consultant. The Commission also noted that, on completion of the activities in Nepal, a similar project would be developed in Afghanistan.

379 The Meeting of Ministers of Industry had also reflected on the preparations to be undertaken at the regional level with regard to the Third General Conference of UNIDO, to be held in India at the beginning of 1980. Such preparations should fully reflect the views, needs and aspirations of the region, keeping in view the experiences of different social systems so that they would be given due recognition at the global level. With regard to the preparatory work for the Conference, the Commission felt that the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology should consider the desirability of holding of a high-level meeting prior to the Third General Conference. In that connexion, it also reflected on some activities undertaken by UNIDO to implement the decisions taken at its Second General Conference. The Commission welcomed the steps taken by the secretariat to work out joint programmes for the implementation of the Lima Declaration.

380 In the field of science and technology, two important projects had already become operational, namely, the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery. The Commission stressed that the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer had an important role to play in industrialization and urged member countries to support it fully and make maximum use of it in order to improve their own technological capabilities. In that connexion, it further stressed the importance of developing the indigenous industrial bases of the developing countries of the ESCAP region and called upon the developed coun-

tries to endeavour to promote a mechanism for facilitating the real transfer of technology to the developing countries of the region. It welcomed the stress that had been placed upon the strengthening of national institutions and noted that the bulk of expenditure would be devoted to strengthening national institutions and capabilities. It cautioned that, in view of the limited funds committed, the Centre should exercise due economy in expenditure. The Commission appreciated the offer of financial support by the Government of the Netherlands and the indication of support by several other countries. It noted that the availability of a scientific and technological infrastructure was of vital importance and that, in establishing such an infrastructure, close links should be developed between industrial centres and production units. It appreciated the steps taken by the Centre to organize a workshop of directors of national centres to formulate its work programme.

381. The Commission noted that the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery had already met and had designed subnetworks for implementation.

382. With regard to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Commission noted the work that had been undertaken in connexion with regional preparations. The First Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in December 1977, had identified five subject areas which constituted the regional theme for the Conference. The Meeting had also discussed the preparation of country and regional papers. The Commission urged that the country papers should provide an analysis of existing infrastructure, achievements and obstacles in order to reflect the actual situation in the countries. The newsletter which had been prepared and distributed by the secretariat provided useful guidance and information to the countries in that connexion. The Commission urged member countries to participate fully in the Second Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in July 1978. It noted the assistance offered by the Government of the United States of America to developing countries in the preparation of their national inputs. It also noted with appreciation the provision by the Government of the USSR of an expert to assist the secretariat in the preparation of a regional paper for the Conference. It was suggested that the preparatory phase might include holding topical seminars and convening a group of experts to examine the regional paper. The representative of the Republic of Korea reiterated his Government's offer to host a workshop on guidelines for technology.

383. In the field of human settlements, the Commission recognized that action at the national level was of primary importance and stressed the need for effective programmes for international co-operation. It endorsed the recommendations of the Regional Conference on Human Settlements and noted the progress made in formulating a regional programme. It felt that the fielding of country missions would be advantageous in that

respect. With regard to the development of a regional information system, it appreciated the assistance provided by UNEP/United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in implementing the system as well as in other programmes on human settlements. The Commission recognized the necessity of attaching priority to the area of human settlements and of evolving appropriate projects in such areas as settlement policies, slum and squatter settlements, land, shelter, building materials industry, and infrastructure and services. In the preparation of such projects due attention should be paid to the special situation in the South Pacific. The Commission noted that the existing staff resources of the secretariat might not be adequate to cope with the increased activities in the field of human settlements. It noted with appreciation the offer by the Government of Japan to share its experience and expertise in that field. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 184 (XXXIV) on human settlements, which concerned decentralization of activities from the global to the regional level, including redeployment of resources, for the purpose of improving the planning and management of human settlements activities within the region. One delegation suggested that, if such redeployment took place, the secretariat should look closely at its activities in the human settlements field and report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on any improvements it felt it was able to make.

384. The Commission recognized that it was desirable to strengthen the facilities and expand the activities of the two United Nations Regional Housing Centres for the ESCAP region located at Bandung and New Delhi, so that they could play a vital role in the transfer and exchange of knowledge and experience on human settlements among the countries in the region.

385. It noted the recommendation that the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology be renamed "Committee on Industry, Human Settlements and Technology" at an appropriate time.

386. In the field of the environment, the Commission commended the proposal to establish an environment section in the secretariat in co-operation with UNEP. It observed that there was a need for ESCAP to undertake projects on the environment, as UNEP was designed not to be an operational agency but to provide catalytic support to various executing agencies. The Commission expressed its concern over the termination of the Task Force on the Human Environment and urged other United Nations bodies such as UNEP and OTC to provide extrabudgetary assistance to ESCAP to enable it to carry out the residual and follow-up activities of the project.

387. The Commission recognized the importance of national environmental protection legislation. It urged member countries to participate actively in the inter-governmental meeting on the subject to be held in July 1978. It endorsed the idea of convening a South Pacific

conference on the human environment and recommended that such a conference be held in co-ordination with SPC and SPEC.

388. The Commission also noted the offer of the Government of the USSR to share its experience in the field of the environment.

389. With regard to desertification, the Commission suggested that efforts should now be made to undertake follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Desertification at the regional level. Such activities should include, among other things, consideration and examination of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the regional context, convening of technical workshops on implementation of the Plan of Action and co-ordination of the transnational project on monitoring desertification processes.

390. The Commission noted with satisfaction the growing measure of co-operation between ESCAP and the other United Nations bodies and emphasized the general need for progressive regionalization of appropriate global programmes.

International trade and special measures for least developed, landlocked and developing island countries

391. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/61, E/ESCAP/73, E/ESCAP/82 and E/ESCAP/88.

392. A number of countries expressed grave concern over the increasing resort to protectionist measures by some developed countries as a means of resolving problems of unemployment, industrial adjustment and deficits in balance of payments. Such measures had a detrimental effect on the trade expansion efforts of developing countries, particularly at a time when they had taken positive measures to diversify their economies and increase the output of manufactured goods. The developed countries were urged to take a longer-term view of the problems and make greater use of domestic adjustment assistance measures to meet the required structural changes in their economies.

393. Representatives of developing countries expressed dissatisfaction at the slow pace of progress achieved so far in MTN, although four years had elapsed since the Tokyo Declaration of 1973. They also expressed disappointment over the concessions that had been offered and implemented on tropical products. They urged that, in keeping with the Tokyo Declaration, tropical products should be accorded special and priority status. The developing countries stressed that the developed countries should apply special and differential measures to them without delay in ways which would provide special and more favourable treatment for their products. They urged the developed countries to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion at an early date and to take effective measures that could enable the developing countries to expand and diversify their trade.

394. Some delegations expressed their concern over the possibility that certain developed countries might seek to weaken the principle of non-discrimination under GATT by introducing safeguard measures on a selective basis, which could lead to the proliferation of unreasonable restrictions on trade.

395. Representatives of the least developed and landlocked countries urged that the commitments made to them in paragraph 6 of the Tokyo Declaration should be fulfilled immediately.

396. Developed countries shared the concern voiced by the developing countries over the resurgence of protectionism in international trade and expressed their support of an open international trading system based on the principles and disciplines of GATT. Other countries pointed out that difficulties in world trade might well be due as much to the direct effects of recession; protection in developed countries was not generalized, but was confined to the temporary support of a small number of sensitive items. All expressed their determination to bring MTN to a successful conclusion, bearing in mind the special treatment envisaged for developing countries in the Tokyo Declaration.

397. The Commission expressed appreciation of the useful advisory services extended under the UNDP/UNCTAD/ESCAP MTN project, including its ASEAN segment, in helping developing countries to participate effectively in MTN. The need for such assistance was even more urgent now, when the negotiations had entered a decisive phase. The Commission urged that UNDP support of the project should be continued until the conclusion of the negotiations. Commenting favourably on the technical seminars organized under the project, the representative of a developed country expressed its desire to participate in future seminars.

398. Representatives of developing countries urged the developed countries to improve the product coverage of their GSP schemes to include all products of interest to developing countries, remove their restrictive elements and make those schemes a permanent feature of international trade. They also stressed that the benefits of the GSP schemes should not be eroded by MTN without adequate compensation.

399. Several countries expressed disappointment at the inconclusive results of the negotiations on the establishment of a common fund, and the slow progress in the preparatory meetings on commodities under the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities. The more flexible attitude taken by some developed countries recently with regard to the establishment of a common fund was welcomed and other developed countries were urged to take the necessary action to facilitate the early establishment of such a fund.

400. The delegations of several countries expressed satisfaction at the development of their trade with the majority of the regional member countries. They ex-

pressed the view that long-term contracts and agreements signed preferably at the governmental level between trading partners provided a sound and stable basis for the expansion of trade and economic relations

401 Several countries urged that the existing commodity communities in the ESCAP region should be further strengthened and that the feasibility of establishing new communities or associations should be explored. The Commission urged the secretariat to provide further technical assistance and advisory services to the existing commodity communities, such as ANRPC, APCC and PC.

402. Requests for technical assistance from the secretariat were made by the representatives of those three bodies to undertake studies on the stabilization of export earnings, comparative profitability of investment in the fields of production, market and product development, shipping and freight rates, development of agro-based industries, formulation of standard contracts and general conditions, uniform gradings and specifications and other related issues. The Commission urged member countries and international organizations to provide further financial support for the implementation of the activities in that vital sector.

403 The secretariat's efforts to promote regional and subregional trade and monetary co-operation were commended. The entry into force of the Bangkok Agreement concluded under the Asian trade expansion programme was welcomed as a positive step towards the expansion of intraregional trade. Developing countries of the region, including those belonging to subregional groupings, were urged to join the Bangkok Agreement so that there could be a significant increase in intraregional trade and the strengthening of collective, self-reliant economic growth among the developing countries. The developed countries of the region were following with great interest the implementation of the Bangkok Agreement and in that connexion the secretariat was requested to keep the countries informed of the activities under the Agreement. A developed country expressed the hope that the Agreement would not lead to a closed and exclusive arrangement.

404 The Commission noted with interest some related activities under the Bangkok Agreement, particularly the ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Workshop on Rules of Origin and Harmonization of Customs Tariff Nomenclatures and Trade Statistics, which had been held in September 1977 and in which representatives of member countries of the Agreement had participated. It was of the opinion that the improvement of the tariff systems of the participating countries was a prerequisite for effective implementation of the Agreement and urged that action be taken within the region to harmonize tariff nomenclature and statistical codification.

405 The continued close co-operation of ESCAP, UNCTAD and UNDP in providing technical assistance

to the developing countries of the region under the Asian trade expansion programme was deeply appreciated. UNDP was urged to continue financial assistance to that project, which was aimed at further strengthening regional economic co-operation.

406 The Commission noted with satisfaction the steady progress made by the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) in 1977. Some developing countries urged more countries to join ACU so as to achieve more effective monetary co-operation which could facilitate intra-regional trade expansion.

407 The Commission was gratified to hear that the Asian Reinsurance Corporation was expected to commence operation in the course of the year and considered it another landmark in promoting collective self-reliant economic growth among the developing countries.

408. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the secretariat had made further progress in its work on the establishment of a regional export credit insurance scheme to facilitate the expansion of exports from the developing countries. UNDP was requested to provide further financial assistance to enable the secretariat to complete the final phase of the preparatory work.

409 The Commission noted the significant progress achieved by the Trade Promotion Centre (TPC) in carrying out its various activities under its four categorized units, namely, the professional development services, the market/product development services, the trade information services and the trade promotion advisory services. In particular, it commended the valuable work undertaken with regard to regional advisory services in trade information in rendering advice and assistance to Governments and their trade promotion organizations in the development of their own trade information services.

410 The Commission also noted the improved co-ordination of the Centre's over-all activities, the close co-operation between TPC and ITC, as well as the support and assistance provided by Governments and UNDP, ITC and other international agencies, which had greatly facilitated the implementation of the Centre's work programme. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and New Zealand as well as to UNDP, ITC and other international agencies in providing financial and technical support to TPC and urged that such assistance be continued and expanded so that the Centre's services and activities could be further strengthened.

411 The Commission was pleased to note the successful conclusion of the Meeting of Directors of National Trade Development and Promotion Agencies, held at Bangkok in September 1977, which had provided an opportunity for representatives of national trade promotion organizations to exchange views and experiences.

on trade promotion matters. While recognizing the usefulness of convening such meetings, some countries suggested that they should be held as and when the need arose, taking into account the conference structure of ESCAP.

412. The Commission endorsed the proposal to hold the meeting of ministers of trade in India in August 1978, in accordance with resolution 176 (XXXIII). The offer of the Government of India to provide host facilities was welcomed. The Commission noted that pursuant to its earlier directives, a draft blueprint for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region prepared by the secretariat had been considered at the twenty-first session of the Committee on Trade and was being revised in the light of the comments and suggestions made by the Committee. It also noted that the further observations and proposals made during the current deliberations would be incorporated in the revised draft blueprint, which the secretariat would circulate to member Governments for examination and comments; after further revision as required, it would be placed before a meeting of senior trade officials of Governments immediately preceding the ministerial meeting. It appreciated the offer of some countries to make technical assistance available for some components of the blueprint. The Commission welcomed the offer of UNDP to finance a meeting at the working level of representatives of the secretariats of ASEAN, RCD, the Bangkok Agreement and the group of South Pacific countries to enable them to examine the possibilities of linkages between the groupings.

413. The fifth session of UNCTAD was scheduled for May 1979 and the Commission considered that early and adequate preparation was necessary in order to make the session a success. A number of countries felt that the ESCAP secretariat had an important and useful role to play in that regard.

414. The Commission noted the statement by the UNCTAD representative in which he referred to the growing apprehension regarding the wave of protectionism in some developed countries. He stated that instead of trade liberalization, the developing countries were faced with vigorous restrictions against their exports which in all likelihood more than offset the benefits those countries derived from GSP. He also stated that the developing countries faced a serious problem in the use of quantitative restrictions by the developed countries, particularly import quotas, which were contrary to GATT.

415. He mentioned that the consultations in UNCTAD on a common fund and the Integrated Programme for Commodities had now reached a crucial and very delicate stage.

416. He added that existing North-South trade could not be expected to serve as an engine of growth unless the policies in the developed countries were fundamentally and substantially changed, although while seeking

to change those policies the developing countries needed to but greater emphasis on trade among themselves.

Least developed, land-locked and developing island countries

417. The Commission endorsed the report of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/61) and noted the recommendation that improved transit facilities should be accorded to the land-locked countries by their transit neighbours in a spirit of goodwill and friendly relations, taking into account the interests of the transit countries concerned and the agreed relevant international conventions and resolutions. The Commission urged the United Nations agencies, including international financial institutions, to intensify their efforts to assist the land-locked developing countries, as well as their neighbouring transit countries, in overcoming their problems. The Commission noted that one of the fundamental elements of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order was the alleviation of special problems faced by the least developed, land-locked and developing island countries.

418. The Commission noted with interest that the secretariat continued to give increased attention to the special needs of the land-locked, least developed and developing island countries. In that connexion, it noted that the UNDP-financed project on assistance to least developed land-locked countries (RAS/72/077) had entered its second phase and that a new work plan had been formulated placing more emphasis on promoting co-operation between the land-locked and transit countries. It urged that the activities under that phase should be carried out more expeditiously. It noted that, where project activities required work to be undertaken in a transit country, such work would be carried out in consultation with the transit country concerned.

419. The Commission noted that under that project the ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Workshop on Trade Facilitation and Development of Least Developed Land-locked Countries had been held in October 1977 and had enabled participants from both land-locked and transit countries to exchange views and explore solutions to their problems. The participants had recognized the importance of the Workshop in improving mutual understanding between the land-locked and transit countries and had recommended the organization of such forums on a regular basis.

420. The Commission noted with appreciation that a series of seminars on trade promotion and management development would take place in the Cook Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea in April-May 1978 with participants from Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Tonga. The programme would be organized in close co-operation with SPEC and ITC and had been geared to the scale of operations and appropriate levels of development of the island economies concerned. In

that connexion, the Commission noted with appreciation the financial contributions made by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for the seminars in April-May 1978. Similar training programmes would be organized for other island countries in due course.

421. The Commission noted the progress made in the implementation of resolutions 177 (XXXIII) on special measures in favour of the land-locked developing countries and 178 (XXXIII) on special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, and commended the secretariat on its assistance to the least developed, land-locked and island countries of the region. The Commission urged that the unit in the secretariat dealing with least developed, land-locked and developing island countries be strengthened so that it could carry out its work more effectively.

422. The representatives of the least developed countries urged the secretariat to undertake at a very early date the studies referred to in the draft blueprint for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region, namely, identification, on the basis of four or five digit categories of the second revision of the Standard International Trade Classification, of (a) excess capacities which might be used to meet import requirements of member States, (b) existing export potentials which, after product adaptation and upgrading of quality, could also satisfy import needs of ESCAP countries and (c) areas in which new capacities could be developed in order to meet import demand in the region. The suggestion was also made that a STABEX-type export earnings stabilization scheme should be included in the draft blueprint for commodities of export interest to the least developed and geographically disadvantaged countries.

423. Those representatives further stressed that duty-free or quota-free access to markets did not of itself constitute an adequate remedy for the expansion of the exports of the least developed and land-locked countries. Consequently, they urged that action be taken without delay to reduce non-tariff barriers in view of the limited trade potential of those countries.

424. The Commission noted that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/177, the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries had been established and the first pledging conference held in New York in November 1977. In that regard, the representatives of the land-locked developing countries expressed serious concern over the poor response of the Member States to the Fund and urged them to contribute generously so as to make it operational as early as possible.

425. The Commission endorsed the activities of ESCAP in the field of international trade as described in the report of the Committee on Trade.

Natural resources

426. The Commission endorsed the report and recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/60) and expressed support for the programme of work set out in the report.

427. It emphasized the importance of the effective utilization of natural resources in the development process of the developing countries.

428. The Commission was pleased to note that preparations were currently being made for a working group meeting on energy planning, with the intention that the meeting would also make recommendations on regional projects which would be most helpful to the member countries in the preparation of their programmes for production, use and management of energy. Noting that that meeting was likely to have a major effect on the energy programme of the secretariat over the next few years, the Commission urged the secretariat and the countries concerned to do everything possible, through careful preparations for the meeting, to ensure its success. It was noted that the meeting would have to be held in late July so that its report could be considered at the fifth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, scheduled for late October 1978, which would be concerned principally with energy matters.

429. The Commission noted with appreciation the activities that had been carried out during the year with support from a variety of sources. Those included the Seminar and Study Tour on Electricity Distribution Systems in Urban Areas and Their Integration with Transmission Systems, held in Japan and financed by the Japanese Government; the Workshop on Biogas and Other Rural Energy Resources, held at Suva with financial support from the Netherlands Government; the Roving Seminar on Rural Energy Development held in Indonesia, Iran, the Philippines and Thailand, also financed by the Netherlands Government; and a study on peak load coverage with particular reference to gas turbines and hydroelectric plants carried out with financial support from the Government of Switzerland, which was expected to be published in the near future. It was also noted with appreciation that the Government of India had provided expert services for the Workshop in Fiji and the Roving Seminar, and that the Government of the Netherlands had also provided an expert for those activities; that the Government of India was sponsoring a study on financing and management of rural electrification; and that strong participation was expected in an expert working group meeting on biogas development scheduled to be held in June 1978, with financial assistance from the Governments of Australia and the Netherlands. In that connexion, the Commission was pleased to note that, through co-operation with UNIDO, a few participants from Africa were expected to attend the biogas meeting with a view to accelerating the transfer of Asian experience in that technology to countries in Africa.

430. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the recent establishment of a Commonwealth Regional Consultative Group on Energy and it was suggested that the secretariat should maintain contact with that body in carrying out its programme. Attention was also drawn to the importance of measures to improve efficiency and achieve economies in the use of energy in national energy programmes.

431. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the USSR to provide expert services, and its desire to arrange a seminar and study tour in the Soviet Union on the subject of the use of brown coal and similar fuels.

432. It noted that in order to undertake the first triennial compilation on mineral development in the region, as agreed at its previous session, countries would need to provide the secretariat with data as at 31 December 1978, as early as possible in 1979.

433. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress being made in the project on stratigraphic correlation, and endorsed the proposal that a meeting of national participants in that project should be held in November 1978, to fit in with a meeting on geology to be held in southeast Asia. It noted with appreciation that the progress now being made with that work was largely due to the availability of the services of a senior geologist provided by the Government of Australia, and expressed the hope that it would be possible for such services to continue at least until the latter part of 1979, when it was expected that the first phase of the project would be completed.

434. The Commission was pleased to note that, as agreed at its preceding session, the first of a proposed series of regular biannual meetings on co-operation in ESCAP mineral programmes had been held at Bangkok in November 1977. It endorsed the principal findings of that meeting, and stressed the need to continue and strengthen that form of liaison in order to ensure that programmes in support of mineral exploration and development in the region were planned and carried out as efficiently as possible.

435. The Commission was also pleased to note that, in accordance with views expressed at its previous session, the secretariat, in co-operation with UNESCO, had reviewed the question of seismic activity in the region and was in the process of distributing an information paper to member countries, and at the same time seeking their views on the regional activities that might be most helpful to them. The secretariat was urged to pursue that work vigorously.

436. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the USSR to hold a seminar and study tour on modern methods of mineral prospecting, to provide expert services for periods of about three months and to explore the possibility of further co-operation in

relation to the organization and management of mineral exploration programmes.

437. The importance of irrigation as a means of achieving the necessary increases in food production and of overcoming the problems associated with irregular rainfall in many parts of the region was emphasized. The need for an integrated approach to water management, with a sound legal and institutional framework, was also stressed. In that connexion, the Commission was pleased to note that the Committee on Natural Resources had recognized that need, and that due attention was being given to the matter by the secretariat.

438. The Commission noted the very large potential for development of water resources in the region, and urged the secretariat to assist in any way when requested to do so in the development of a regional and co-operative approach to the harnessing of those resources for irrigation, power generation, navigation, environmental protection and other purposes.

439. The Commission was pleased to note the steps that had been taken towards the establishment of an interagency task force on water for the ESCAP region, endorsed the proposal and urged all parties to do their utmost to ensure the effectiveness of the task force as a mechanism for promoting interagency co-operation in water matters. It also approved in principle the holding of an *ad hoc* intergovernmental meeting to review, at the regional level, progress made in implementing the most important recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference, prior to the seventh session of the ESCAP Committee on Natural Resources in 1980. It was understood that the need for such a meeting would be reviewed by the secretariat in consultation with ACPR. It was suggested that the *ad hoc* meeting should deal with a selection of the issues raised at the fourth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, which had considered follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference, and that a general review of follow-up action should be made at the next session of the Committee.

440. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the USSR to provide assistance to countries in planning the development of water and associated land resources, and to organize a seminar and study tour in 1979 on measures to improve the performance of irrigation projects. It also noted the information provided by the representative of CMEA on the activities of that organization concerning water, and its desire to co-operate with ESCAP in matters of mutual interest.

441. The Commission was also informed of a variety of activities in the field of natural resources being carried out by UNESCO, and was pleased to note the continuing close co-operation between UNESCO and ESCAP in those matters. Proposed activities included a course on geophysics at Hyderabad in 1978, an international symposium on the hydrological aspects of

drought in India in 1979 and a regional seminar on ground-water resources and management at Roorkee, India, in 1979-1980.

442. The Commission was pleased to note that plans were currently being made for a working group meeting to be held within the next few months with a view to developing a regional programme with particular reference to training and research and development in the use of resources satellite data, and that it was expected that some funds would be available to finance such a programme. Support was expressed for the proposal that funds be sought to provide one adviser in surveying and mapping, to implement the recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

443. Having regard to the basic importance of training programmes, the Commission was pleased to note the offer of the United States to finance a regional remote sensing training centre at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. A contribution of 40 million baht was offered to begin a three-year programme, and it was expected that participating Asian countries would provide a total of 20 million baht. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the USSR to co-operate with Governments in the region in collecting and providing resources satellite data under arrangements determined by bilateral agreement. It was also pleased to note that a group training course on remote sensing techniques had been organized for the countries of the ESCAP region by the Japan International Co-operation Agency in January-February 1978, and that a similar course was planned for late 1978.

444. With regard to training generally, support was expressed for the proposal contained in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session, with special reference to water, namely, that funds should be sought to support a programme of training of key staff through the exchange of personnel between developing countries of the region within the framework of TCDC.

Population

445. In reviewing the demographic situation, the Commission noted that for many countries of the region, population continued to pose a major challenge to national development efforts and to the rising aspirations of the people in the urban and rural areas. A rapidly increasing population exerted very heavy pressures on the education system, health and welfare services, the employment market and the food situation. The competition for the use of resources to provide the basic necessities of life and for investments to increase agricultural and industrial output as well as employment opportunities had become severe.

446. The Commission recognized that nearly all Governments in the region had accorded high priority

to population in their development plans and had adopted policies and measures aimed at moderating the rate of population growth over a reasonable period as an essential element in their strategies for socio-economic development. Since the national priorities should be reflected at the regional level, the Commission recommended that greater emphasis be placed on regional population programmes and activities of ESCAP commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the problem. It adopted resolution 185 (XXXIV) on strengthening the capacity of the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of the population problems of the region. The delegation of the USSR reserved its position on the resolution, as reflected in the summary record of the 531st meeting.

447. The Commission noted with great satisfaction the activities carried out by the secretariat in the field of population, in particular the emphasis given to the integration of population and development and internal and international migration. The Commission commended the secretariat on the work performed so far and recommended that it continue its activities aimed at assisting the countries of the region in collecting basic data, preparing country monographs on the population situation, disseminating population information, training family planning administrators and integrating family planning and related population policies into over-all development programmes.

448. The Commission noted that, while family planning programmes, along with socio-economic development, had contributed substantially to a reduction in fertility in some countries of the region, in many others there was still an urgent need to expand and improve those services to meet the growing demand for family planning. It also emphasized the value for developing countries of carrying out studies jointly and exchanging experience and learning from each other in the field of population and family planning, while giving due recognition to matters relating to migration and resettlement.

449. In expressing its appreciation to UNFPA, which had so far provided a substantial part of the resources for the implementation of the ESCAP programme in the field of population, the Commission noted that the resources available to the secretariat were inadequate and not commensurate with the magnitude and urgency of the population problems facing the region. UNFPA was therefore requested to increase its contributions to the secretariat's population activities. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to make every effort to obtain increased allocations from the regular resources of the United Nations in support of the population activities of ESCAP.

450. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance given by the Government of France in providing an expert on a continuing basis for the preparation of country monographs as well as financial support

for the translation of population materials. It also noted with appreciation the assistance given to the secretariat by the Government of Japan in the programme of translation of population materials.

451. Recognizing the continuing need for building up in the countries of the region a cadre of personnel adequately trained in basic demographic analysis and the role played in that respect by the International Institute for Population Studies at Bombay, India, the Commission urged UNFPA to provide adequate financial support for its regional advisory services and training and research activities. In that connexion, the Commission also noted that, with the assistance of the United Nations, a training programme on population problems and development planning had been in operation at Moscow University since 1977.

Social development

452. The Commission reviewed and generally commended the activities of the secretariat in the field of social development as reflected in document E/ESCAP/84.

453. It noted, however, that in some areas, inadequate attention was being paid to the social aspects of development in a comprehensive way. The suggestion was made that more consideration be given to improving the quantitative and qualitative data base for policy making in social development, in view of the increasing attention being given to social aspects of development in over-all development policies.

454. It was reiterated that the recommendations of the Commission at its thirty-third session on several issues, including the following, required urgent attention: (a) evaluation of the accomplishments of regional advisory services and a systematic exchange programme of social development experts and personnel among the countries in the region; (b) more organized involvement of NGOs in the regional programmes; and (c) a more vigorous effort at the national and regional levels to develop strategies for attaining economic growth with social justice. The role of the secretariat in helping to establish linkages of national social developmental activities such as the integration of youth and women in the development process was also stressed.

455. The Commission endorsed the holding in 1980 of the proposed Second Asian Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Development (including social welfare) and requested the secretariat to proceed with preparations for the Conference, including the convening of the preparatory expert group meeting in 1979. The broadening of the scope of the proposed Conference to including other relevant social issues, such as youth and women involvement and integrated rural development, was welcomed. The suggestion was made that the substance of the Conference should also be discussed at the second session of the Committee on Social Development in 1978. It was agreed that the Conference could

be expected to provide new policy directions in social development during the 1980s. The Conference was also considered to be a valuable forum for obtaining increased political support for social development and for strengthening arrangements for regional co-operation in training, evaluation and transfer of experience.

456. While the Commission generally welcomed the expanding activities of the secretariat in the field of integration of women in the development process, it felt that that issue deserved increased attention. Concern was expressed by one delegation about possible duplication of activities between the secretariat and APCWD. The same delegation expressed the view that greater efforts should be made to augment staff resources of APCWD, *inter alia*, by seconding selected secretariat staff to it as an interim measure. The secretariat stated that co-operation and consultations were taking place regularly between the secretariat and the Centre in respect of programmes and activities in the context of the Asian Plan for the Integration of Women in Development, including those financed under the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

457. The Commission noted with satisfaction the substantial allocation provided under the Voluntary Fund to the secretariat for technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women in the region, and welcomed the appointment of the regional programme officer financed by the Fund to work with member countries.

458. The proposal to convene a regional preparatory conference in 1979 for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, was generally supported. However, it was pointed out that it might be difficult at present to make definite preparations for a regional conference, since work in preparation for the Conference was only just beginning and its main focus was not yet clear. There might therefore be an advantage in holding a regional conference as a follow-up to the World Conference. It was suggested that the Committee on Social Development should consider that matter at its next session.

459. The accomplishments of the mobile training scheme (MTS) for the land-locked and least developed among the developing countries were commended by the Commission. The recommendations of the Meeting on Post-MTS Training Activities and Developmental Perspectives were noted and the recommendation to OTC that MTS be extended until 1980 was unanimously endorsed. It was pointed out that the MTS training approach and methodology could also benefit other developing countries in the region concerned with the training of local development cadres. The secretariat was urged to arrange for the team to undertake effective follow-up actions to consolidate the achievements in the countries already assisted by MTS, in the spirit of the recommendations made at the Meeting.

460. The work being carried out by the secretariat in the field of youth was welcomed, particularly in respect of its large practical content and links with other areas of ESCAP concern in the field of social development. The emphasis on rural youth was commended. The secretariat informed the Commission that a number of activities had been undertaken in response to various General Assembly resolutions on youth development, including resolution 32/135 and previous resolutions on channels of communication between the United Nations and youth organizations. They concerned maintenance of practical links with various national, regional and international youth organizations active in the region. The secretariat was also participating actively in the United Nations *Ad Hoc* Youth Advisory Group Meeting and the ACC Interagency Task Force on Youth Programmes.

461. In connexion with the International Year of the Child, 1979 (IYC), the suggestion was made that ESCAP activities during 1978 should include priority action programmes for the welfare of children. A regional consultation among members of ESCAP in support of the activities of IYC was proposed; member and associate member countries and all United Nations agencies were invited to participate and co-operate. In that regard, the Commission unanimously adopted resolution 187 (XXXIV).

462. Some delegations expressed support for the proposed merger of the Population and Social Development Committees. In that connexion, the view was expressed that the Commission should take a definite decision without referring the issue to both Committees. It was also suggested that the merged Committee should meet biennially rather than once every three years. Other delegations were of the opinion that that important question should be studied carefully, especially in the Committees concerned and in the context of an over-all review of the conference structure of ESCAP. Accordingly, the Commission unanimously adopted resolution 186 (XXXIV) on the relationship between the Committees on Population and on Social Development.

Shipping, ports and inland waterways

463. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/79 and E/ESCAP/83.

464. It noted with interest the developments in shipping, ports and inland waterways and their importance in the economic development of the member countries. Concern was expressed over the latest developments in shipping technology and their impact on the developing member countries. The Commission therefore urged that a study be conducted on the most suitable shipping technology to meet the needs of the member countries, in particular the developing and least developed countries. It stressed the need for balanced investments between ships, ports and related facilities. It urged the

secretariat to continue to promote consultation between parties concerned in ocean transport. It emphasized the need for an integrated and co-ordinated approach in the development of all types of transport systems and the formulation of national policies to cope with the impact of technological change.

465. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the secretariat in preparing the first review of developments in shipping, ports and inland waterways and its usefulness in providing a valuable source of information in addition to being of assistance in the formulation of government maritime policies. It also suggested that the secretariat pay attention to new institutional trends, including major policy measures enacted by member countries, the establishment of new organizations in the field of shipping, co-operative ventures etc.

466. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications' shipping, ports and inland waterways wing and urged the secretariat to implement the recommendations in contained at an early date. It commended the secretariat on its valuable work and pragmatic approach in the implementation of activities/projects considered of great benefit to the member countries of the region. It urged the secretariat to mobilize more resources to implement those activities aimed at further promoting consultation between shippers and shipowners; strengthening manpower training programmes and shippers' organizations; implementating the economic statistics of shipping; establishing or strengthening freight study units and national merchant fleets for sea and inland waterways operation; improving and expanding ports and their management; and increasing utilization of inland waterways and related facilities and services. While expressing gratitude to the Governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the USSR, the United Kingdom and others for their generous and valuable financial and expert assistance, the Commission urged them to continue and increase their support to the secretariat for early implementation of the recommendations and ongoing projects of importance to the Governments and organizations in the policy formulation and rational development and expansion of merchant marine fleets for foreign and domestic services, port development and management, consultation machinery and data and information services.

467. The Commission specifically urged UNDP to increase its assistance to the secretariat for the projects in the field of shipping, ports and inland waterways and to designate the secretariat as the executing agency for such projects. It further urged global bodies and the specialized agencies to co-operate closely with the secretariat in the execution of projects concerning the region.

Manpower development

468. In reiterating the importance of manpower development programmes to the development of national merchant marines, the Commission endorsed the activities the secretariat had undertaken in that field. It also commended the secretariat on the efforts it had made in organizing workshops on shippers' co-operation and seminars on port planning and containerization, which had been of considerable importance to the developing ESCAP countries and had helped in disseminating knowledge, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experience and imparting training to personnel concerned in the application of know-how and methodology. The Commission expressed the view that it would be a step in the right direction if similar projects for shipowners could be organized, as they could contribute a great deal to co-operation between shipowners and shippers. It also felt that the secretariat should not limit its analysis of manpower development programming to immediate demands but should also look at future requirements and trends.

469. The representative of Japan informed the Commission that his Government was considering the possibility of co-operating with the secretariat in organizing a seminar on shipping to be held at Tokyo in 1978. The Commission also heard with interest the offer of the USSR to host a seminar on ship chartering at Moscow in 1979.

470. The Commission was pleased to note that during 1978 four country-level workshops would be hosted by the Governments of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore respectively. It also welcomed the statement by the representative of Australia that his Government would host an ESCAP regional shippers' council workshop at Sydney in 1979.

471. The Commission recognized that there was an urgent need for assistance to enable the developing ESCAP countries to (a) meet their growing demand for trained personnel, (b) operate their own vessels, ports and shipping institutions by applying the latest managerial practices and techniques and (c) upgrade their training institutions for maritime personnel. It felt that the projects in those fields should receive priority attention and implementation.

472. The Commission noted with interest the development of maritime training institutions and facilities in several member countries of the ESCAP region, including Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. It welcomed with gratitude the offers made by some of those countries to provide training to the maritime and managerial personnel of the developing countries of the region. It noted the requirements of technical assistance, equipment, training and teaching aids to increase the capability of the training institutions in the developing ESCAP countries.

473. It further noted the proposal by the representative of Bangladesh to establish in his country, with the assistance of developed maritime nations and international organizations, a maritime management institute for the training of shipping and port personnel.

474. The Commission was also informed that the secretariat was currently undertaking a survey to review the manpower requirements of maritime personnel and the upgrading of the courses and syllabuses of the national training courses for seagoing personnel and to assess their efficiency and relevance to the latest developments in shipping operations and technology. A report on that survey would be presented for consideration at the next session of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications in November 1978.

Development of maritime policy and institutions

475. The Commission recognized that the availability of adequate shipping data was a prerequisite for the formulation of appropriate shipping policies. In that connexion, it fully endorsed the work performed by the secretariat in assisting the developing ESCAP countries in implementing the project on economic statistics of shipping (L2 scheme). In view of various existing technical and other difficulties faced by the member countries in the implementation of the scheme, the Commission urged UNDP to continue to provide funds for the project. It also urged the secretariat to organize workshops or seminars on economic statistics of shipping at the regional or subregional level for the purpose of enabling the officials concerned to exchange views and ideas which might be useful in overcoming the existing problems so that the schemes could be fully implemented.

476. The Commission commended the secretariat on providing useful assistance in the promotion of freight study units in the region, and urged that it continue to organize seminars/workshops on the subject.

477. Some delegations drew the Commission's attention to the urgency of looking into the feasibility of organizing international machinery to examine the basis and justification for freight rate changes as and when proposed by liner conferences.

Merchant marine and shipping services

478. The Commission commended the secretariat on the efforts it had made in the field of the development of merchant marine and shipping services. It noted that the secretariat had conducted a study on the regional shipping network in the southeast Asian subregion with the assistance of the Netherlands Government and expressed the hope that the study would provide the developing ESCAP countries with concrete guidelines for the implementation of measures to improve the shipping services within the region and with a

methodology that might be applied to other subregional groupings within the region.

479. On the subject of international multimodal transport, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications at its first session that the secretariat should convene regional intergovernmental consultations in preparation for the next meeting of the global intergovernmental preparatory group on an international multimodal transport convention. The consultations would help developing countries of the region to assess the technical suitability of the provisions proposed for the convention in relation to their conditions and requirements.

480. The Commission noted with interest the development of the newly established shipping line in the South Pacific region, namely, the South Pacific Forum, with the assistance of the ESCAP secretariat and the Netherlands Government. It also noted that the Forum Line would commence its service in May 1978.

Development of ports and port management

481. The Commission noted with appreciation the efforts made by the secretariat in developing a long-term plan of action in the field of port development and strongly supported and commended the work in that field. It urged the secretariat to continue to give high priority to port management training and manpower development programmes. In that regard, it was noted that in a period of rapid technological change in shipping and with the adoption of containerization by numerous countries in the region it was necessary to discuss and exchange experience in port planning and development. The ESCAP Seminar on Port Development for Unit Loads and Containerization, held in Hong Kong in 1976, and the UNCTAD/ESCAP Seminar on Port Planning, held at Manila in 1977, were appreciated and were considered to have been excellent forums. In view of the fact that changes in shipping and port technology had enormous effects on the employment and resources of developing countries, the Commission emphasized the necessity of undertaking studies to determine appropriate forms of unitization for those countries.

482. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer put forward by the Hong Kong delegation to provide host facilities for further seminars on port development and containerization at an appropriate time.

483. The Commission noted that a number of countries were developing new ports and that management training and the provision of technical assistance were of great importance in achieving development plans. Port information systems were also an integral part of efficient port management and planning for port development and the Commission urged that activities in that field be continued.

484. The efficiency of port operation was considered to be an area of vital importance to the development of shipping in the region and the Commission noted with appreciation the efforts made by the secretariat towards developing a long-term plan of action in the field of port development. The Commission noted the proposal concerning the establishment in Sri Lanka of a central institute for port activities, including research programmes and such aspects as port handling costs and comparisons of efficiency between various ports in the region.

Inland waterways and waterway transport

485. The Commission, in recognizing the important role of inland water transport in the national transport systems, endorsed the long-term plan of action developed for that sector, and requested the secretariat to give adequate emphasis to the implementation of studies and projects on the design, maintenance and operation of inland waterway fleets and landing facilities. It also requested the secretariat to investigate the feasibility of establishing a subregional centre in Bangladesh to provide training and advisory services and undertake studies in the inland water transport sector. In that connexion, the Commission requested UNDP and developed countries to provide financial support for the early implementation of projects in that field.

486. It took note of the statement of the Chairman of the Interim Mekong Committee that fleet rehabilitation and modernization and improvement of navigation channels in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam would necessitate an initial expenditure of at least \$5 million.

Shippers' organizations and co-operation

487. The Commission congratulated the secretariat on the valuable work undertaken in the fields of shippers' organization and co-operation and urged that the project be continued. It stressed, however, that the secretariat must continue its efforts to support the building and strengthening of shippers' institutions and that it should develop a similar project for the shipowners in the region since they could contribute significantly to co-operation with ship users. The Commission also noted the Bangladesh request for expert advisory services for the development of a shippers' council and the establishment of a freight study unit in Bangladesh and urged the secretariat to take appropriate measures to that end.

488. It noted that the study tour to Europe organized by the secretariat in 1977 for the executives of shippers' councils in the ESCAP region under the ship users' co-operation project had been very informative and rewarding. It urged the secretariat to organize more study tours to other countries such as Australia and Japan, where the shippers' councils were considered to be well developed.

489. The Commission recognized that the newly established data and information service in the secretariat would help to provide the shippers in the region with vital data and information on shipping and trade for purposes of consultation with the shipping conferences.

Technical co-operation among developing countries

490. In stressing the importance of TCDC, the Commission strongly advocated and supported the initiation and development of projects in the field of shipping, ports and inland waterways. In addition, it noted that, with the assistance of UNDP, the secretariat would be able to survey the availability of expert assistance and assess the scope of technical facilities which could be used to facilitate TCDC.

491. The Commission heard with interest the statement made by the representative of IMCO concerning his organization's activities, which were aimed at the promotion of safety at sea and the elimination of pollution of the sea from ships.

492. The Commission took note of a suggestion that it should keep in view the need for a separate committee on shipping, ports and inland waterways and, at an appropriate time when the conference structure was reviewed, give due consideration to the setting-up of such a legislative body.

Transport and communications

General transport

493. The Commission considered documents E/ESCAP/78 and Add.1 and E/ESCAP/79. In endorsing the report of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications on its first session, the Commission recognized that the transport, postal and communications service sectors had continued to play a crucial role in promoting progress towards reform of the economic and social structure in the context of a new international economic order. It felt that the secretariat should focus more attention on a complex approach to solving national transport problems and on the establishment of integrated transport systems. Increased emphasis should also be placed on major important projects, including transport in rural areas and training aspects.

494. The Commission stressed the importance of planning and developing integrated highway and railway systems throughout the region, as the volume of land transport between the ESCAP region on the one hand and the Middle East and Europe on the other was expected to expand significantly in the coming years. In that connexion, close collaboration between ESCAP, ECWA, ECA and ECE was essential for promoting interregional traffic.

495. The Commission felt that, as the planning of infrastructural facilities for road and rail traffic might

have substantial financial implications for the countries concerned, the secretariat should co-ordinate with such international financing institutions and IBRD and ADB any assistance in pre-feasibility studies undertaken in the transport field.

496. The Commission recommended that studies should be undertaken on public city transport and welcomed the offer of the Government of the USSR to host a seminar-cum-study tour on public transport in that country during 1979-1980.

497. A feasibility study should also be made on pipeline transport for palm oil and coal in the context of integrated intermodal transport development.

498. The Commission also felt that a new survey of the Asian Highway would be very fruitful in making a long-term assessment of comparative costs and transport time by road, rail and sea.

Railways and railway transport

499. The Commission endorsed the strategies for railway development in the region for the next development decade as approved by the Committee, namely, (a) a master plan for the Asian railways (phase I) aimed at development of the Trans-Asian Railway and the main trunk lines of the countries of the region and their outlets to the main sea and river ports and main centres of industrial and rural development in the region and affording an opportunity for goods transportation wherever economically feasible to any countries of the region or to Europe or Africa; (b) urban and suburban transport development with particular reference to the economic and social benefits of railway commuter systems and public transport in big cities of the region; (c) the transfer of new railway technology, particularly in such problem areas as energy saving, safety of railway operation, pollution reduction, new railway machinery and equipment and operational innovations, and training; (d) the sharing of railway research experience, including applied and operational research; and (e) multimodal transport development in rural areas and in and around big cities.

500. As the Joint Roving Team of Railway Experts had provided vital assistance to the railways of the region on multidisciplinary problems, the Commission endorsed the continuation of the Team's activities and requested the secretariat to follow up on its reports on the various railways visited. If necessary, further detailed investigations should be carried out and the results thereof disseminated to other railways faced with similar problems. The requests to provide technical assistance to railway projects in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand were endorsed.

501. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government of the USSR for its decision to donate, at the request of ESCAP, training equipment and visual aids to the Railway Training Centre of Mongolia.

502. It expressed its appreciation of the assistance rendered by ESCAP in connexion with the proposed Afghanistan railway system and hoped that such co-operation would continue to be extended on request. The completion of that system would not only provide a vital link for land-locked Afghanistan with the outside world, but would also constitute an important additional advancement in the formation of the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

503. The Commission noted the proposed completion in the near future of the new railway between Kerman and Zahidan in Iran, which would link the railway networks of the region from Bangladesh to the Middle East, Europe and the USSR.

504. It endorsed the proposal that a meeting of railway experts be convened to establish the norms and methodology for drawing up an Asian Railway master plan and stressed the need for active participation and co-operation by all interested countries.

505. It noted the increasing need to introduce rail commuter traffic in the capital cities of the region and endorsed the inclusion of such activities in the programme of work and priorities as requested by Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Further requests along those lines should also be considered.

506. The Commission noted with gratitude the continued interest shown by the Government of Japan in the Trans-Asian Railway Network project and its offer to consider favourably the possibility of sending survey teams upon the request of interested railways, in the context of their urgent need to modernize the existing railways.

507. It also noted the requests that activities under the Trans-Asian Railway Network project be continued and that its scope be extended to include intermodal aspects, and strongly urged interested countries to support those endeavours. It noted with gratitude the offer of the Government of the USSR to render all possible assistance and co-operation with a view to convening a meeting of experts of the Trans-Asian Railway Network countries.

Highways and highway transport

508. The Commission endorsed the proposed classification of certain sections of the Asian Highway route as international priority routes, as well as the preparation of an inventory of such priority routes, which would be an instrument for the promotion of international traffic. In that context, it requested that a convention be prepared concerning technical standards for road vehicles used for the international transport of passengers and commodities, particularly dimensions of vehicles, maximum axle loads and minimum safety devices and lighting, similar to the convention being prepared by ECE for the European region. It noted the readiness of the USSR to assist in the preparation

of technical documentation on road construction standards. In that context, it further noted that completion of the RCD highways in Pakistan, Iran and Turkey along the Asian Highway would provide a continuous link with the European highway system.

509. It urged UNDP to approve the implementation of the project on "Technical support for integrated inter-modal land transport development", which would include, in addition to the Asian Highway and Asian Railway concepts, the development of an efficient feeder and rural road system to promote the transport of goods between production and consumption areas.

510. It expressed its appreciation of the publication of Asian Highway guide-books and maps based on field surveys, including the recently published fourth Asian Highway guide-book covering routes A-2 and A-25 in Sumatra, Java and Bali.

511. It felt that a survey should be undertaken concerning the comparative operating practices in the ESCAP region for goods and passenger transport by road.

512. It stressed the need to speed up the work on the development of uniform road signs and signals in the countries of the region based on the Vienna Convention of 1968.

513. In endorsing Afghanistan's request to include in the work programme technical assistance for the implementation of the Afghan Central Road project (Asian Highway A-77), to which the Government of Afghanistan attributed the highest priority, the Commission noted Japan's readiness to examine the possibilities of assisting in the implementation of that project, in an appropriate form and upon request.

514. The Commission reiterated the urgent need to convene a seminar-cum-workshop on rural road and rural transport development and endorsed the replacement of item (vii) (a) and (b) of the current work programme by:

- (vii) Seminar-cum-workshop on rural road and rural transport development with special emphasis on manpower-oriented road construction and improvement of indigenous equipment.

In noting with gratitude Bangladesh's offer to provide host facilities, it urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to seek extrabudgetary funds for convening that seminar.

Facilitation

515. The Commission recognized that facilitation measures should keep pace with the development of transport technology so as to ensure a free and smooth flow of goods and passengers across national frontiers, and felt that facilitation should be dealt with on a continuing basis. It also felt that simplification and standardization

of documentation and procedures and harmonization of frontier formalities for the international movement of goods and passengers would result in the optimum utilization of transport capacity, with its attendant economic benefits. It hoped that the secretariat would continue to co-operate with other regional economic commissions with a view to achieving uniformity in measures taken to facilitate interregional traffic.

516. It commended the secretariat on having taken prompt action in preparing a preliminary draft of an "Asian-Pacific agreement concerning compulsory insurance against civil liability in respect of motor vehicles" along the lines of the European Convention, which was the basis for the Green Card system, and requested the countries to send their comments and suggestions at an early date so that the draft could be finalized. It further directed the secretariat to assist the countries of the region, on request, in preparing bilateral or multilateral agreements on the international movement of goods and passengers.

Postal services

517. The Commission noted with regret that the activities in the field of postal services had been suspended since the phasing-out of UNDP support towards the end of 1976. It requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to resume negotiations with UNDP, UPU and bilateral sources with a view to the earliest possible reactivation of some of its activities in that field. It endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the item on development of postal services should be retained in the work programme to indicate its interest in that activity, in accordance with the directives of the Economic and Social Council on the role of the regional commissions. Furthermore, it requested the secretariat to convene a second Working Party of Postal Experts to review, evaluate and reorient the existing programme of work and priorities of the secretariat in the field of postal services, which had been drawn up by the first Working Party of Postal Experts in 1974. At such a meeting, the changing conditions in the member countries and the need to update requirements should be kept in view.

Telecommunication

518. The Commission noted with satisfaction the technical assistance rendered by the ESCAP/ITU Unit in the field of telecommunication, particularly in the implementation of the Asian telecommunication network, which was expected to be completed by 1980.

519. It endorsed the programme concepts and activity orientation in the sector of telecommunication and welcomed, specifically, the identification of important fields of technical co-operation, such as maritime telecommunication, rural telecommunication, radio frequency management, test and development centres, satellite communication, computer applications, traffic

studies, transmission of data, improvement in training standards etc. It endorsed the requests for assistance of (a) Afghanistan, in a survey for and the establishment of a satellite earth station, and (b) Bangladesh, in establishing a test and development centre and improving maritime radio communication, rural telecommunication and radio frequency management and monitoring.

520. It hoped that trainees from the region would be able to avail themselves of the offer of training facilities in the training centres in India, under the fellowship programme of India or UNDP.

521. It noted the increasing demand for technical assistance in various areas of telecommunication in the region. In order to meet that demand in a large number of specialities, the Commission urged that the number of experts in the ESCAP/ITU Unit be augmented through increased support from UNDP as well as bilateral resources from donor countries.

522. The Commission also observed the emergence of complementary developments, such as the Indonesian domestic satellite system and the projected broadband submarine cable systems, including those of Singapore-Jakarta, Singapore-Penang-Madras and Singapore-Kuantan-Bangkok.

523. It noted that Thailand would soon ratify the Constitution of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), which would make it possible to convene the inaugural sessions of its General Assembly and Management Committee. It hoped that generous assistance would be provided to the Telecommunity so that it could perform the functions entrusted to it. The Commission noted the offer of the Singapore Government to share its experience in the telecommunication field and play an active role in APT, especially in its formative stage.

524. The Commission noted with gratitude that ITU would continue to extend its co-operation to ESCAP and to the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity when established and would organize technical co-operation activities in the region for harmonious development of telecommunication within the framework of the International Telecommunication Convention of 1973.

Air transport

525. The Commission endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the secretariat should play a more active role in the economic development of air transport in the region. It felt that, as air transport was a subject of global concern, the secretariat's activities should be undertaken in close co-operation with ICAO and other United Nations agencies to ensure the most efficient utilization of resources and avoid duplication.

526. It noted with interest the initiatives taken by ICAO in co-operation with UNDP to undertake an economic survey of the Asia and Pacific region in the three subregions of the South Pacific, southeast Asia

and south and western Asia. It also endorsed the request of ICAO that the ESCAP secretariat should co-operate closely in the former's statistical programme. It noted that the survey would be undertaken with close co-ordination between ICAO and ESCAP.

527. In endorsing the proposed seminar on the economic aspects of air transport and allied subjects, the Commission felt that such a seminar should be convened after the completion of the economic survey being undertaken by ICAO, as the problems identified by the survey would constitute the major topic of the proposed seminar.

Tourism

528. The Commission recognized that tourism, both international and domestic, would continue to make a substantial contribution to the economic and social development of developing countries. It noted that the secretariat had continued to co-operate closely with WTO in formulating and implementing the regional tourism programme. There should be concerted action and co-ordination of effort, on a regular basis, in order to harmonize the work and avoid overlapping of activities.

529. The Commission endorsed the proposed joint ESCAP/WTO workshop on investment in and financing of tourism to be convened in 1978 or early 1979 and welcomed Thailand's offer to provide host facilities. It also endorsed the posting of a UNDP-funded regional adviser on tourism within the ESCAP secretariat. In welcoming the secretariat's programme on tourism, it attached special importance to assistance in the preparation of a plan for the development of tourism within the ASEAN region. It also endorsed Afghanistan's request that the secretariat should explore the possibility of arranging for one or two experts on hotel training and management to be made available to that country.

530. It noted that a World Tourism Conference would be convened at Manila in 1980 and hoped that ESCAP would provide the regional input to the Conference, which was designed to chalk out the future development of tourism by means of a realistic assessment and clarification of its causes and effects through a detailed study of the past.

531. The Commission took note of the progress made in the development of the Lumbini project and also noted that that project had a special appeal to the region, where the majority of Buddhists resided. As the project had both development and socio-economic objectives, the Commission hoped that member countries would recognize the need to support it. It further noted that Sri Lanka had launched a campaign to raise funds for the project. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 190 (XXXIV), on support for the Lumbini development project in Nepal.

532. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, the USSR and the United Kingdom and to ICAO, ITU, UPU and WTO and a number of other agencies for the valuable and generous co-operation they had extended to the secretariat in the implementation of its work programme in the fields of transport and communications through the provision of experts, fielding of survey missions, participation in roving missions, preparation of technical documents and other related activities.

Statistics

533. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/71, concerning activities in the sector of statistics, and noted the changes in the programme of work and priorities relating to statistics contained in document E/ESCAP/74.

534. The Commission stressed the importance of statistical information for socio-economic development planning, and emphasized that such data should be reliable and timely if they were to be used effectively by planners and policy makers. It commended the secretariat on its efforts to promote viable statistical services in the countries of the region and welcomed the support of developed countries and donor agencies for the work programme of the secretariat.

535. The Commission was pleased to note that most countries of the region were planning to participate in the 1980 round of population and housing censuses and welcomed the secretariat's publication, *Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses*, as a timely document. It was stressed that the printed version of the publication should be widely disseminated among the countries in order to facilitate their census planning. That would also ensure that the censuses conducted in the countries would be not only of the highest quality but also internationally comparable. The Commission also noted with appreciation the technical assistance provided by the developed countries on a bilateral basis and hoped that such assistance would continue and be fully utilized by the countries.

536. The Commission noted that national/subnational household sample surveys on a continuing basis would tend to play an increasing role as a source of relevant and timely data. It was felt that the capabilities of countries to undertake such surveys should be improved, and in that connexion it was emphasized that well-executed population censuses were an important prerequisite for the household survey programme. It was noted that considerable interest had been shown among countries in enhancing household survey capability, although it was recognized that for that purpose countries would need advisory services in such areas as sampling, survey methodology and organization, and processing of survey data. The Commission therefore

hoped that regional advisers with the requisite expertise would become available to the countries of the region from the United Nations national household survey capability programme.

537. The Commission commended the secretariat's statistical activities in support of the ESCAP integrated programme on rural development, in particular the forthcoming Seminar on Statistics for Rural Development and the panel discussion expected to be organized at SIAP. Gratitude was expressed to the Government of the Netherlands and to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation for their financial support to the Seminar, to the Government of India for providing host facilities, and to those developing and developed countries attending at their own expense. It was felt that the Seminar should emphasize current data availability in the countries and the statistical requirements for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes.

538. The Commission expressed the hope that another seminar connected with the rural development programme, namely, on statistics of small-scale and household industries, would be convened with most countries of the region attending. It was noted that funds for the participation of some countries would be forthcoming from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.

539. The Commission noted with satisfaction that during the previous year three technical meetings had been held, namely, the Working Group on the Regional Programme for Organizing the 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing, the Regional Workshop on the Computer Edit of Censuses and Surveys and the second session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts. It was felt that those meetings had been helpful. Great concern was expressed, however, over the continuing funding problems faced by the secretariat in its attempts to convene further technical workshops, seminars and working groups, some of which had been in the work programme for several years. Integrated rural development, population and housing censuses and energy should be among the subjects of future technical meetings on statistics. The Commission impressed on United Nations funding sources and donor countries the necessity of providing financial assistance, and on countries the importance of offering host facilities, assisting financially or participating at their own cost in such meetings. In that connexion, the Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the USSR to organize seminars on specific statistical topics in the Soviet Union, by using their contributions in roubles to UNDP.

540. The Commission noted the preparations being made for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and considered that the programme would make for a significant improvement in the field of industrial statistics and inquiries.

541. The Commission stressed the importance of statistical training and welcomed the work of the secretariat in collecting information from countries on training facilities, institutes, programmes and technical services which might be made available to other countries. It urged countries which had not supplied such information to make it available to the secretariat so that a complete inventory on the subject could be issued. It also noted that a paper on the statistical training needs in the countries of the region was being prepared for consideration by the Statistical Commission at its next session.

542. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of the USSR to provide SIAP with lecturers on specific subjects.

543. It was emphasized that the proper placement and utilization of newly trained personnel was essential if countries were to derive full benefit from the instruction received.

544. The Commission noted with appreciation and urged the continuation of the work of the regional advisory services in the field of national accounts, social and demographic statistics, vital statistics, population and housing censuses, and data preparation and processing of censuses. In view of the fact that a number of regional advisers were being financed by UNFPA, the Commission strongly urged the Fund to continue providing the necessary financing for those activities.

545. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the United Kingdom to provide an expert to take an inventory of demographic sample surveys in the region and requested the secretariat to avail itself of that offer.

546. The hope was expressed that follow-up work on the commodity balance project would ensue. It was recalled that the project had been carried out from 1974 to 1976 as a joint endeavour of ESCAP, ADB, which provided the funds, FAO and the Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, and had culminated in the publication of a manual on the subject.

547. The Commission suggested that the secretariat devote more efforts to extending and improving the contents, coverage and methodological aspects of its statistical publications in order to enhance their usefulness, particularly with respect to international comparability.

Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

548. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the secretariat's activities in relation to the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing ESCAP countries, as outlined in document E/ESCAP/85, and noted the satisfactory progress made in the implementation of its resolution 171 (XXXIII) on

the subject. It felt that TCDC should lead to a dynamic process in which all member countries, developed and developing alike, could play an active role. It was pleased to note that there existed a common will and increasing capability among many developing countries of the region to translate the concept of TCDC into action in a wide range of activities such as trade, industry, including agro-based industry, agriculture, finance, transport and communications, science and technology and raw materials. It saw TCDC and ECDC as complementary activities fostering self-reliance and assisting development, for example, in such regional and subregional groupings as ASEAN and RCD.

549. Although the Commission saw tremendous scope for further expansion and collaboration in TCDC and ECDC in the region, it cautioned that TCDC should not entail any decrease in the flow of assistance, whether bilateral or multilateral, from the developed countries, which should rather assist such co-operative efforts on the part of developing countries; nor should there be any decrease in the importance of the role the developed countries should play in the furtherance of the industrial capabilities of the developing countries of the region. Delegations of some developed countries expressed their Governments' readiness, within their capacity for development assistance, to consider financial support for TCDC measures which were practical and viable. The Commission was pleased to learn of several examples of developing countries' training facilities which could be utilized by other such countries.

550. Several delegations indicated additional ways in which the secretariat as appropriate might contribute its assistance to member countries in drawing up national TCDC plans. At the same time, it called on the developing countries further to identify the technical assistance they needed, particularly in areas where the TCDC approach would be most suitable.

551. The Commission welcomed the activities which the secretariat had already undertaken to fill the regional information gap on TCDC through the publication of handbooks on training courses, consultancy services and experts available in developing ESCAP countries, and noted the generous financial contribution of the Netherlands Government in that regard. It was felt that a realistic attempt on the part of the United Nations system in general and the secretariat of ESCAP in particular should be made to utilize to the maximum extent possible the services of experts on the basis of fair and equitable geographical distribution. The Commission commended the secretariat's co-operation with UNDP regarding the global information system known as TCDC/INRES (Information Referral System), particularly with respect to regional and subregional organizations in Asia and the Pacific. It hoped that close liaison would be maintained with such organizations, both to encourage co-operation among them and to facilitate the utilization of their services by member countries.

552. The Commission endorsed the activities planned by the secretariat in the field of TCDC, especially those which would enhance the capacity of countries to implement it. In its view, the secretariat had an important role to play in encouraging and co-ordinating TCDC and ECDC at the regional level. It welcomed the secretariat's close collaboration in that regard with other bodies in the United Nations system, particularly UNDP and UNCTAD, the main agencies concerned with TCDC and ECDC respectively at the global level. In particular, the Commission commended the secretariat on its co-operation with UNDP in preparing for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and on the proposal to organize a working group of senior officials concerned with TCDC in the developing countries of the region following the global conference. It looked forward to receiving, at its thirty-fifth session, the suggestions of the working group for follow-up action to be taken in the light of the role to be assigned to the regional commissions.

Integrated rural development

553. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/91 and Corr.1 and noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of its resolution 172 (XXXIII).

554. It welcomed the initiative of the Executive Secretary and the collaboration of the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned, through the Interagency Committee on Rural Development for the ESCAP Region, in developing and implementing both country-specific projects and inter-country activities under the interagency co-ordinated plan of action for integrated rural development in the ESCAP region as well as the integrated programme on rural development. It endorsed the priority being given in current activities, as well as in activities planned for the future, to matters connected with training, agrarian reforms, local-level planning, area development and building-up of participatory organizations.

555. It noted with appreciation the involvement and contribution of the secretariat, in collaboration with the specialized agencies and other international organizations, in reviewing rural development programmes at the country level and in preparatory work aimed at identifying country-level projects and reorienting strategies for rural development as well as training in support of such projects and strategies. In that connexion, it welcomed the exploratory mission to Samoa under the auspices of ACC; the programme review and project identification mission to Maldives; the preparatory mission to Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines for on-the-job training under the auspices of OTC; and the holding of the policy-level seminar on training strategies in support of rural development in collaboration with APDAC and Seoul National University. It endorsed similar types of activities current-

ly being planned, such as the Seminar on Statistics for Rural Development, the panel discussion on statistics for integrated rural development and the expert group meeting on agrarian reform and rural development.

556. It also welcomed the activities completed or initiated under the integrated programme on rural development, for example, the case studies in Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand of group farming by small farmers as an approach to raising production and productivity; action research on decentralized management of rural development; the Workshop on Biogas and Other Rural Energy Resources; the Regional Workshop on Methods and Techniques of Promoting People's Participation in Local Development; the intergovernmental consultations on agro- and allied industries, agricultural machinery and the industrialization of non-metropolitan areas; and the Seminar on the Economic and Technical Aspects of Feeder Roads and Rural Transport.

557. The Commission endorsed the practice of developing specific operational components of the inter-agency co-ordinated plan of action through periodic consultations with participating Governments. In that connexion, it welcomed the holding of the meeting of national liaison officers with the Interagency Committee in January 1978 and generally endorsed the proposals and recommendations for further action developed during the meeting. It was also of the opinion that the recommendations made by the national liaison officers during that meeting would be useful in an arrangement for co-operation, co-ordination and mobilization of resources at the national and regional levels. It reiterated that responsibility for rural development rested basically with Governments and that the focus of the programme should be on supporting national endeavours for the alleviation of rural poverty. In that context, it was of the opinion that the proposals for future activities as developed during the meeting constituted a useful framework for action. It noted the specific requests for assistance made by some developing countries and urged the Executive Secretary to proceed with the necessary consultations in response to those requests.

558. The Commission also opined that dissemination of information on innovative approaches and experiences in rural development in the region constituted a useful line of activity and requested the secretariat to take appropriate measures for such dissemination.

559. It stressed that integrated rural development should be regarded more as an approach and strategy governing over-all national development policies than as a fixed set of activities to be added to a collection of sectoral activities planned in an isolated fashion. Integration should cover various sectors (agriculture, industry, nutrition, health, education, power, transport and the like), as well as segments of the rural population, and should facilitate harmonious development of towns and the countryside.

560. The Commission noted with appreciation the strong support and sustained co-operation extended by the specialized agencies and international organizations concerned participating in the Interagency Committee for the development and implementation of the programme. It expressed the hope that such support and co-operation would continue to be forthcoming in future, in keeping with the integrated nature of the programme, and to avoid duplication of activities. In that context, it appreciated the link already established with the programme of the ACC Task Force at the global level and emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate co-ordination between regional and global activities. Furthermore, it felt that the stage had been reached in the implementation of the programme where closer links with international financing institutions would be particularly valuable.

561. The Commission noted with appreciation the support extended by donor countries for undertaking various activities under the programme. It appealed to donors to provide the maximum possible assistance for the further implementation of the programme.

562. It noted the preparations already undertaken and the activities being planned for the provision of an effective regional contribution to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Those included country review papers, micro-level studies and an expert group meeting in preparation for the next FAO regional conference and the *ad hoc* intergovernmental meeting on integrated rural development. It appealed to donors to provide adequate support in order to ensure that those important activities were successfully carried out.

563. It endorsed the proposal of the Executive Secretary to convene before the next session of the Commission an *ad hoc* intergovernmental meeting on integrated rural development for purposes of consultation and review in accordance with resolution 172 (XXXIII).

564. The Commission felt that integrated rural development should be accorded high priority in the preparations for the formulation of development strategies for the 1980s.

Transnational corporations

565. The Commission endorsed the considerably expanded scope of activities in the field of transnational corporations since the establishment of the Joint CTC/ ESCAP Unit on Transnational Corporations in late 1977. The Commission was gratified to note that such expansion had been undertaken despite the limited number of posts allocated to the Unit in the programme budget, and was informed that that had been made possible by the Unit's close collaboration with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in all its activities financed by regular budget and extra-budgetary resources. In that connexion, the Commission

heard with interest the statement made by the Executive Director of the Centre.

566. In his statement, the Executive Director elaborated on all of the Centre's four areas of activity: the formulation of a code of conduct, the establishment of a comprehensive information system, research on the political, economic and social effects of transnational corporations and programmes of technical co-operation.

567. Progress had been made on the formulation of a code of conduct, by means of a step-by-step approach. Highest priority had been given to work on the code of conduct. Close co-operation was maintained with UNCTAD and ILO in their respective efforts in drafting an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology and the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. The Commission was informed of progress in related fields of illicit payments in international commercial transactions and international standards of reporting and accounting.

568. The Commission warned against the danger of duplication of activities between the Joint Unit and the Centre and those taking place in other institutions. In that connexion, the Commission noted with satisfaction that, in the technical co-operation programme, activities were co-ordinated between the Centre, the Joint Unit and APDAC and APDI, regional institutions having training programmes in the field of transnational corporations. It welcomed the holding at Kuala Lumpur in April 1978 of a high-level seminar on determining the training needs of member countries in negotiations with transnational corporations.

569. The Commission was informed of the completion of a major study entitled "Transnational corporations in world development re-examined" which brought up to date the major United Nations publication on the subject in 1973. The Commission urged that in research emphasis should be placed on strengthening the negotiating capacity of host Governments and through them that of the public and private enterprises of the developing countries, with a view to ensuring that the activities of transnational corporations were in conformity with development plans, and on the issue of transfer of technology. Furthermore, the Commission emphasized that studies should concentrate specially on the negative effects of transnational corporations with a view to finding ways of eliminating them. In that connexion, the Commission noted that one of the major findings of the new study was the emergence of various new forms of interface between transnational corporations and host Governments which did not necessarily involve equity investment and which concomitantly strengthened the negotiating capacity of host Governments.

570. In the field of information, the Commission suggested that the Unit's activities should be carefully geared towards the Centre's comprehensive information system and that the regional data on transnational

corporations should be extracted from the Centre's system.

571. Although it was recognized that activities with regard to the code of conduct should be centralized in New York, the suggestion was made that the secretariat should provide a forum for harmonizing regional views on the code of conduct.

572. The Commission agreed that there was a need for regional co-operation to strengthen the negotiating capacity of host Governments, not only through producer associations along product lines, but also through co-operation in the purchase of technology and other inputs of development.

Increased participation by the developing island countries of the Pacific in the activities of ESCAP

573. The Commission endorsed the report submitted with regard to its resolution 173 (XXXIII) (E/ESCAP/93) and was pleased to note the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

574. The Commission stressed the need for closer consultations between the secretariat and the Pacific island Governments, SPC, SPEC and prospective donor countries in order to ensure that the activities and projects it proposed genuinely matched the development priorities and requirements of the developing island countries of the Pacific.

575. It was felt that the unique problems and requirements of the small island economies of the Pacific called for greater flexibility and imagination in the programmes relating to the Pacific. The Commission considered it desirable that, in the formulation of projects to be undertaken in the Pacific, consultations should be held with donor countries where appropriate to ensure the effective utilization of the funds allocated by those countries. Such consultations would also facilitate and expedite the release of the allocations needed for the projects.

576. It was suggested that closer co-operation with the Pacific island countries could be pursued through appointing a suitably qualified senior officer in the Pacific area and establishing a Pacific desk or increasing the staff drawn from the Pacific area in the secretariat dealing with Pacific affairs.

577. In undertaking the various activities in the Pacific, care should be taken to avoid duplication as it was felt that those activities which were not directly related to the work programme of the Commission but were more within the purview of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies should be left to the latter.

578. It was felt that the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific was rendering valuable and effective services to the Pacific island countries and that it should continue to function for at least another three years, subject to the availability of funds.

579. Resolution 188 (XXXIV) on the Commission's activities in the Pacific was adopted unanimously.

Information systems and documentation services

580. The Commission reviewed the proposed additional programme for information systems and documentation services described in document E/ESCAP/81 and Corr.1.

581. The objectives of the programme were:

(a) To provide for the organizational infrastructure and the related computing equipment deemed necessary for the operation of an efficient information system within the secretariat;

(b) To co-ordinate and assist the sectoral information services that had already been established within the secretariat, and also the information functions of the substantive divisions;

(c) To assist member States in identifying and obtaining helpful information maintained by ESCAP concerning projects and research activities; to advise them on establishing linkages with appropriate international information systems, such as those on population, human settlements, the environment and economic development; and to assist them in exchanging mutually useful information such as trade statistics in machine-readable form for use in export promotion, market research and shipping studies;

(d) To continue the regional advisory services in information and data processing which were rendered by two experts: one provided by UNFPA for statistical applications such as censuses and surveys, and a second, on information systems, to be financed by the Federal Republic of Germany under a funds-in-trust arrangement.

582. It was noted that, although the programme consisted mainly of functions which had long been established in the secretariat, it now provided for a greater measure of co-ordination of those functions. Such co-ordination was welcomed by the Commission as at earlier sessions the need for improved management of information for the general support of activities had been recognized.

583. The Commission took note of the work of UNESCO, which, through its UNISIST programme with its national committees, provided for access to diversified published materials, both within and between countries. The offer of support by UNESCO for the ESCAP programme was noted with appreciation.

584. It was noted that it would be helpful if compilations of key ESCAP documents - such as a basic information booklet on meetings and a volume of ESCAP resolutions - were produced to assist representatives of countries without extensive filing and retrieval systems to participate more fully in ESCAP activities.

The Commission urged that such documentation should be reviewed by ACPR.

585. A cautionary note was sounded by one delegation on the need to tailor the programme to the requirements of countries, especially smaller ones, and also on the need to ensure effective co-ordination with the national information networks. However, the Commission in general endorsed the programme as an important contribution towards the attainment of its objectives in furthering the development process of its member countries.

Progress reports on regional institutions and special regional projects

Regional institutions

586. The Commission, recalling its resolution 175 (XXXIII) on regional training and research institutions, noted the report and proposals of the Executive Secretary regarding the implementation of that resolution (E/ESCAP/86). The Commission also noted the report of the Intergovernmental Governing Council on its first session (E/ESCAP/69) as well as the progress reports on APDI, SIAP, APDAC, SWDCAP and APCWD (E/ESCAP/69/Add.1).

587. The Commission heard the report of the Chairman of the first special session of the Intergovernmental Governing Council held in March 1978 and took note of the report on that session (E/ESCAP/96).

588. In taking note of the work of the Intergovernmental Governing Council, of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Regional Training and Research Institutions and of the ESCAP secretariat, the Commission endorsed the proposal to evolve a common framework for the work programmes of the five regional training and research institutions. It emphasized that the common framework must reflect the priority needs of the member countries as expressed at the annual sessions of the Commission and reflected in the priority areas of its work programme.

589. The view was expressed that the common framework would be a valuable instrument in the co-ordination of the activities of the institutions and would serve to stress the interdependence of their work programmes, which were designed to serve the member countries.

590. The Commission also expressed support for the special attention being paid by the regional institutions to country-level activities which enhanced both the relevance and the action-orientation of the work programmes. The need to strengthen the collaboration between the regional institutions and national training and research institutions was stressed. The Commission also felt that the institutions and the secretariat should take action to make the programme activities of the institutions better known to member Governments.

591. The Commission supported the proposal to transfer the unspent balances of the contributions of the participating Governments, subject to the concurrence of the Governments concerned, to the four UNDP-supported regional institutions. It also expressed deep concern at the phasing-out of UNDP support and stressed the need for further review of the question and of the time-table for such phasing-out. One delegation expressed the view that UNDP should continue with institutional support within its regional indicative planning figure for the ESCAP region.

592. With regard to the legal instrument of the regional institutions, the Commission stressed the need for more careful study of the different modalities of such a legal instrument and expressed the view that the legal instruments eventually formulated should provide for the Governing Council and the regional institutions to remain under the auspices of the Commission and for ESCAP to continue to be the executing agency, and should enable UNDP to go on providing financial assistance to those institutions.

593. The Commission also underlined the need for co-ordination of the work programmes of the regional institutions with those of the substantive divisions of the secretariat and felt that that should be one of the priority concerns of the Governing Council. The view was also expressed that the regional institutions should utilize the experiences of all ESCAP member countries in their work.

594. On the question of the establishment of an endowment fund, some delegations expressed the view that there had not yet been adequate discussion either of the necessity of such a fund or of its practicability. They felt that further data should be made available before a final decision was taken and that a premature decision, without adequate reflection, would create confusion regarding the financial position of the regional institutions.

595. The Commission heard a statement by the Director of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development on the activities of the Centre and expressed its deep appreciation of the continuing collaboration between the Centre and the regional institutions of the Commission. It hoped that such collaboration would continue and increase in intensity.

596. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the scope and level of the activities carried out by the five regional training and research institutions within their financial resource limitations. The Commission, while endorsing the reports of the Intergovernmental Governing Council on its first session and its first special session, stressed the need for the Council to continue to seek solutions to the financial problems faced by the institutions.

597. The Commission adopted resolution 183 (XXXIV) on strengthening the regional training and research

institutions under the auspices of the Commission. The delegation of the USSR reserved its position on the resolution, as reflected in the summary record of the 531st meeting.

Asian and Pacific Development Institute

598. APDI had been able to implement most of the training and research activities planned for 1977. It had conducted 15 training courses at the regional, subregional and national levels which had been attended by 479 participants, bringing the total of such participants to 3,700 from the Institute's inception in 1964. During 1977 relatively greater emphasis had been placed on training and research oriented to the island, least developed and land-locked countries. Generous assistance had been received from UNDP, Governments and extrabudgetary sources amounting to \$US 1.4 million, which had facilitated the successful implementation of the work programme for 1977. APDI had received the Maurice Pate Award from UNICEF for its contribution to a unified approach to development.

599. The work programme for 1978, as approved by the Governing Council, focused on such priority areas as integrated rural development, alternative strategies for island and land-locked countries, evaluation and monitoring and regional co-operation. The programme comprised, in addition to research, nine regional and subregional training courses, seven country training courses and six consultative meetings. In spite of a reduction in UNDP financial support in 1978, APDI was able to operate at full capacity thanks to increased contributions from extrabudgetary sources such as UNICEF and UNEP.

600. At the pledging meeting, APDI received enhanced contributions from a number of countries, including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. Notably, the Thai Government offered a permanent and adequate building for APDI, which would be ready for occupation in 1979.

601. Notwithstanding the encouraging gesture by participating Governments and extrabudgetary sources, two problems remained: in the short run, a cash-flow problem owing to delays in the receipt of contributions; and, in the long run, inadequate funds for full capacity-level operations and further expansion.

602. The Commission appreciated the efforts made by APDI to co-ordinate its work with that of other regional and national institutions and the emphasis it placed on meeting the priority needs for development training and research of the island, land-locked and least developed countries.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

603. The Commission noted that, during the past year, SIAP had completed an extensive programme

of activities. With the assistance of the Government of Japan the seventh six-month general course had been successfully completed at Tokyo at the end of March 1977 and the eighth general course had commenced in October 1977. In the six months from April to September, two six-week advanced seminars for experienced statisticians of the region had been held at Tokyo on the subjects of agricultural statistics and statistical sampling, with emphasis on control of non-sampling errors. In addition, country courses had been conducted in four countries of the region: in Iran, on the collection of price data and the compilation of price indices; in Sri Lanka, on agricultural statistics; in the Philippines, on national and regional accounts; and in Bangladesh, on statistical sampling.

604. Special note was also taken of the restructuring of the six-month general course. In response to suggestions made by the Advisory Committee of the Institute and by delegations to the Commission and in conformity with the Institute's own assessment of requirements, a completely new course in statistical operations had been developed and conducted. The faculty of the Institute was to be congratulated on its dedication in undertaking that massive and onerous project in addition to its already heavy teaching programme. Experience had demonstrated some directions of desirable change and development in that new course and those would be implemented before it was next presented.

605. The Institute had also engaged in extensive consultations with countries of the region to develop its programme of activities for 1978. As a result, in addition to the general course and two further advanced seminars, it expected to conduct courses on specific topics in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It would also conduct a panel discussion in Tokyo on statistics for integrated rural development and would collaborate with UNICEF and APDI in a consultative meeting on the statistical basis for social development planning.

606. The Commission noted that the demand for the courses of the Institute and the numbers of nominations received illustrated the region's continuing active demand for its services. That was a manifestation of the fundamentally important role of statistics and statisticians in all national development activities, whether in the economic, demographic or social fields; whether at the national or regional level; and whether at the assessment, planning, implementation or evaluation phase of projects.

Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre

607. The Commission considered the report on the activities APDAC had undertaken in 1977 and those it proposed to undertake in 1978 (see E/ESCAP/69/Add.1).

608. The Commission noted that those activities were

being undertaken under the Centre's work programme for its second phase (1976-1978), which had been presented to, and endorsed by, the Commission at its thirty-second session. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, notwithstanding the substantial reduction in the UNDP contribution to the Centre's budget and the consequent reduction in its professional staff, the Centre would, by the end of 1978, have succeeded in completing 75 or 80 per cent of the activities planned for the second phase, and that the balance would be completed in 1979.

609. The Commission noted that, in the implementation of its work programme, the Centre had organized several training courses, seminars and workshops for senior administrators and other professionals concerned with the problems of national development. A total of 503 persons had participated in those activities during 1977. The Centre had also conducted a number of comparative research studies on problems, particularly administrative and managerial problems, connected with economic and social development in the countries of the region, and had issued a significant number of publications which had been widely disseminated to government organizations and training institutions in the region.

610. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the research and training activities of APDAC had been conducted in close collaboration with national training and research institutions, and that the Centre was attempting to assist national institutions in the development of their own training capabilities, by training trainers, helping in the development of training curricula and preparing model training materials which could, with suitable adaptation to meet the needs of individual countries, be used for country training courses at the national level.

611. The Commission also noted with satisfaction that a number of member States had pledged increased financial contributions to APDAC, and that Governments and organizations outside the region, particularly the Governments of the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and France, the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNFPA, had provided extrabudgetary assistance in support of the Centre's activities in 1977 and 1978. The Commission expressed the hope that regional and non-regional countries, as well as UNDP and other United Nations organizations, would increase their support for the Centre so that it could overcome its present serious financial problems and continue to function as a strong and viable institution serving the development needs of the region.

Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific

612. The Commission reviewed the report of the Director of SWDCAP for 1977 (see E/ESCAP/69/Add.1) and noted with satisfaction that, despite the

serious financial constraints, SWDCAP had grown steadily since its inception in June 1976.

613. It noted that the financial strength of the Centre had considerably improved in 1977 as compared with 1976. Its total professional and support staff force had increased from 11 to 17 during the reporting period. A total of eight training and research activities had been conducted in four countries of the region, in addition to a number of collaborative efforts with national, regional and international institutions and organizations. Logistics and equipment required for those training activities – amounting to \$55,000 – had been acquired.

614. The Commission also noted that among the activities which had taken place during the reporting period had been the convening of the second session of the Advisory Committee, an expert group meeting on changing patterns of child-rearing practices in urban slums of Asia, training seminars and workshops on methods and techniques of promoting people's participation in local development and innovative social welfare strategies to combat mass poverty in Asian countries. A total of 176 participants in the training activities of the Centre had come from 14 countries of the ESCAP region. In 1977 major emphasis had been placed on organizing practitioner-oriented training activities for social welfare and development personnel on new strategies for improving the living conditions of the poorest of the poor.

615. It was noted that, with increasing contributions from the Government of the Netherlands as well as UNDP, UNICEF and 13 Governments of the region, the work programme of the Centre for 1977 as laid down by its Advisory Committee had been fully and satisfactorily implemented. It was further noted that Australia, Bangladesh and Hong Kong had joined in sponsoring the Centre for the first time in 1977.

616. It was recognized that the Centre needed to improve its library and documentation unit for the exchange of information among social welfare personnel and social policy workers in the region. In addition, the residential training facilities of the Centre, generously provided by the host Government, would be more efficiently utilized by participants in the training activities if means of transport could be donated by the participating countries. Furthermore, since the Centre was still professionally understaffed Governments and organizations were invited to provide it with experts and consultants on a non-reimbursable basis.

617. In response to the request by the Executive Secretary for increased financial pledges to the regional institutions, SWDCAP received further support from the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Iran, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. Several representatives indicated that their Governments intended to increase

their contributions later in the year because of the fiscal procedures and requirements in their respective countries. A contribution of the Government of the Netherlands amounting to \$100,000 was confirmed.

618. The OTC representative offered certain technical assistance to the Centre in future.

619. The Commission noted with appreciation the accomplishments of the Centre in developing human resources from among the most disadvantaged sectors of society. A number of representatives urged UNDP, Governments and organizations to provide further institutional and programme support.

Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development

620. The Director a.i. of APCWD drew the Commission's attention to the activities of the Centre in its first year of operation.

621. During that year, APCWD had had three substantive staff members, its Director a.i., Deputy Director and Chief of Administration, and financial resources amounting to \$162,000. In 1977 the Director a.i. had pointed out that the Centre fell far short of financial viability. The Centre had been able successfully to carry out two country courses, design a training manual for rural aides and a course outline for the literacy corps, sponsor four case studies, one of which had been completed, and hold an expert group meeting on the identification of the critical needs of the women of the region, the report of which had become the basis for the Centre's work programme for 1978-1980.

622. During that time, the Centre had also concentrated on its basic objectives: provision of technical and advisory services to Governments and non-governmental organizations, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and organizations working in the region, establishment of linkages with women's organizations and individuals and establishment of a clearing-house.

623. During its initial year staff of the Centre had visited and held consultations in 12 regional member countries. The Director a.i. reported that the second session of the Centre's Advisory Committee would be held in the Pacific. The experts on the Advisory Committee were drawn from Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran and Japan.

624. The Director a.i. reported to the Commission that the Centre's work programme for 1978 had been adopted at the first special session of the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions. She expressed her appreciation of the range of countries which had indicated their intention to contribute to APCWD and thanked the host Government for its extensive support both in cash and in kind.

Special regional projects

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

625. The Commission considered the draft annual report prepared by the Executive Agent of the Committee (E/ESCAP/L.11) and noted with satisfaction the results obtained in the implementation of its work programme, particularly regarding the installation of two 40-MW turbines in the power house at the Nam Ngum dam, the construction of water control projects to increase agricultural production, the establishment of fish farms, and improvement of navigation.

626. The continuing operation and expansion of the hydrologic network, and the success in long-term planning, flood forecasting, satellite imagery interpretation and system analysis were also noted.

627. The Commission was informed that the level of support from co-operating countries had continued to meet the requirements throughout the year, but that the needs would increase substantially during 1978 as a result of the addition of new projects, particularly in Viet Nam, but also in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand.

628. In that connexion, the Commission welcomed the news of the establishment of the Interim Mekong Committee, on 5 January 1978, and the approval of the Committee's work programme. It expressed the hope that Democratic Kampuchea would soon be in a position to resume its active participation in the full Mekong Committee. The Commission further expressed the hope that many countries and organizations would respond favourably to the appeal (as reproduced below) issued by the Interim Mekong Committee for assistance to projects for increasing food production, power generation and river transport capacity, since those were bound to improve the standards of life of the people who were most in need and also lead to better regional co-operation and understanding. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 189 (XXXIV) on the Mekong Committee.

629. The Commission welcomed the numerous declarations of support voiced by representatives of countries and organizations present at the session, including the following: Australia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, UNDP, UNEP and EEC.

Appeal

The Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

Having established the Interim Mekong Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, to promote the development of the water re-

sources of the lower Mekong basin to increase agricultural and power production, in order to meet effectively the needs for reconstruction and growing development of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the growing economic development needs of Thailand;

Declare their firm resolve to co-operate together whole-heartedly, on the basis of the Declaration signed in Vientiane on 5 January 1978 by the parties concerned, in order to take the best possible advantage of the enormous wealth represented by the water resources in the lower Mekong basin; and, to that end,

Appeal to all countries and organizations that wish to assist them in improving the standards of life of their peoples, to give support to the projects sponsored by the Interim Mekong Committee, as one of the most effective means of obtaining a high multiplier effect in the quest for economic and social advancement while at the same time enhancing the prospects for peace in southeast Asia.

The work programme for 1978 approved at the first session of the Interim Mekong Committee, held at Hanoi from 22 to 24 February 1978, will be published by the secretariat. Project data sheets giving details for individual projects are under preparation. Initially, pledges, in cash and in kind, of the order of \$US 50 million, will be needed. The total value of the counterpart participation by the riparian countries in labour, local materials and local costs will be equivalent to approximately \$US 70 million.

It is expected that the contributions will be spent over periods of varying duration depending on the progress of work, and that, from time to time, new projects will be added to the programme so that the annual rate of expenditure against the budget of contributions from the co-operating countries will probably be in the order of \$US 20 million during the first years.

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

630. The Commission considered the report of CCOP on its fourteenth session (E/ESCAP/L.9), which included a summary of the activities of the Project Office since the thirteenth session and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee and the thirteenth session of the Technical Advisory Group and of the special advisers and related meetings held in conjunction with the fourteenth session, including the third session of the Joint Working Group with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) on the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IDOE) Programme for Studies of East Asia Tectonics and Resources (SEATAR).

631. The Commission was pleased to welcome Mr. Johannas, the Project Manager-designate of the CCOP Project Office, who presented a report on the activities

of CCOP in its eleventh year of existence, and hoped that with his appointment CCOP would continue the momentum of its increasingly useful activities in the region.

632. The Commission was pleased to note that despite a very limited staff, at the direction of the Officer-in-Charge of the Project Office, Mr. Frank Wang, CCOP had made important progress during its eleventh year of activity, with an impressive list of achievements, and had been able to implement many of the highly important recommendations made at its thirteenth session, with a continuation of its activities in the many critical areas directly concerned with off-shore exploration for, and development of, energy and mineral resources of the developing member countries. Those areas of activity included technical co-operation among developing countries and with co-operating developed countries, large-scale regional investigations, relevant training and transfer of science and technology, and facilitation of bilateral and multilateral assistance, all of which were in accordance with the high-priority areas identified by ESCAP. With those accomplishments taken into consideration, the Committee recommended the adoption of the project document for the extension to 1981 and the expansion of the UNDP-assisted project on technical support for regional off-shore prospecting in east Asia, including the suggestions made during the tripartite review of the project held at Manila in September 1977.

633. The Commission was informed that advisory and research services had been provided by the Netherlands through CCOP in its continuing assistance to the Geological Survey of Malaysia to develop further the programme of its Quaternary Geology Section, which had been newly established with assistance from the Netherlands in 1976. Similar services had been rendered to the Geological Survey of Indonesia in the field of Quaternary geology. Consultant services on computer applications had been provided by the Project Office to Indonesia in April-May 1977 in assessing the status of its computer data processing and in considering the requirements for establishing a computer-based storage and retrieval system for geological data. Advisory services had been provided to the Department of Mineral Resources of Thailand on the geophysical aspects of a proposed exploration programme for detrital tin off the west coast of Thailand. After successful implementation of land heat-flow studies in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand during 1977, experts from Japan had visited those countries and also Papua New Guinea to undertake additional heat-flow studies in co-operation with specialists from those countries. In central Sumatra, petroliferous basin heat-flow studies had been carried out by a scientist from the United States in co-operation with several Indonesian scientists. With regard to off-shore petroleum resources, the services of a consultant would be provided to assist the member countries in developing uniform formats for the

collection of data and samples relating to petroleum exploration and development. It was hoped that the co-operating countries would expand their assistance to CCOP, particularly with regard to identifying and establishing an adequate pool of high-level experts who would be able to provide short-term services at relatively short notice.

634. The Commission was pleased to learn that assistance provided in a number of other fields through CCOP to Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines had been greatly appreciated and had contributed significantly to an increase in the knowledge of the regional geology and the petroleum and mineral resources of those countries. That assistance had included off-shore surveys, land heat-flow studies, the establishment of advanced laboratory facilities in Malaysia, and the training and further development of the technical expertise of scientists from those countries in a number of specialized fields relevant to off-shore prospecting.

635. The Commission was glad to learn that extensive research cruises had been carried out in Indonesian and Philippine waters from February to May 1977 by RV *Valdivia* of the Federal Republic of Germany, with the participation of several scientists from Indonesia and the Philippines and the senior marine geophysicist of the Project Office. RV *Thomas Washington*, RV *Robert D. Conrad* and RV *Atlantis II* of the United States of America, in conjunction with MV *Kelapa* of Indonesia, had carried out research cruises in the CCOP region with the participation of geoscientists from Indonesia and Thailand. During 1978 RV *Thomas Washington* and RV *Vema* of the United States were scheduled to conduct extensive investigations in the CCOP region, along the Philippine/Mariana transect, among other areas. Under project MAGNET, the United States would conduct survey operations on the continental shelf of Indonesia in mid-1978. The Commission was informed that the United States had been co-operating with CCOP and its member countries in the application of remote sensing, using satellite imagery, to geological investigations and interpretation in the land, coastal and near-shore areas.

636. The Commission was informed that the USSR had also carried out specialized geological and geophysical expeditions in the Pacific region and that two scientific expeditions were planned in 1978, with the aim of studying the shelves of Asia and the South Pacific. Those expeditions could explore the shelves of countries in the region, if requested by those countries; the results of the expeditions would be forwarded to the Governments concerned and, with their consent, also to ESCAP. Specialists from those countries could also be accepted on some of the expeditions. The Commission noted that that type of assistance would need to conform with the practices of CCOP with regard to project planning and implementation, the guidelines for which had been clearly stated in the report of the Commission on its thirty-third session.

637. The Commission was informed that the third session of the Joint CCOP/IOC Working Group on the IDOE/SEATAR programme had been held in September 1977 and that its report covered such matters as the status of current and planned research for 1978-1979, the status of programmes, questions related to scientific data exchange, and recommendations. The land heat-flow programme had been continued and expanded and additional geological, geophysical and geochemical studies had been carried out on land and off-shore along many of the transects. The scientific investigations undertaken as part of the SEATAR programme to date had already resulted in and were expected to lead to further expansion of knowledge of the frontier oceanic areas, which would aid the discovery of new metallogenic and petroliferous provinces in east Asia and the western Pacific. In that connexion, the Project Office would make an assessment of the achievements of SEATAR since the inception of the programme and a determination of significant gaps in the implementation of the original aims of the programme as formulated at the CCOP/IOC Workshop at Bangkok in 1973, and would convene a SEATAR workshop shortly before the fifteenth session of CCOP to provide further guidance in the implementation of its work programme until its conclusion at the end of the decade in December 1980, and to recommend work activities to be undertaken in the following decade. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the workshop from 17 to 21 October 1978.

638. The Commission was further informed that in 1978 and subsequent years there would be a very significant increase in the activities of CCOP in the field of shallow marine geophysical investigations in the exploration for detrital tin and other heavy minerals; in the search for sand and gravel resources on the continental shelf areas; in coastal engineering and geological hazard investigations; and in regional geological studies. A basic set of suitable geophysical equipment would be acquired by the Project Office, which would be able to supplement equipment available in the member countries for such studies; a roving workshop course in the relevant field and interpretation techniques would be given at various organizations in the member countries; advisory services would be provided for planning and conducting field investigations and for on-the-job training of personnel in the relevant techniques; training at suitable overseas institutions would be arranged; and broad regional correlation studies would be undertaken as a guide for further detailed work throughout the region.

639. With regard to training courses, seminars and transfer of science and technology, the Commission was glad to note that the annual group training course in off-shore prospecting had been continued in Japan; that, as scheduled, the Seminar on Generation and Maturation of Hydrocarbons in Sedimentary Basins had been

successfully held at Manila in September 1977, under the joint sponsorship of CCOP and the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE); and that remote sensing techniques would be promoted in fields relevant to CCOP operations. Member countries would also be encouraged to concentrate on the development of national petroleum data centres prior to consideration of a responsible regional centre for scientific and marine research data. Geoscientists of the CCOP member countries were being urged to participate in the Second Circum-Pacific Energy and Mineral Resources Conference, at Honolulu, of which CCOP was a sponsor; an exhibit highlighting the progress and achievements of CCOP in east Asia, including the results of the SEATAR project, would be put on display at the Conference. The next seminar relating to petroleum resources to be organized by the Project Office would be on the methodology of assessment of undiscovered recoverable hydrocarbon resources, possibly in 1979; an expert on petroleum potential of the pre-Tertiary sequences in east Asia would be provided by the Government of France.

640. The Commission was pleased to learn that CCOP regional training programmes, which were conducted for the developing member countries as a whole, together with opportunities for the participation of member countries in CCOP-sponsored surveys and other work activities, had considerably strengthened the capabilities of national technical staff in the investigation and development of off-shore hydrocarbon and mineral resources. With the increasingly complex work requirements of the member countries and the remarkable improvement of the capabilities of national staff, CCOP training activities were now largely devoted to advanced types of training on specific subjects designed for the application of new knowledge and methods to the ongoing national programmes of the member countries. With the newly approved UNDP input, some ship-board equipment would be acquired specifically for practical use by the developing member countries.

641. The Commission was pleased to note that CCOP was continuing its role as a catalyst in mobilizing assistance and promoting co-operation among developing member countries, as well as with developed countries and other international organizations. Regarding TCDC, the Commission was pleased to learn that a fruitful exchange of earth scientists had taken place between the Geological Surveys of Indonesia and Malaysia and that a successful symposium on porphyry copper deposits and precious metals exploration had been held at Panguna-Wau, Papua New Guinea, in which 65 representatives from the region had participated. The Commission was also pleased to learn that the Indonesian Government would welcome trainees from CCOP member countries to be trained in Indonesia in the field of petroleum and mineral studies, and that the Philippines had proposed the establishment of an Asian remote sensing and training centre to undertake remote sensing data acquisition, pre-processing and analysis,

and to maintain a computerized mapping system and photolab, for the use of the member countries. Co-operation and co-ordination with ASCOPE would be pursued further, with arrangements for the formation of a permanent working group. Contact would be maintained with other regional bodies connected with mineral resources.

642. The Commission was informed that important publication activities undertaken were preparation and publication of technical reports, including the CCOP *Technical Bulletins* and the *Newsletter* and the *Proceedings of the Symposium on Quaternary Geology of the Malaysian-Indonesian Coastal and Off-shore Areas*.

643. The Commission was also informed that concurrently with the fourteenth session of CCOP a tripartite review of the UNDP-assisted project on technical support for regional off-shore prospecting in east Asia had been held at Manila in September 1977. The meeting had reviewed the work of the project and formulated its new programme and scope of activities, including specific emphasis to meet the priority needs of the developing member countries. The member countries, UNDP and the executing agency endorsed the proposal that the extension to 1981 and the expansion of the project be approved. For the new phase of the project (1978-1981), UNDP had formally approved about \$US 3 million, which included \$US 934,400 from its own funds and \$US 2 million from the OPEC Special Fund. The final project document for that phase had been approved by UNDP and circulated to member States and it was expected that the document would be formally signed by the representatives of the member countries in due course.

644. The Commission noted that the revised terms of reference of CCOP had been adopted at the Committee's fourteenth session and that the comments of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs relating to those revised terms of reference had been circulated to the member countries prior to the thirty-fourth Commission session.

645. The Commission noted with appreciation the support provided by UNDP and the OPEC Special Fund, which increased substantially for the extended and expanded phase II of the CCOP project to 1981, as well as for the successful co-operation of IOC/UNESCO with CCOP in the IDOE/SEATAR programme, which had attracted much international recognition. It also noted with appreciation the support given in the past and promised in the future by the co-operating countries, Australia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States.

646. The Commission noted the statement by one delegation which reiterated the position of its Government on the question relating to its state sovereignty and which also expressed the belief that CCOP would adhere to its position on that matter, as stated in the

records of the thirty-third session of the Commission and the fourteenth session of CCOP.

647. In assuming active direction of the project, the Project Manager-designate concurred with the unanimous recognition of and high praise for the outstanding contribution which Mr. C.Y. Li had rendered to the project, particularly the organizational arrangements that had been institutionalized, including the prevailing co-operative spirit between the developing member countries as well as with the co-operating developed countries.

648. The Commission was informed that the fifteenth session of CCOP would be held at Singapore from 24 October to 6 November 1978 and that it would be preceded by an IDOE/SEATAR workshop on tectonics and resources at either Jakarta or Bandung, Indonesia, in October.

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

649. The Commission noted the report of CCOP/SOPAC on its sixth session (F/ESCAP/L.10).

650. It was pleased to note that an allocation of about \$150,000 from New Zealand's contribution of non-convertible funds to UNDP, in addition to the contributions of \$100,000 of convertible funds by UNDP, had enabled a four-month survey cruise to be carried out in 1977 using a chartered vessel. That activity had not only added significantly to knowledge of the area, but had also provided useful experience for planning further work.

651. In spite of the support being received from other sources as well, the allocation by UNDP of \$250,000 in 1978, effectively the same figure as in 1977, was not sufficient to enable a start to be made on the planned investigation programme which had been recommended by a high-level expert mission over two years previously, and strongly supported by the Committee and its Technical Advisory Group. However, it was planned to begin a further survey programme using a chartered vessel in the latter part of 1978, and in the mean time some of the member countries were planning survey cruises earlier in the year using their own vessels, with technical assistance and equipment on loan from the project and from supporting Governments.

652. Supporting countries, Australia, France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, reaffirmed their interest in and support of the project, which was commended as a model exercise in regional co-operation, meeting urgent needs in the area, exemplifying the practice of TCDC, providing training for the staff of the participating countries and adding to the knowledge of the area, which would have indirect as well as direct benefits. Reference was made to the recommendation on administrative arrangements contained in the report of the Committee, and while it was recognized that

there were complex administrative and financial questions involved, the secretariat was urged to do everything possible to streamline those arrangements.

653. The Commission noted with appreciation the contributions and supporting activities from a number of sources. Those included a contribution of \$A 50,000 from the Government of Australia in 1977, followed by a contribution of \$A 70,000 in 1978; the provision of expert services on a non-reimbursable basis to the project, and related activities, by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and New Zealand; participation by a trainee from a member country in a cruise on a Japanese research vessel; support from the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for a training programme for technicians from the participating countries which was provided at the University of the South Pacific with assistance from the Technical Secretariat; close co-operation and the provision of data by the ORSTOM (Office français de la recherche scientifique et technique outre-mer) Centre in Noumea; donation or loan of equipment from Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States; publication of proceedings and reports by New Zealand; and provision of expanding host facilities by Fiji and of the services of technical advisers by Australia, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

654. Having regard to the continuing uncertainty regarding funds to carry out the proposed programme, the Commission, while expressing its thanks to UNDP for the support provided so far, urged UNDP and other interested bodies to increase their support to the level necessary to enable the planned programme to proceed.

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

655. The Commission was pleased to note the developments in connexion with the establishment of the Centre as set out in document E/ESCAP/67.

656. The Commission welcomed particularly the appointment of Mr. P.H. Ljunggren as Project Manager, and accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Indonesia to provide host facilities for the Centre at Bandung.

657. The Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Organizational Aspects of the ESCAP Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre, and was pleased to note that, under the draft Statute, arrangements were being made at the current session for the election of the first Governing Council of the Centre. It was also pleased to note that in addition to the offers of support for the operational expenses of the Centre as set out in the document (Indonesia, \$5,000 per year (in addition to providing host facilities); India, \$2,000 per year; Malaysia, \$5,000 per year; Thailand, \$4,000 in the first year with contributions in subsequent years

to be determined), Bangladesh had offered to contribute \$1,000 per year for the first three years while Iran and the Philippines had already made contributions of \$1,500 and \$2,000 respectively and had offered to provide the amount of their respective contributions annually. In that connexion, the Commission noted that, with the proposed transfer of the Centre to Bandung, a substantial operating cost over and above the costs that might reasonably be met by the host Government could be expected. It was therefore essential that appropriate contributions to the operating costs be made by developing countries as quickly and generously as possible.

658. The Commission expressed the hope that during the coming year it would be possible for the Centre to become fully operational as originally envisaged. Reference was made to the importance of training personnel from developing countries in mineral exploration, production and beneficiation, and in strengthening the capabilities of national laboratories. The representative of Indonesia said that his Government wished to finalize the agreement with ESCAP concerning the transfer of the Centre to Bandung, so that it could take place as soon as possible.

659. The representative of Japan, referring to his Government's involvement in the work of the Centre since the first exploratory mission, assured the Commission that Japan would continue to give the maximum possible support to the Centre.

660. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, which had provided expert services for the Centre during the year, and to UNDP for providing funds for the post of Project Manager.

661. The Commission elected the first Governing Council of the Centre for the period ending at the time of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission in 1980, comprising the following countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia (host country), Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre

662. The Commission noted the progress made in establishing the Centre as set out in document E/ESCAP/66.

663. It was pleased to note that all the administrative arrangements concerning the establishment of the Centre had been completed, and that the first session of the Board of Management was scheduled to be held towards the end of April 1978. It was also pleased to note that there was an assurance of sufficient funds in 1978 for the accelerated development of the Centre.

664. The Commission expressed its appreciation to UNDP for its contribution to the project, and to OTC for the assistance provided in its development. It ex-

pressed the hope that rapid progress would now be made in the development of the programme of the Centre.

Typhoon Committee

665. The Commission noted the developments in the activities of the Typhoon Committee as set out in document E/ESCAP/64.

666. It noted with interest that the Committee, at its tenth session, had requested ESCAP and WMO to field a review mission to evaluate country requirements and programmes and to prepare a draft long-term plan of action for the Committee. It noted the action taken to organize the mission and called on the countries to be visited to undertake, before its arrival, a serious and comprehensive review of the situation in order to ensure the success of the mission, which could be expected to exert a major influence on the future work of the Committee.

667. The Commission was pleased to note that, as a result of strong representations by ESCAP and WMO, UNDP had agreed to continue providing support to the Committee at the current level through 1978 and 1979; however, advice had subsequently been received from UNDP to the effect that no further extension of such support could be expected. The Commission voiced its deep appreciation of the valuable support given by UNDP but expressed the hope that it would be continued for selected components beyond 1979. It also expressed appreciation of all assistance extended to the Committee in 1977 and would welcome any additional support.

668. The Commission recognized the growing importance of meteorological satellites for the programme of the Committee, and expressed appreciation of the potential benefit to the Committee of the data which could be made available by the Japanese GMS and TIROS-N series of satellites. In that connexion, the Commission's attention was drawn to the problem of inadequate ground receiving equipment for satellite data faced by some members of the Committee.

669. The representative of Japan informed the Commission that his Government highly valued the activities of the Committee, and would continue to extend full co-operation to them. The representative of the USSR, referring to the work of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones as well as to that of the Typhoon Committee, stated that data being obtained from Soviet tropical cyclone research programmes in the Indian and west Pacific oceans would be shared with the countries concerned. The USSR would also take university trainees from regional countries on scholarships granted by WMO/Voluntary Assistance Programme. Those offers, together with the extensive support which Japan had continued to provide, were noted with appreciation.

670. The Commission expressed appreciation of the close collaboration between ESCAP and WMO in assist-

ing the Typhoon Committee, which was highlighted in the statement by the representative of WMO, referring to the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones as well as to the Typhoon Committee; the latter representative had also expressed the gratitude of WMO for the support provided by UNDP. The Commission noted with interest that the activities of WMO in the field concerned formed part of the WMO tropical cyclone project, which had been initiated in response to a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1970, and that the Assembly, in its resolution 32/196 of 20 December 1977, had called upon WMO to intensify its efforts in that sphere.

671. The Commission noted with appreciation the desire of LRCS to continue and strengthen its co-operation with ESCAP and other agencies in the region, particularly in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness.

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

672. The Commission noted with appreciation the activities of the Panel as outlined in document E/ESCAP/65, as it was considered that the problems caused by cyclones and accompanying floods could best be solved through collective efforts and resources. That involved co-operation not only between the member countries, but also with global activities in that field, within the framework of the WMO tropical cyclone project. In that connexion, the Commission noted with appreciation the information given by the representative of the United States that plans were being made for a reserve geostationary satellite to be moved to a position at longitude 60°E over the equator as part of the First GARP (Global Atmospheric Research Programme) Experiment; that would provide data over the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. The TIROS-N series of polar orbiting satellites would start providing data in May 1978 and become operational later in the year.

673. The Commission was pleased to note the encouraging UNDP response to the joint representations from ESCAP and WMO, which had resulted in funds being made available for a Chief Technical Adviser and an expert in electronics and telecommunications up to the end of 1979. Moreover, in response to an expression of urgent need at the fifth session of the Panel, UNDP had agreed to provide funds for a hydrologist for six months each in 1978 and 1979. The Commission expressed the hope that the Panel member countries would take advantage of the full complement of its Technical Support Unit to accelerate the implementation of its programme.

674. As the prediction of storm surges was a problem of special concern to the members, the Commission was gratified to learn that UNEP would provide some funds for equipment for additional tide gauging stations in the Bay of Bengal.

675. The Commission's attention was drawn to the list of training requirements drawn up at the fifth session of the Panel. The hope was expressed that WMO and ESCAP would explore means of meeting those requirements.

676. The Commission expressed appreciation of the continued co-operation and support which WMO, UNDRO and LRCS had extended to the Panel.

677. The Commission also expressed its deep appreciation to UNDP for its support, to the Netherlands for providing the post of hydrologist for the previous two years, which had been critical in the development of the work of the Technical Support Unit, and to UNEP for its support of the Panel's activities.

Findings and recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

678. The Commission considered the report of ACPR (E/ESCAP/94 and Corr.1), which was introduced by the Permanent Representative of Australia, who had been designated by the Advisory Committee for that purpose.

679. In his introduction, the Permanent Representative of Australia reported that ACPR had met regularly during the year under review, approximately every two months in formal sessions and more frequently if informal working groups were taken into account. In addition, ACPR had served as a vehicle through which member States could make their views known to the secretariat on subjects within the framework of ESCAP. Although ACPR was an advisory body, the Executive Secretary in practice took note of its recommendations and sought through it the advice of Governments on matters of particular concern.

680. It was reported that during the year under review the Advisory Committee had covered a wide range of subjects. It had tried to come to grips with some of the more difficult issues before the Commission, including the drafting of a charter for the regional training and research institutions. On a continuing basis, it considered ways and means of improving the format of the programme of work and priorities. It was hoped that through such efforts the programme of work document would become more intelligible to concerned sectors of administrative machinery in member Governments of the region. ACPR had also discussed various aspects of the conference structure of the Commission and further consideration would be given to that matter in the near future. In that connexion, the consensus of ACPR was that any restructuring should be considered on a comprehensive over-all basis and not piecemeal. ACPR had also discussed problems relating to the regional training and research institutions and had advised the secretariat on the manner in which pledging for extrabudgetary

assistance might be conducted at Commission sessions. As a result of discussions between ACPR and the secretariat, there had been an improvement in the arrangements for the informal working group on resolutions, including the provision of interpretation facilities. ACPR expressed its appreciation of the good spirit of cordiality that existed among its members, which had facilitated the solution of a number of problems and more active participation by the representatives during 1977. The close liaison between the representatives of Governments and the secretariat had assisted the work of the latter and also made Governments more aware of many of the day-to-day problems faced by the secretariat. The Advisory Committee expressed the hope that, as that type of dialogue continued, the work of the secretariat would be geared more closely to the identified needs of the region and that its contribution to the ongoing developmental process would be further enhanced.

681. The Commission generally endorsed the findings and recommendations of ACPR and expressed appreciation of its work. It was noted that ACPR had established itself as a useful part of the machinery of the Commission and had shown itself to be an effective body from which the collective knowledge and experience of its members could be drawn to give quick advice to the secretariat informally on various matters on which ACPR was consulted. However, it was felt that ACPR should be encouraged to exercise more actively the functions assigned to it by the Commission, and consider recommendations for streamlining the programme of work and priorities and allocating resources in the implementation of the work programme.

682. The Commission observed that, although ACPR had assisted the secretariat in improving the presentation and contents of the programme of work and priorities, that document was still complex and difficult to comprehend. The Commission felt that ACPR should continue to give attention to improving the presentation of the programme of work and priorities for future sessions of the Commission. In that connexion, it should take into account not only available resources but also two other criteria: the importance and urgency of the need, for developing countries, to which each activity corresponded; and the activity, if the need arose, undertaken by other United Nations institutions or bodies to meet that same need.

683. In that regard, it was suggested that ACPR needed to be provided with summary evaluations of completed projects and findings and recommendations of legislative committees. ACPR should advise the secretariat to make further improvements in the information and documentation systems to increase their over-all effectiveness. The Commission also noted the practical difficulties faced by the Executive Secretary in initiating and implementing a pragmatic and selective programme of work and priorities as directed by the Commission without the co-operation of the legislative committees, which

dealt with their respective programmes of work and priorities. It was therefore requested that national delegations participating in those legislative committees should be more cautious in formulating their programmes of work and priorities in order that those work programmes should be more pragmatic and selective, taking into account the availability of resources for implementation. In that regard, the Commission advised ACPR to make a systematic review so as to identify those activities in the programme of work and priorities which could not be implemented owing to lack of resources. Such activities could be kept on a waiting list, pending availability of resources. The list could assist donor Governments and organizations in selecting areas of interest which they might wish to support. The Commission also advised ACPR to follow up the proposal to organize a working group to examine the contents of the work programme in detail with a view to minimizing duplication with other United Nations bodies and ensuring the best results from financial inputs.

684. The Commission agreed with the suggestion that the ESCAP guidelines for the conduct of meetings should be distributed to member Governments, together with the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission and for each session of the legislative committees. Particular mention was made of section (d) of the guidelines regarding interventions from the floor so that better use could be made of the limited time available for deliberations on issues under different agenda items.

685. The Commission requested that ACPR should meet more frequently, at least once a month.

686. The Commission noted the request of the delegations of certain countries that the Executive Secretary, jointly with ACPR, should review the matter of membership of the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions with a view to allowing for adequate representation of countries with different social and economic systems.

Any other business

Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

687. The Commission took note of documents F/ESCAP/90 and E/ESCAP/95 containing the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission that had been adopted in 1977 by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session and by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions.

688. In that connexion, some delegations referred to General Assembly resolution 32/3, on assistance for the reconstruction of Viet Nam, and expressed the hope that member countries would extend all possible

support, assistance and contributions to Viet Nam towards the reconstruction of that country.

689. They also urged the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, so that ESCAP could play a leading role in the region.

Date and place of meeting of the next session

690. The Commission accepted with appreciation the invitation of the Government of the Philippines to hold the thirty-fifth session at Manila from 5 to 16 March 1979. Confirmation of the dates was subject to further discussion with the Executive Secretary.

Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

691. The draft report prepared by the Technical and Drafting Committee was unanimously adopted by the Commission at its 532nd meeting on 17 March 1978.

D. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

692. The Commission's programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, which was endorsed at the thirty-third session, contained 22 programmes. To this work programme the Commission decided, at its thirty-fourth session, to add an additional programme on information systems and documentation services as it was felt that a programme of this nature would be of great assistance to member countries. Out of the present 23 programmes, 6 priority areas remain in the following fields: food and agriculture; energy; raw materials and commodities; transfer of technology; international trade, transnational corporations and external financial resource transfers; and integrated rural development.

693. The programme of work and priorities is an evolving exercise, described at times as the Commission's charter for the development of the region, regard being had to the feasibility of its implementation. The main objective in the formulation of the work programme has been to secure an integrated approach to the development problems of the region. The aim has been carefully to select programmes and projects which are mutually reinforcing and have the maximum impact on the development of the region and the best chance of success in implementation. An attempt has also been made to secure in the work programme an integration of the basic functions of ESCAP, which include research and studies, its role as a forum for discussion and negotiations, as well as a clearing-house for information, and the provision of technical assistance. In more specific terms, an effort has been made to ensure adequate and effective co-ordination of work within the secretariat

itself and also with the specialized agencies and other international organizations. The need for inputs from different fields is fully recognized, as is the undeniable fact that advances in any one sector are dependent on progress in other related fields. Furthermore, there has been a movement towards concrete and specific activities which are aimed at strengthening national capabilities and capacities and have immediate relevance to the promotion of the well-being of the common people, especially those living in rural areas. During the past year, increasing attention has been given to promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as it is felt that there is great scope for such co-operative arrangements and that activities of this nature will bring developing countries closer together than ever before in a spirit of self-reliance with active assistance from the developed countries.

694. The medium-term plan for 1978-1981 was approved by the Commission at its thirty-second session. At the current session, the Commission has endorsed the next medium-term plan (for 1980-1983). The plan is essentially a framework for the formulation of the programme of work for each successive biennium within the plan period. Its purpose is to provide broad guidelines in the light of which detailed activities can be developed for consideration by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The medium-term plan, 1980-1983, will therefore provide a framework within which the biennial programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981, and the biennial programme budget, 1980-1981, will be prepared.

695. In endorsing the proposed changes to the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, and the medium-term plan, 1980-1983, the Commission placed new emphasis on certain sectors of the work programme and the medium-term plan.

696. In the field of development planning, the secretariat's primary focus on strategies and patterns of development has been sharpened, and increased emphasis is being placed on quantitative techniques for assessing development progress, on the interdependence of various social and economic sectors in the planning process, on national and subnational planning linkages and on ECDC. Among several specific additions to the secretariat's programme of work in this field are a research programme and seminar on environmental issues in development, work on short-term forecasting, additional activities on long-term structural changes in ESCAP developing economies, a study of the role of financial institutions and credit budgeting in the achievement of growth and income distribution objectives, and the formulation and application of social, income distribution and other development indicators. As well as initiating work of a continuing nature, several of these activities should assist the current major project on new patterns and strategies of development for the 1980s and beyond.

697. To provide support for the secretariat's regular work in surveying economic and social development in the region, a system of country desks is being established in the Development Planning Division. This approach to the collation of information on development progress and policies in all countries of the ESCAP region is to be supported by a computerized data bank, subject to the availability of the necessary manpower and hardware resources.

698. Important modifications have been made to the programme with respect to regional and subregional co-operation. In particular, provision for work to assist economic co-operation in the ASEAN and South Pacific subregions has been complemented by proposals for activities relating to RCD and co-operation among south Asian countries without general subregional mechanisms. To accommodate the sharper focus on development strategies, quantitative analyses and subregional groupings, resource constraints have necessitated reduced emphasis on the analysis of short- and medium-term policies, related advisory services, work in the field of development administration and public finance, external financial resource transfers, and some particular aspects of co-operation.

699. In the field of food and agriculture, in pursuance of an integrated multidisciplinary approach, the programme has placed new emphasis on the development of rural institutions, including credit, marketing and other services, to encourage the active participation of small and marginal farmers in the development process; activities aimed at the creation of job opportunities; and strengthening of the intersectoral growth linkage. The programme in this sector has been carefully streamlined; a number of idle activities have been deleted and programme components reduced from 10 to 6 in keeping with the availability of resources and the changing priorities of member countries in food and agriculture development.

700. In the field of industry, human settlements and technology, the focus of attention was principally on modernizing agriculture and directing the benefits of industrialization to the rural communities. The ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry made a number of recommendations in this regard which have been reflected in the programme changes and medium-term plan. The Intergovernmental Meeting on Agro- and Allied Industries stressed the importance of focusing specifically on the more important elements of the programme in that sector and on activities that would strengthen the linkages between agriculture and industry. To this end, relevant activities have been modified. With regard to technology, greater emphasis has been placed upon problems relevant to small farmers, small industries and integrated rural development. The Regional Conference on Human Settlements emphasized the need to prepare a realistic regional programme on human settlements based on the priority requirements of member countries and stressed the over-all impor-

tance of human settlements. These are reflected in the modified work programme. In the field of the environment, attention is being given to training, institution building, legislation and implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Desertification.

701. In the field of trade, although the basic directions to be pursued in carrying out the various activities provided in the work programme remain unchanged, certain improvements in the presentation of the work programme have been made by deleting or consolidating overlapping activities and rearranging some components of the programme. In particular, the existing activities relating to trade promotion and development have been shifted to the programme concerning international trade in the priority area.

702. No major changes have taken place in the programme covering the natural resources sector. However, insufficient resources have continued to impede the implementation of technical assistance and co-operation activities in relation to energy planning, and these activities have been deferred for several years. Activities under three regional projects in the field of minerals are expected to be accelerated as a result of the appointment of project managers and the increasing availability of funds. In the water resources sector, work is to be concentrated on identifying and acting on the most strategic areas in follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference. The allocation of funds will make it possible to implement a programme of technical assistance and co-operation in remote sensing, surveying and mapping, in response to the recommendations of intergovernmental meetings in 1977.

703. With regard to the programme on population, emphasis has been placed on the integration of population in the development process and on internal as well as international migration. Apart from this emphasis, no other substantial changes have been made in the work programme except for the addition of two activities, namely, projections of families and households and a seminar on an integrated approach to population, food and nutrition policies and programmes in national development in the ESCAP region.

704. In the field of social development, emphasis was placed on rural areas in support of the objectives of the ESCAP integrated programme on rural development. Additional activities in the promotion of people's participation in local development have been added, mainly along the lines of the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Methods and Techniques of Promoting People's Participation in Local Development. Training functions in social welfare have been considerably reduced in the programme and have been transferred to SWDCAP in Manila. The activities related to the integration of women in the development process have now been spelt out in specific projects and activities. In the field of youth, the emphasis is still on pro-

viding training opportunities for leadership and developmental functions, but with a strong rural bias. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/135 on channels of communication with youth and youth organizations, new activities have been included, to be undertaken in co-operation with regional and national youth organizations, member Governments and the United Nations Volunteers programme.

705. Although there has been little change in the programme on shipping, ports and inland waterways, it is intended to give priority attention to manpower development programmes with a view to meeting the urgent needs of the developing ESCAP countries for adequately trained maritime and managerial personnel at all levels and categories. Emphasis is also to be placed on the implementation of projects related to the establishment of information systems, and the development or strengthening of policy-making institutions. This programme indicates that there is great potential for the promotion of TCDC. It is therefore expected that increasing activities will emerge to make the maximum use of experience accumulated within the region.

706. In the field of transport and communications, the main attention has been focused on the improvement and expansion of transport and communications infrastructures in order to fulfil the current development strategies and promote self-reliance. Emphasis has recently been placed on the pervasive role of transport and communications in the acceleration of rural development programmes, particularly through the integrated intermodal land transport project. The development of highways of international significance represented a major breakthrough in international highway development programmes. The drawing-up of a master plan for Asian railways in the context of the Trans-Asian Railway project has been a major development in a well co-ordinated regional railway network aimed at promoting interregional and intraregional trade and facilitating the integration of the ESCAP region. In response to the strong support given by member countries, activities related to economic aspects of air transport have recently been included in the work programme. Work in this direction will be continued in close co-operation with ICAO and other specialized agencies. In the field of tourism, increased emphasis will be given to the investment and financing aspects of tourism development projects, including infrastructures. With the phasing-out of UNDP and other extrabudgetary support, activities on postal services may have to be suspended temporarily. Increased attention will also be given to problems relating to transfer of transport and communications technology in the context of ECDC and TCDC. In the field of telecommunication, the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity will necessitate a review of the work in this field.

707. In the field of statistics, primary attention will be given to the promotion of the 1980 round of popula-

tion and housing censuses in order to ensure the participation of the maximum number of countries of the region; the development and promotion of statistics required for the planning, implementation and monitoring of integrated rural development projects; and the promotion of national household sample survey capabilities so as to provide a permanent infrastructure for socio-economic data, including those relating to smaller geographical areas and to specific groups of the population. Added emphasis will be placed on the promotion of economic statistics in the fields of transportation, prices, industry and energy. The development of social statistics, including information on the environment, will also be stressed. In the field of statistics, the developing countries of the region attach increasing importance to the convening of technical meetings.

708. As regards activities relating to transnational corporations, the need for close collaboration between the Joint CTC/ESCAP Unit and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations is evident in order to avoid duplication. In the area of training, emphasis is being placed on close co-ordination with the relevant regional training and research institutions. Emphasis is also being placed on the need to understand better the operations of transnational corporations in order to strengthen the negotiating capacity of host Governments, especially of developing countries in the region.

With the apparent changing trends in the attitudes of the transnational corporations, and the mood of the Governments, it is expected that activities in this area will expand.

709. The integrated programme on rural development gained further momentum during the year, with the implementation of a series of country-level activities focused on programme review, project identification and on-the-job training, as well as inter-country activities related to agrarian reform and rural development, training strategies and the data base for integrated rural development. Frequent consultations were held with government representatives in order to review progress and identify future lines of action. Priorities laid down by the Meeting of National Liaison Officers with the Interagency Committee convened in January 1978 related to such key aspects of integrated rural development as project planning for local development, more equitable access to assets and services for target groups and building-up of local institutions, training, monitoring and evaluation and exchange of information. Further projects/activities in keeping with these priorities are expected to be developed and implemented during the coming years. A regional contribution to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development is also being planned.

Chapter IV

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

A. RESOLUTIONS

180 (XXXIV). Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also its resolution 154 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 containing the New Delhi Declaration, in which it declared that the countries of the region should approach their various problems in a spirit of expanding subregional and regional understanding and growing international co-operation, and which constituted a regional contribution to the early establishment of a new international economic order and to the new international development strategy for the 1980s by focusing on growth with social justice,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2125 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 and General Assembly resolution 31/182 of 21 December 1976 on preparations for a new international development strategy as well as General Assembly resolution 32/174 of 19 December 1977,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2090 (LXIII) of 25 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/57 of 8 December 1977 on examination of long-term trends in economic development, which relate to regional contributions to the new international development strategy,

Bearing in mind also General Assembly resolutions 3409 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on a unified approach to development analysis and planning, 31/38 of 30 November 1976 on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose

¹ See paras. 305-318 and 357-361 above.

of social progress, and 32/179 of 19 December 1977 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries,

Recognizing that the process of economic and social development in many developing countries has not brought about adequate improvement in the living standards of the poorest, that real *per capita* income in some of the least developed and geographically handicapped countries of the region has declined, and also that the achievement of economic growth does not of itself ensure the elimination of poverty and the improvement of the quality of life,

Further recognizing that global interdependence calls for concerted and co-operative action by both developing and developed countries alike in resolving their various problems, and that there is a need to encourage and strengthen this co-operative process if the economic problems facing the world in the 1980s are to be adequately overcome,

Motivated by the need to ensure that the benefits of economic and social development both within ESCAP countries and between developed and developing countries in the world community as a whole are shared more equitably,

1. *Affirms* that the new international development strategy should aim at the early establishment of a New International Economic Order and should take fully into account the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as other relevant resolutions adopted since the sixth special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Further affirms* that constraints to the growth of the world economy and, in particular, to the growth of the national economies of the developing countries should be speedily eased, and that trade and employment should be stimulated and the flow of real resources to developing countries enhanced;

3. *Recognizes* that the new international development strategy should rectify the deficiencies of the development strategy of the 1970s through, *inter alia*:

(a) Taking fully into account the requirements of the developing countries, particularly the special needs and problems of the least developed, developing land-locked and developing island countries;

(b) Taking into account the heterogeneity of the developing countries, especially with regard to their levels of development, socio-economic systems, national objectives and the means of achieving those objectives;

(c) Taking a flexible approach to the formulation and adjustment of development targets and defining ways in which these targets should be achieved;

4. *Affirms* that the input from the ESCAP region into preparations for the new international development strategy should be based on the necessity for economic growth with social justice, *inter alia*, through continuing efforts to eliminate poverty with the provision of basic needs, improve the quality of life, achieve a more equitable distribution of income, and increase participation by the population, especially the rural poor, in the process of development;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, when preparing the regional contribution to the formulation of the new international development strategy for the 1980s, to:

(a) Ensure that full account is taken of the views of the Commission as indicated in the above paragraphs;

(b) Also give due consideration to the agreed views on the strategy contained in the report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session, particularly those specifying effective measures to remove the main obstacles to the development of the developing countries so as to enhance their individual and collective self-reliance;

(c) Continue to place emphasis on the resolution of problems in the priority areas identified by the Commission: food and agriculture; energy; raw materials and commodities; transfer of technology; international trade, transnational corporations and external financial resource transfers; and integrated rural development;

(d) Develop strategies which reflect particular needs in the ESCAP region, in accordance with national objectives, especially with regard to shipping, population, integration of women in the development process, youth development, mobilization of domestic resources, industrialization, notably the development of rural, small-scale and labour-intensive industries, management of water resources, land reform and the restructuring of agrarian institutions, including the promotion of co-operative movements, and human settlements;

(e) Explore new patterns of subregional, regional and international co-operation, especially among developing countries, based on the principle of respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit, and necessitated by the fact of increasing global interdependence and by the need to ensure the early establishment of a New International Economic Order;

(f) Ensure that the experience of countries with

different socio-economic systems is taken fully into account;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in the implementation of this resolution, to ensure appropriate co-ordination with the work being undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in pursuance of the pertinent resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the preparations for the new international development strategy to be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session to be held in 1980.

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

181 (XXXIV). Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3335 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3488 (XXX) of 12 December 1975 and 32/179 of 19 December 1977 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries,

Taking into consideration the relevant provisions of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, which, *inter alia*, recognized the importance of an adequate role for the public sector in the expansion of the industrial development of the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the relevant recommendations and observations of the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry regarding the important role which the public sector could play in promoting the economic development of the developing countries,

1. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to identifying possibilities for a regional input into his continuing study of the role of the public sector in the socio-economic development of developing countries;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account the studies which have been initiated within the United Nations system on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries on a regular basis in the secretariat's activities, in accordance with the programme of work and priorities and the medium-term plan and having due regard to the specific national needs and requirements of the countries of the region;

² See para. 307 above.

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session a report on the implementation of this resolution.

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

182 (XXXIV). Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 154 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 containing the New Delhi Declaration, in which it appealed to the international community and member States of the region to rededicate themselves to, and display the necessary political will for, the attainment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the achievement of the objective of growth with social justice,

Reaffirming its resolutions 166 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976 and 175 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, in which it urged all members and associate members of the Commission, other donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme and international agencies, foundations and institutions to consider the provision of generous additional or new contributions to the regional training and research institutions,

Appreciative of the contributions made by the United Nations Development Programme to the programmes of work of the Commission and particularly the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Commission,

Appreciative also of the generous contributions made by members and associate members from within and outside the region, other donor countries, agencies of the United Nations system and foundations, towards the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions,

Noting the need for budgetary and extrabudgetary resources to carry out decisions taken at various sessions of the Commission,

1. *Invites* members and associate members of the Commission to contribute substantial additional resources for the implementation of the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions;

³ See para. 321 above.

⁴ See paras. 586-597 above.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in view of the general support shown by the Commission during the discussion of extrabudgetary assistance and the encouraging response in the announcement of intended contributions by members and associate members, to take the necessary steps, in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, to enable the Commission at future sessions to continue the practice of such announcements along similar lines;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to take measures, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, to receive and disburse the funds obtained as a result of the announcement of intended contributions by the members and associate members to the work programmes of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions;

4. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to continue efforts to obtain additional contributions from various United Nations agencies, other appropriate organizations, foundations and Governments interested in the economic and social development of countries of the region;

5. *Further invites* the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution.

531st meeting
15 March 1978

183 (XXXIV). Strengthening the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Commission⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 158 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 and 166 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976 regarding (a) the establishment of a single intergovernmental governing council of the regional training and research institutions, (b) the designation of the Commission as executing agency for the regional institutions and expediting of the process of delegation of the relevant functions to the Commission and (c) the taking of all necessary steps to improve the current financial situation of these institutions,

Further recalling its resolution 175 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, in which it requested (a) the Executive Secretary to take steps to eliminate duplication and overlapping of functions and work programmes between the secretariat and the regional institutions, particularly in respect of training and related research, and (b) the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions to bring about greater integration of the work programmes of

the regional institutions, including joint activities among them, and also decided to elect 15 members to the Council,

Taking note of the report of the Council on its first session,

Appreciating the action taken by the Executive Secretary towards the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Commission,

Grateful to the United Nations Development Programme for its continued contributions to the regional institutions,

Appreciative of the assistance rendered by the members and associate members of the Commission and other donor countries,

Bearing in mind the possible changes in the quantum and nature of future financial assistance by the United Nations Development Programme,

Realizing the need for further steps to achieve greater collaboration among the regional institutions and effect increased co-ordination of their activities,

1 *Reiterates* its wish that the regional training and research institutions should continue to function as institutions under the auspices of the Commission and to be closely linked to the United Nations system,

2 *Resolves* that the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions shall be renamed "Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions",

3 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to act on behalf of the Council and to take such measures with regard to the working of the institutions as may be required to implement the resolutions of the Commission and the decisions of the Council,

4 *Further requests* the United Nations Development Programme to continue to designate the Commission as executing agency for the regional training and research institutions that are supported by the United Nations Development Programme,

5 *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme to consider the continuation of an appropriate level of institutional support to the regional institutions it already supports with, at the same time, an expanded volume of programme support, particularly from the regional indicative planning figure for the ESCAP region,

6 *Further urges* the United Nations Development Programme to provide institutional and programme support to the Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development, which has so far received no assistance from that source

7 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a

view to exploring the possibility of providing, out of the regular budget of the United Nations, institutional support to the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Commission, in the same manner as in the case of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning,

8 *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to explore with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and members and associate members of the Commission and other potential donors the possibility of establishing an endowment fund and its modalities as a measure to solve the financial problems facing the regional training and research institutions,

9 *Appeals* to all members and associate members of the Commission, other donor countries and interested agencies, foundations and institutions to pledge urgently required additional funds for the regional training and research institutions to enable them to implement their work programmes,

10 *Resolves* that, in the event of it being considered necessary to establish an additional regional training and research institution, before a decision is made the need for such an institution should be examined by the Commission in the light of the capability of existing regional institutions, so as to avoid duplication of functions, and in terms of the availability of sufficient financial support to enable the proposed institution to operate at minimum viability levels,

11 *Requests* the Governing Council to examine the question of the possible restructuring of existing regional training and research institutions in order to achieve reduction of operational costs and the optimum use of resources as well as the goal of assisting member countries,

12 *Resolves* that the Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development shall be renamed "Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development",

13 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this resolution to the attention of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its next meeting for appropriate action,

14 *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty fifth session on the implementation of this resolution

531st meeting
15 March 1978

184 (XXXIV) Human settlements⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

⁵ See para 383 above

Noting the important role of human settlements in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the peoples of the region,

Considering that human settlements should be viewed as an instrument of socio-economic development,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in June 1976,

Recalling that in its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 the General Assembly decided, *inter alia*, that:

(a) The Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into a Commission on Human Settlements, one of whose objectives would be to strengthen co-operation and co-participation in the domain concerned among all countries and regions;

(b) A secretariat, to be named "United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)", should be established to service the Commission on Human Settlements and, *inter alia*, supplement the resources of the regions in formulating and implementing human settlement projects when so required;

(c) There should be close links between the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme, and for that reason the location of the Centre should be at Nairobi;

and recommended that:

(a) The responsibility for implementing regional and subregional programmes should be gradually transferred to regional organizations;

(b) The regional commissions should consider the establishment of regional intergovernmental committees on human settlements which should co-ordinate their activities with those of the Commission on Human Settlements and report to it through the appropriate regional commissions;

(c) The budgetary and personnel resources available to each regional secretariat unit should consist of those available from the regular budgetary resources and those redeployed from the aggregate posts available to the central secretariat, and those provided through voluntary contributions, including contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Noting that in the report of the Regional Conference on Human Settlements in the ESCAP region it was emphasized that staff resources of the secretariat should be strengthened by redeployment from the global level to the regional level to accompany the decentralization of activities in the field of human settlements,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to confer at an early date with the Executive Directors of the Centre for Human Settlements, when the Centre is established, and the United Nations Environment Programme and to take mutually agreed measures:

(a) To effect redeployment of adequate staff together with related costs and other appropriate resources from the global level to ESCAP;

(b) To bring about greater regionalization of programmes in the field of human settlements;

(c) To ensure the necessary co-ordination and collaboration in the formulation, execution and monitoring of regional and subregional programmes and projects in the field of human settlements;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution.

*531st meeting
15 March 1978*

185 (XXXIV). Strengthening the capacity of the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of the population problems of the region⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that population is a crucial factor in the socio-economic development process, and also that population policies and programmes need to be formulated as an integral part of over-all development,

Recalling the Declaration of Population Strategy for Development adopted at the Second Asian Population Conference, held at Tokyo in 1972, and the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action adopted by the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest in 1974,

Noting that the Regional Post-World Population Conference Consultation in 1975 and the ESCAP Committee on Population at its first session in 1976 requested the Commission to assign a high level of priority to the subject of population,

Noting further that continued efforts in implementing population policies and programmes have contributed significantly to the achievement of developmental goals in a number of countries of the region,

Recognizing that the problems of population growth and distribution continue to pose a serious

⁶ See paras. 445-451 above.

challenge to developmental efforts and call for more innovative approaches and greater efforts by Governments, members of the United Nations system and other international organizations in systematically integrating population factors into development,

Considering that the resources available for implementing the regional and subregional population programmes and activities of ESCAP are inadequate and not commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the immediate and long-term population problems facing the Asia and Pacific region,

Expressing appreciation to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which has so far provided a substantial part of the resources for the implementation of the Commission's programmes in the field of population,

Taking note of the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twenty-fourth session relating to the infrastructure posts funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities,

Conscious of the Commission's responsibilities in promoting regional and subregional co-operation and assisting member countries in their tasks of socio-economic development,

1 *Decides* that greater emphasis should be placed on the regional and subregional population programmes and activities of the Commission commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the problem and that resources to implement such programmes and activities should accordingly be increased,

2 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further strengthen the capability of the secretariat to assist the member and associate member countries, upon request, in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes as integral parts of socio-economic development plans,

3 *Urges* countries within and outside the region to increase their assistance so as to enable the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of population problems in the region,

4 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake early consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to convey the concern of the Commission regarding the urgency of population problems in the region with a view to securing increases in the allocations from regular and extrabudgetary resources in support of the current and future population activities of the Commission

531st meeting
15 March 1978

186 (XXXIV) Relationship between the Committees on Population and on Social Development⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that the formulation and implementation of effective policies in the field of population are integral to continued social and economic development in the Asia and Pacific region,

Recalling the recommendation of the Second Asian Population Conference, held at Tokyo in 1972, that population and socio-economic development be given a co-ordinated and integrated status in national development planning, and the recognition by the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest in 1974, of the interrelation between population and socio-economic development,

Noting section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which the General Assembly recommended that regional commissions should rationalize their structures, *inter alia*, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery in order to perform their functions more effectively,

Further noting that the ESCAP Committees on Population and on Social Development meet only triennially, with the next sessions scheduled for 1979 and 1978, respectively, and that this indicates an inadequate recognition of the importance of these subjects in the work of the Commission,

Requests the Committee on Population and the Committee on Social Development to meet consecutively before the thirty-fifth session of the Commission and, at their respective meetings, to consider the question of merging the two Committees and report their views to the Commission at that session

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

187 (XXXIV) International Year of the Child⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/169 of 21 December 1976, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 International Year of the Child, and 32/109 of 15 December 1977, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that the major focus of the International Year of the Child was at the national level, but that that should be supported by regional and international co-operation,

⁷ See para 462 above

⁸ See para 461 above

Aware that the vast majority of the world's poor children live in the countries of the ESCAP region,

1. *Decides* to hold a regional consultation meeting in 1978 with a view to strengthening and supporting the preparation of activities for the International Year of the Child at the national level;

2. *Accepts* with appreciation the kind offer of the Government of the Philippines to provide the necessary host facilities for the regional consultation meeting at Manila;

3. *Urges* member and associate member countries of ESCAP, representatives of all concerned United Nations bodies and appropriate non-governmental organizations in the region to participate in the meeting;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake preparations and the organization of activities in connexion with the meeting, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the heads of other United Nations agencies concerned.

531st meeting
15 March 1978

188 (XXXIV). The Commission's activities in the Pacific⁹

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 its activities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3338 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and subsequent resolutions in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, invited the executive heads of the organizations concerned within the United Nations system to intensify their efforts with respect to developing island countries within their fields of competence, and also resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2126 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 on specific action in favour of developing island countries,

Recalling further resolution 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the least developed among the developing countries, developing island countries and developing land-locked countries, in which the Conference, *inter alia*, urged international organizations to pursue and intensify studies and technical assistance efforts to

help small islands to overcome the peculiar problems of their geographical situation and characteristics,

Reiterating the desire expressed by the developing island countries of the Pacific to play a more active role in the affairs of the Commission and the development of the region as a whole,

Recognizing that the Governments of developing Pacific island countries have expressed the wish that the Commission, in order to be effectively involved in the development of the Pacific area, should develop suitable programmes to meet the needs of the area,

Noting that financial and geographic constraints have restricted the ability of Governments of developing Pacific island countries to participate fully in ESCAP activities,

Commending the Executive Secretary's efforts so far in trying to develop a programme of activities relevant to the Pacific area, including particularly the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific,

1. *Urges* that the Executive Secretary, in the detailed formulation of such activities, maintain close co-operation and consultation with Governments of developing Pacific island countries, the United Nations Development Programme, the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, in order that these activities may meet identified needs and priorities;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, after due consultation with the developing Pacific island Governments, and where appropriate the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, to consider urgently:

(a) The appointment of a suitably qualified senior officer in the Pacific area in order to improve working linkages and maintain effective liaison between the Commission and the countries of that area and to assist the Executive Secretary in the programming and implementation of activities relevant to the needs of the area;

(b) Increasing to an appropriate number the nationals of developing Pacific island member countries on the Commission's professional staff, in accordance with established United Nations recruitment procedures, in order to improve that area's geographic representation in the United Nations Secretariat;

(c) The possibility of providing appropriate in-service training at the secretariat for nationals of developing Pacific island countries;

(d) Ways and means of mitigating the constraints referred to above, in order to enable representatives of developing Pacific island countries to attend Commission sessions;

⁹ See paras. 573-579 above.

(e) Taking steps to encourage and facilitate greater involvement of the regional training and research institutions in and for the developing Pacific island countries,

3 *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

189 (XXXIV) Mekong Committee¹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction that the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have established the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin to promote the development of the water resources of that basin in order to meet effectively the needs for reconstruction and growing development of Laos and Viet Nam and the growing economic development needs of Thailand,

Recognizing that such regional co-operation would enhance the prospects for peace and stability in the region,

1 *Expresses* the hope that Democratic Kampuchea will soon resume its active participation in the full Mekong Committee,

2 *Endorses* the appeal made by the Interim Committee for support from countries and organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, that wish to assist them in their economic and social advancement by exploiting the enormous potential represented by the water resources of the lower Mekong basin,

3 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist the Interim Mekong Committee to the best of his ability with the resources at his disposal

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

190 (XXXIV) Support for the Lumbini development project in Nepal¹¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the regional importance of Lumbini as a centre of cultural, religious, historical and touristic importance,

Noting the high priority assigned by the Government of Nepal to the development of the Lumbini-Gandaki zone as an important element in the economic development of the country,

Recalling its resolutions 129 (XXIX) of 21 April 1973 and 147 (XXX) of 4 April 1974, demonstrating the deep interest of the member States in the early implementation of the project,

Also noting that an intergovernmental committee made up of representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Kampuchea, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand was established in February 1970 to promote the development of Lumbini,

Expressing its appreciation of the interest, assistance and support given to the project to date by the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, and the countries of the Asia and Pacific region,

Noting with satisfaction that with the assistance of the United Nations the final master plan and detailed site plans for Lumbini have already been prepared,

Further recognizing that continued United Nations and United Nations Development Programme involvement and support are essential to carry the project to the next stage of implementation,

1 *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide their valuable assistance to this regional project,

2 *Further requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to assign a specific role to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the context of the Lumbini development project as a regional project,

3 *Appeals* to all member and associate member countries to extend their support to the project with a view to its early implementation,

4 *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary action to assist the project, including an appeal to the Governments of the member and associate member countries for contributions,

5 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution

531st meeting
15 March 1978

¹⁰ See paras 625-629 above

¹¹ See para 531 above

B. OTHER DECISIONS

Decision 1. The Commission adopted various revisions to its programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, and also endorsed the regional submission for the medium-term plan, 1980-1983. The changes in the programme of work included the establishment of a new programme entitled "Information systems and documentation services" and the redesignation of the priority area of external financial resources as "International trade, transnational corporations and external financial resource transfers". The Commission draws the attention of the Council to other changes of emphasis outlined in section D of chapter III (see paragraphs 692-709; see also paragraphs 324-335 and 580-585 above).

Decision 2. The Commission recommended the early establishment of a regional fertilizer advisory, development and information network, in co-operation with FAO and UNIDO. This network would give permanent significance to the work on fertilizers already undertaken in the context of the Commission's agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (see paragraph 339 above).

Decision 3. The Commission strongly reaffirmed its endorsement of the early establishment of a regional co-ordination centre for research and development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tubers in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific (see paragraphs 341-345 above).

Decision 4. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry to establish an *ad hoc* group of ministers to assist the implementation of its recommendations on industrial development in the region and a club of member countries to assist in the promotion of active co-operation among developing countries in this field (see paragraphs 373-374 above).

Decision 5. The Commission approved the proposals to (a) establish an environment unit in the secretariat in co-operation with UNEP, (b) convene an inter-governmental meeting on national environmental protection legislation, (c) hold a South Pacific conference on the human environment in co-ordination with SPC and SPEC and (d) convene with UNEP a regional seminar on alternative patterns of development (see paragraphs 386-387 and revisions to the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979).

Decision 6. The Commission reaffirmed its decision to convene meetings of senior trade officials and of ESCAP ministers of trade, which would now be held in India in August 1978, to consider, *inter alia*, a draft blueprint for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region (see paragraph 412 above).

Decision 7. The Commission agreed that it had an important role to play in encouraging and co-ordinating TCDC and ECDC at the regional level. It approved

the convening, before its thirty-fifth session, of a meeting of representatives of subregional economic groupings in the ESCAP region to consider linkages between their secretariats and a regional working group of senior officials concerned with TCDC to consider implementation of the recommendations to be made by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries at Buenos Aires in 1978 (see paragraphs 412 and 548-552).

Decision 8. The Commission endorsed the holding in 1980 of the Second Asian Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Development (including social welfare), with a preparatory expert group meeting in 1979. The scope of the conference would be broadened to include issues such as women and youth involvement and integrated rural development (see paragraph 455).

Decision 9. The Commission approved (a) the proposed classification of certain sections of the Asian Highway as international priority routes, (b) the preparation of a convention on technical standards for road vehicles, (c) a new project on technical support for integrated intermodal land transport development, for which UNDP support would be required and (d) the convening of regional intergovernmental consultations to prepare for the next meeting of the global intergovernmental preparatory group on an international multimodal transport convention (see paragraphs 479, 508 and 509 above).

Decision 10. The Commission endorsed five strategies for railway development over the forthcoming decade, concerning a master plan for Asian railways, urban and suburban transport development, the transfer of new technology, the sharing of research experience and multimodal transport development (see paragraph 499 above).

Decision 11. The Commission approved the convening in July 1978 of the Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (see paragraph 382 above).

Decision 12. The Commission approved the convening, before its thirty-fifth session, of an *ad hoc* intergovernmental meeting on integrated rural development for purposes of consultation and review in accordance with its resolution 172 (XXXIII) (see paragraph 563 above).

Decision 13. The Commission elected the first Governing Council of the new Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre, to be located at Bandung, Indonesia, for the period ending at the time of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission in 1980, comprising Bangladesh, India, Indonesia (host country), Iran, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand (see paragraph 661 above).

Decision 14. The Commission approved in principle the convening of an *ad hoc* intergovernmental meeting to review progress made in implementing the most important recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference (see paragraph 439 above).

Decision 15. The Commission agreed that, in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197

on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, ESCAP should play a leading role with respect to economic and social affairs in the region (see paragraph 688 above).

Decision 16. The Commission informs the Council that its thirty-fifth session will be held at Manila in March 1979 (see paragraph 690 above).

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

The draft resolution for action by the Council has no financial implications. The financial implications of the Commission's own resolutions and decisions are set out below for the Council's endorsement, under financial regulation 13.1 of the United Nations.

Resolution 180 (XXXIV). Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s

Although several secretariat activities will contribute to the implementation of this resolution, the principal role will be played by the research project on new patterns and strategies of development, described in paragraphs 360 and 361 of chapter III of the present report. Work is in progress on the project, which is supported by extrabudgetary funding from the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands as well as staff resources provided by the regular budget of the United Nations. The regular and most of the extrabudgetary requirements are already available and allocated, but a further \$80,000 of extrabudgetary funding is required to complete the work programmed for late 1978 and 1979.

Resolution 181 (XXXIV). Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries

There are not expected to be any financial implications connected with this resolution in the current biennium, since it will be implemented through the work of the secretariat already programmed in various sectors. However, the proposed regional input to the study of the Secretary-General of the United Nations could have financial implications if this were to necessitate the allocation of substantial and/or specialized staff resources.

Resolution 182 (XXXIV). Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programmes of work of the Commission and the regional training and research institutions

No financial implications.

Resolution 183 (XXXIV). Strengthening the regional training and research institutions under the auspices of the Commission

The five institutions concerned, namely, the Asian and Pacific Development Institute, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre, the Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific and the Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development, were established by the Commission to provide support to the development efforts of the members and associate members of the Commission through the conduct of training, research, consultancy and information dissemination functions. Since the five institutions, through those functions, complement the activities of the substantive divisions of the secretariat, their activities have to be regarded as an integral part of the work of the Commission.

In order to perform these functions, the five institutions require continued assurance of financial stability, which would enable them to have a core

staff of Professionals on a continuing basis. The proposed phasing-out of institutional support by UNDP after 1981 has created a need for alternative arrangements for providing such institutional support. While the participating Governments would take over the major responsibility for providing institutional support, continued assurance of financial stability would necessitate the provision, out of the regular budget of the United Nations, of institutional support to the five regional training and research institutions, as is done in the case of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. It is proposed to provide for two Professional staff posts for core staff in each of the five institutions, out of the regular budget of the United Nations.

In view of the level of expertise and experience required to undertake the functions of training, research, consultancy and information dissemination, the Professional staff of a regional training and research institution should be at the P-4/P-5 level. On the basis of two Professional posts in each of the five institutions, the total number of posts required is 10. The additional staffing required under the regular budget of the United Nations for the five regional institutions, on a regular and continuing basis, would therefore be as follows:

10	P-4/P-5	120 man-months per year:
		salaries, posts adjustment and
		common staff costs.

Resolution 184 (XXXIV). Human settlements

This resolution has no financial implications other than the decentralization of staff and other resources referred to in its paragraph 1, which provides for consultations between the Commission and the Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Environment Programme on such redeployment.

Resolution 185 (XXXIV). Strengthening the capacity of the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of the population problems of the region

The development of an expanded programme of population activities by the ESCAP secretariat has progressed significantly since January 1969, when the Population Division was established. (That Division was merged in January 1977 with part of the then Social Development Division to become the present Population and Social Affairs Division.) The secretariat infrastructure for population work was strengthened by an increase in the number of Professional posts from four in 1970 to some fifteen posts during the period 1971 to the end of 1977. Currently, six Professional posts are financed under the regular budget of the United Nations and nine by UNFPA. In addition, two regional advisers attached to the Division and six General Service posts are also being financed by UNFPA.

The United Nations General Assembly agreed at its twenty-third session in 1968 to the gradual absorption of all costs of the expanded population programme into the regular budget of the ESCAP secretariat after 1970. To date, however, it has not been possible to absorb any UNFPA infrastructure posts and ESCAP has continued to request support for these posts

from UNFPA. The need for the absorption of UNFPA-supported posts into the regular budget has become more urgent with the indication given by UNFPA in 1977 of its plan to phase out its financial support for infrastructure posts over the next few years.

In order to implement the present resolution, it would be necessary to provide, in the programme budget for 1980-1981, for the establishment of the following posts as part of the regular budgetary resources of the Commission:

1	P-5	Salary, post adjustment and common staff costs
1	P-4	Salary, post adjustment and common staff costs
1	P-3	Salary, post adjustment and common staff costs
2	GS-6/ GS-7	Salary and common staff costs

Resolution 186 (XXXIV). Relationship between the Committees on Population and on Social Development

No financial implications.

Resolution 187 (XXXIV). International Year of the Child

In its resolution 31/169 of 21 December 1976, the General Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 International Year of the Child (IYC), with two general objectives in view: (a) to provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and for enhancing the awareness of the special needs of children on the part of decision makers and the public; and (b) to promote recognition of the fact that programmes for children should be an integral part of economic and social development plans with a view to achieving, in both the long term and the short term, sustained activities for the benefit of children at the national and international levels. In the resolution, the General Assembly urged Governments to expand their efforts at the national and community levels to provide lasting improvements in the well-being of their children, with special attention to those in the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged groups.

While UNICEF was designated as the lead agency to co-ordinate the activities of the International Year of the Child, the General Assembly also called upon the appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to the preparation and implementation of the objectives of IYC. An IYC secretariat has been established at Headquarters for that purpose, assisted by the Inter-agency Advisory Group on the International Year of the Child, in which ESCAP also participates. Governments have been encouraged to establish national IYC commissions as central points for planning, co-ordinating and implementing the activities concerned.

In its resolution 187 (XXXIV), the Commission decided to hold a regional consultation meeting among member and associate member countries of ESCAP, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations in support of the activities of IYC at the national level. This will be achieved through exchange of information on proposed activities, consideration of problems and issues of mutual interest and concern and identification of appropriate policies and strategies. As stated in the resolution, the Government of the Philippines will provide the necessary host facilities, while the

preparatory work for and the servicing of the meeting will be undertaken by regular staff of the secretariat. Additional costs of \$10,000 relating to travel, interpretation and documentation, which will be incurred as the meeting is to be held away from ESCAP headquarters, will also be financed by the host Government.

Resolution 188 (XXXIV). The Commission's activities in the Pacific

In its resolution 2126 (LXIII) dealing with the progress report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of specific action in favour of developing island countries, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly give full consideration to the progress report with a view to the stimulation of further attention to the need for such specific action by the United Nations system and by all Governments, particularly those of developed countries. Governments of the developing island countries of the Pacific have now reiterated their desire, noted in Commission resolution 173 (XXXIII), to play a more active role in the affairs of the Commission and the development of the region as a whole. In the present resolution, the Commission urges the Executive Secretary, in drawing up suitable programmes identifying the needs and priorities of the developing island countries, to consult the Governments of the respective island countries, UNDP, SPC and SPEC.

The Executive Secretary is also requested to consider urgently the appointment of a suitably qualified senior officer to be stationed in the Pacific area to act as liaison between the Governments of the island countries of the Pacific and the Commission and assist the Executive Secretary in the programming and implementation of activities relevant to the needs of the area. The appointment of such an officer and the work involved in the formulation and implementation of the programme of activities would entail additional staffing and administrative requirements, with the following financial implications on a continuing basis:

1	P-5/D-1: salary, post adjustment and common staff costs	12 man-months
2	General Service (secretarial assistance, driver): salaries and common staff costs	24 man-months
	Accommodation and general operating expenses, supplies and services	\$US 10,000
	Equipment, furniture	\$US 8,000
	Official travel	\$US 10,000

The other provisions of the resolution are not expected to have additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

Resolution 189 (XXXIV). Mekong Committee

No financial implications.

Resolution 190 (XXXIV). Support for the Lumbini development project in Nepal

This resolution has no financial implications other than those connected with its paragraphs 1 and 2, that is, the continuation of United Nations assistance to the project and the assigning of a specific role to the ESCAP secretariat in this regard. It is understood that the rele-

vant functions and associated resources will be decentralized to the Commission along with those relating to other activities in the tourism sector currently undertaken by the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters

Decision 1, on the programme of work and priorities, 1978-1979, and the medium-term plan, 1980-1983

There are no financial implications for the current biennium and those for the following biennium will be incorporated in the Commission's proposals for the programme budget, 1980-1981

Decision 2, on the establishment of an ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO regional fertilizer advisory, development and information network

The agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific, under which work to be undertaken by the proposed network has been commenced during 1976-1978, has been financed largely by extrabudgetary funds provided by the Government of the Netherlands. Such support is continuing, although principally for the scheme's activities with regard to pesticides. Thus, it is anticipated that the regular budget of the United Nations will play a larger role in financing future activities concerned with fertilizers. Detailed proposals have yet to be formulated with respect to the contributions of ESCAP, FAO, UNIDO and other possible sources to the maintenance of the proposed network, which is expected to commence its operations in 1978. Provision for support by the regular budget of the United Nations will need to be incorporated in the Commission's proposals for the programme budget, 1980-1981

Decision 3, on the establishment of a regional co-ordination centre for research and development of CGPRT crops in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific

For the proposed phase I (1978-1980) of the implementation of this decision, at least part of the required funds are expected to be provided by the proposed host Government (Indonesia), UNDP, participating Governments such as Bangladesh, and other extrabudgetary sources currently being identified. Support is also expected from other international agricultural research centres. The decision should not have implications for the regular budget of the United Nations during the current biennium

Decision 4, on the establishment of an ad hoc group of ministers of industry and a club of countries to promote industrial co-operation

There are no financial implications at this time as funding is available for the activities so far planned to implement the decision in 1978-1979

Decision 5(a), on the establishment of an environment unit in the secretariat in co-operation with UNEP

The implementation of this decision will involve the relocation of UNEP posts, but has no additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations for the current biennium

Decision 6, to convene a meeting of ESCAP ministers of trade

The meeting is to be hosted by the Government of India, which will defray all additional financial costs. There are no implications for the regular budget of the United Nations

Decision 7, on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

The support of UNDP is anticipated for the meeting of subregional economic groupings, but financial arrangements have yet to be made for the working group on TCDC. There are, however, no implications for the regular budget of the United Nations

Decision 8, on the Second Asian Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Development (including social welfare) in 1980

No financial implications

Decision 9, on activities associated with the Asian Highway and integrated intermodal land transport

The approved activities have no implications for the regular budget of the United Nations at the present time

Decision 10, on strategies for railway development

The approved activities have no implications for the regular budget of the United Nations at the present time

Decision 11, on regional preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

No financial implications, as expenses will be covered by UNCSTD funds

Decision 12, on an intergovernmental meeting on integrated rural development

No implications for the regular budget of the United Nations

Decision 13, on the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

No financial implications

Decision 14, on an intergovernmental meeting on water resources

No financial implications at this time

Decision 15, on restructuring of United Nations economic and social activities

Financial implications are to be considered later by the Council

Decision 16, on holding the thirty-fifth session of the Commission at Manila

There are no additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations, since the additional cost of holding the session away from ESCAP headquarters will be borne by the host Government

Annex II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol of report</i>
Committee on Natural Resources <i>Chairman, Mr. Dawood Hariri (Iran)</i>	Fourth session Bangkok 16-22 Aug. 1977	E/ESCAP/60
Special Body on Land-locked Countries <i>Chairman, Mr. Chuay Kannawat (Thailand)</i>	Fourth session Bangkok 18-22 Oct. 1977	E/ESCAP/61
ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry <i>Chairman, H.E. Mr. Kasame Chatikavanij (Thailand)</i>	First session Bangkok 28-30 Nov. 1977	E/ESCAP/59
Committee on Development Planning <i>Chairman, Mr. Krit Sombatsiri (Thailand)</i>	Second session Bangkok 1-7 Dec. 1977	E/ESCAP/68
Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications <i>Chairman, Mr. Manus Corvanich (Thailand)</i>	First session Bangkok 14-22 Dec. 1977	E/ESCAP/79
Committee on Trade <i>Chairman, Mr. Ananda Bhoocha-oom (Thailand)</i>	Twenty-first session Bangkok 10-16 Jan. 1978	E/ESCAP/88
Committee on Agricultural Development <i>Chairman, Mr. Jesus R. Tanchanco (Philippines)</i>	Second session Bangkok 31 Jan.-6 Feb. 1978	E/ESCAP/89 and Corr.1

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A PUBLICATIONS

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1976 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 1

Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, vol XXVII, No 1, June 1976 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 16

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, vol VIII, Series A, No 2 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 2, vol XI, Series A, No 1 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 4, vol X, Series A, No 2 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 6, vol XII, Series A, No 1 United Nations publication, Sales No E/F 77 II F 15, vol VIII, Series B, No 1 United Nations publication, Sales No E/F 77 II F 14

Industrial Development News - Asia and the Pacific, No 13 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 9

Proceedings of the Symposium on Social and Non-economic Factors in Water Resources Development (Water Resources Series No 47) United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 3

Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific, vol VI, Nos 1-2, March and June 1976 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 5, vol VI, No 3, September 1976 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 7, vol VI, No 4, December 1976 United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 12

Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific No 14 United Nations publication, Sales No E/F 77 II F 10

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 1976 United Nations publication, Sales No E/F 77 II F 8

Stratigraphic Correlation between Sedimentary Basins of the ESCAP Region (Mineral Resources Development Series No 42) United Nations publication, Sales No E 77 II F 11

Water Resources Journal (ST/ESCAP/SER C/112-116) (English)

B DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION

Summary records of the thirty-third session (ESCAP/SR 511-521 and corrigendum)

Report of the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry (E/ESCAP/59)

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/60)

Report of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/61)

Technical co-operation activities of ESCAP, 1977 (E/ESCAP/62 and Corr 1-3)

Technical co-operation activities under the United Nations regular programme in the ESCAP region in 1977 information paper presented by the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation (OTC) (E/ESCAP/63)

Technical co-operation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1977 information paper presented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (E/ESCAP/63/Add 1)

Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/64)

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/65)

Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (E/ESCAP/66)

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre (RMRDC) (E/ESCAP/67)

Report of the Committee on Development Planning on its second session (E/ESCAP/68)

Report of the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions on its first session (E/ESCAP/69)

Progress report on regional training and research institutions (E/ESCAP/69/Add 1)

Natural resources (E/ESCAP/70)

Statistics (E/ESCAP/71)

Development planning (E/ESCAP/72)

Implementation of resolutions 177 (XXXIII) and 178 (XXXIII) (E/ESCAP/73)

Programme changes, 1978-1979 (E/ESCAP/74 and Corr 1 and 2 and Add 1, Add 2 and Corr 1 and Add 3)

Medium-term plan, 1980-1983 (E/ESCAP/75 and Corr 1)

Industry, housing and technology (E/ESCAP/76 and Corr 1)

Population (E/ESCAP/77)

Transport and communications (E/ESCAP/78 and Add 1)

Report of the Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications on its first session (E/ESCAP/79)

Regional development strategies for the 1980s medium- and long-term proposals (E/ESCAP/80 and Corr 1)

Programme for information systems and documentation services (E/ESCAP/81 and Corr 1)

International trade (E/ESCAP/82)

Shippings, ports and inland waterways (E/ESCAP/83)

Social development (E/ESCAP/84)

Progress report on the implementation of resolution 171 (XXXIII) - economic and technical co-operation among developing ESCAP countries (E/ESCAP/85)

Implementation of resolution 175 (XXXIII) on regional training and research institutions of the Commission (E/ESCAP/86)

Food and agriculture (E/ESCAP/87 and Add.1)

Report of the Committee on Trade on its twenty-first session (E/ESCAP/88)

Report of the Committee on Agricultural Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/89 and Corr.1)

Recommendations of the Second Committee to the General Assembly concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (E/ESCAP/90)

Progress report on the implementation of resolution 172 (XXXIII) on the integrated programme on rural development (E/ESCAP/91 and Corr.1)

Extrabudgetary assistance: pledging (E/ESCAP/92 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

Progress report on the implementation of resolution 173 (XXXIII) on increased participation by the

developing island countries of the Pacific in the activities of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/93)

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/94 and Corr.1)

Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (E/ESCAP/95)

Report of the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions on its first special session (E/ESCAP/96)

Report of the fourteenth session of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) (E/ESCAP/L.9)

Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC) on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/L.10)

Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin: annual report, 1977 (E/ESCAP/L.11)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977: "The International Economic Crises and Developing Asia and the Pacific" (E/ESCAP/L.12 and Corr.1)

Annex IV

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 connexion 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 devel-

opment 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, Burma, China, the Cook Islands, Democratic Kampuchea, Fiji, the Gilbert Islands, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Tuvalu.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, Democratic Kampuchea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, 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, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, 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 Brunei, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Gilbert Islands, Hong Kong, the Solomon Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Tuvalu.

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 V

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 of 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

connexion 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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