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**REVIEW OF ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF  
THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE  
REPORT FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009 AND THE WORK OF THE  
ESCAP REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS: TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

(Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR TRANSFER  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

**SUMMARY**

This report reviews the status of implementation of the programme of work, as well as the administrative and financial status, of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) in 2009.

With over 30 years of experience and expertise in developing and popularizing methodologies and practices for technology transfer, technology capacity-building, information networking and skills development, APCTT is making a concerted effort to assist the countries of the region in creating an environment that can support innovation and efficient technology transfer, with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises.

In 2009, the Centre used its well-established and regionally accepted information and communications technology-based networks to enable the use and sharing of knowledge relevant to technology transfer and to promote new and emerging technologies among member countries. The Centre's Asia-Pacific Technology Information Tracking and Unified Data Extraction (APTITUDE) search engine was upgraded to enable the search of 12 Asia-Pacific technology databases in the public domain. Capacity-building training programmes were conducted with the aim of building technology transfer planning and implementation skills, fostering innovation in high-tech clusters and promoting innovation in nanotechnology to facilitate industrial applications. The Centre's periodicals—the *Asia Pacific Tech Monitor* and *Value Added Technology Information Services* (VATIS)—continue to play an essential role in the dissemination and promotion of technology information and utilization in the region.

In accordance with Commission resolution 64/3 of 30 April 2008 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, the Centre also completed a preliminary programme of work in 2009, involving 15 member countries, entitled "Supporting the Development of an Institutional Cooperation Mechanism to Promote Renewable Energy in Asia and the Pacific".

To leverage the gains made through its activities in 2009, the Centre has drawn up a programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011, based on advice provided by its Technical Committee and Governing Council, to meet the emerging needs of the region. The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the strategic direction of the Centre, as well as ways to overcome its financial and staffing constraints.

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## Introduction

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), a subsidiary body of ESCAP, was established on 16 July 1977. The Centre is located in New Delhi with host facilities provided by the Government of India. The objectives of the Centre, as defined in article 4 of its revised statute,<sup>1</sup> are to assist the members and associate members of ESCAP by strengthening their capability to develop and manage national innovation systems; to develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; to improve the terms of transfer of technology; and to identify and promote the development and transfer of technologies relevant to the region.

### I. RESULTS AND OUTCOMES ACHIEVED IN 2009

2. Since the sixty-fifth session of the Commission, held in April 2009, APCTT has conducted the following activities and substantive programmes.

3. In 2009, as part of its endeavour towards technology capacity-building, APCTT continued to strengthen its well-established and regionally accepted information and communications technology-based networks, such as [www.technology4sme.net](http://www.technology4sme.net) and [www.business-asia.net](http://www.business-asia.net), to enable the use and sharing of knowledge relevant to technology transfer and to promote new and emerging technologies among member countries. The Asia-Pacific Technology Information Tracking and Unified Data Extraction (APTITUDE) search engine, designed by the Centre to support the [www.technology4sme.net](http://www.technology4sme.net) website to search three databases in 2008, was upgraded and programmed to search 12 public domain technology databases from the Asia-Pacific region, to enable the online technology transfer services of APCTT to become a one-stop facility for the use of both consumers and producers of technology.

4. In 2009, APCTT conducted capacity-building training programmes on technology transfer management. A national training programme entitled “Planning and Implementing International Technology Transfer in a Global Business Setting”

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<sup>1</sup> Commission resolution 61/4, annex.

was conducted in Hanoi in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology of Viet Nam for the benefit of small and medium-sized enterprise support organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs in Viet Nam. About 60 participants, including Government officials, trainers and consultants from Government small and medium-sized enterprise support institutions, research institutes, universities, vocational training institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises joined that programme. APCTT also extended training support to a regional training programme entitled “Competitiveness Strategies and Technology Access and Adoption by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises”, which was conducted in New Delhi under the aegis of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific. Senior Government officials from Afghanistan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were trained on the use of the Centre’s *technology4sme* web-based online technology market and the APTITUDE search engine.

5. As part of its programme of work on national innovation systems, APCTT organized a high-level workshop for over 45 national policymakers on fostering innovation through high-tech clusters in Hanoi on 9 and 10 November 2009. The workshop enabled senior policymakers to gain insights into policy initiatives being undertaken in both the Asia-Pacific region and Europe to nurture innovation in high technology clusters and promote its industrial application. Another high-level workshop for over 40 local and 20 international participants on promoting innovation in nanotechnology and fostering its industrial application was organized in Colombo on 2 and 3 December 2009. The workshop enabled the participants to recognize the importance of nanotechnology as an emerging technology and the need to develop and strengthen nanotechnology innovation systems proactively to promote their commercial application to enhance industrial competitiveness, with a specific emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises. The reports of those two workshops will be placed on the APCTT Asia-Pacific National Innovation Systems Online Resource Centre ([www.nis.apctt.org](http://www.nis.apctt.org)) for wider dissemination. APCTT, as part of its effort to provide support to landlocked developing countries, provided in-house training to three senior officials from Mongolia in the areas of national innovation systems and the management of research and development collaboration.

6. In accordance with Commission resolution 64/3 of 30 April 2008 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, APCTT completed a preliminary programme of work in 2009 entitled “Supporting the Development of an Institutional Cooperation Mechanism to Promote Renewable Energy in Asia and the Pacific”. Under this initiative, with the active participation of 15 countries from the Asia-Pacific region, APCTT conducted an expert group meeting in July 2009 to seek guidance from energy experts to develop a programme of work that could be carried out in 2010 and 2011. Based on their guidance, a project proposal entitled “Establishing an Institutional Cooperation Mechanism to Promote Renewable Energy” has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India for possible funding.

7. Under the preliminary programme of work on renewables, in 2009, APCTT completed 11 country studies on the status of renewable energy technology adoption and utilization. In addition, training manuals on the assessment of solar, wind, biomass, and mini-hydropower resources have been completed. In October 2009, the Centre conducted a training programme in New Delhi entitled “Renewable Energy Technology Resource Assessment and Planning”. Two participants each from 15 member countries were supported by APCTT to join the training. The design of a web-based resource centre called the Renewable Energy Cooperation Network for Asia and the Pacific (RECAP) was also completed and all the country studies,

training manuals, and other material developed can be accessed at [www.recap.apctt.org](http://www.recap.apctt.org). This website can be a valuable tool in promoting the exchange of information and collaboration between renewable energy technology experts and practitioners in member countries.

8. APCTT periodicals continue to play an essential role in the dissemination and promotion of technology information and utilization. Copies of the Centre's periodicals, the *Asia Pacific Tech Monitor* and *Value Added Technology Information Services* (VATIS) in the areas of ozone layer protection, waste technology, biotechnology, food processing, and non-conventional energy are currently distributed widely. In accordance with the suggestion made by the Governing Council of APCTT, these publications are now completely web-based and can be downloaded free of charge. APCTT also completed four reports on technology transfer and a guidebook on technologies for disaster preparedness and mitigation, all of which have been uploaded on to [www.technology4sme.net](http://www.technology4sme.net) and [www.business-asia.net](http://www.business-asia.net).

## II. SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010

9. Given that the APCTT programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 has the overall objective of strengthening the capacity of member countries to promote national innovation systems and create an enabling environment for technology transfer to address regional development challenges, the Technical Committee and the Governing Council approved the following programme of work to be commenced in 2010:

(a) Build capacity at the national level to enable policymakers to understand the importance, key components, implementation strategy and management practices of national innovation systems and their organic linkages with subnational and sectoral innovation systems;

(b) Establish an institutional cooperation mechanism to promote renewable energy technology in the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) Build the capacity of research and development institutions, universities, industries and other stakeholders in the region to conduct research projects effectively, collaborate and commercialize research results;

(d) Assist national institutions, such as small and medium-sized enterprise support agencies, chambers of commerce and Government institutions for research and development, in developing a critical mass of expertise to provide advisory and consultancy support to small and medium-sized enterprises to plan and implement technology transfer projects;

(e) Provide continuing support and advisory services to small and medium-sized enterprises to enable the transfer of new and emerging technologies, including environmentally sound technologies;

(f) Provide opportunities for hands-on training and learning-by-doing at centres in member countries that are technologically more advanced in the selected areas.

(g) Build capacity for the development, dissemination and commercialization of grass-roots innovation in the Asia-Pacific region.

(h) Continue to disseminate information for policymakers and decision makers on global technological policies, markets, innovations and events through the *Asia Pacific Tech Monitor*, the *Value Added Technology Information Services Update* (VATIS) series and other publications/periodicals using Internet media.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

10. The Centre's financial resources are divided into two categories. The first category is referred to as "institutional support resources". These resources are used, in principle, to support the management and general operations of the Centre not related to direct project activities. The second category is referred to as "technical cooperation project resources" and it consists of voluntary contributions for individual projects. Corresponding financial accounts are set up for specific projects, and the funds of an account are spent exclusively on the particular project in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations. APCTT provides the secretariat with monthly imprest account statements for all projects. Since August 2007, APCTT has had online access to the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the United Nations, which has made reporting much easier. The institutional support resources are further divided into two accounts, namely, the joint contribution (JCE) United States dollar account, which consists of contributions received from members and associate members of ESCAP, and the contribution of the Government of India in non-convertible rupees.

11. While the work of the Centre has been commended by member countries, it is of concern that the annual contributions pledged by several member countries to APCTT have remained static over the last several years. However, the Government of Indonesia has enhanced its annual contribution to \$35,000. The Centre can deliver more effective services to member countries on a sustainable basis if member countries increase institutional support to the indicative levels proposed at the 2006 Governing Council meeting in Lahore, Pakistan, or above, that is, an annual contribution of \$30,000 for developing countries and \$7,000 for the least developed countries.

12. The Government of India provides an annual contribution in rupees equivalent to \$200,000. In 2009, this amounted to 10,190,000 rupees. This fund is used for the emoluments of project and administrative support staff, utility services, the editing and development of APCTT periodicals, and maintenance costs. Although the number of staff members at the Centre was reduced from 14 to 10 during its restructuring and the staffing level was kept at 9 in 2009, the annual rise in salary costs and operating costs suggests that the current contribution from the Government of India is insufficient to cover local costs. The appreciation of the Indian rupee will aggravate this problem. The Government of India is requested to kindly consider enhancing its contribution to the Centre so that operating costs can be covered.

13. APCTT continued to make efforts to strengthen its personnel infrastructure in view of its programme of work, its targets, the quality of services to be rendered and the timely action required. There is a great need for more staff at the professional and managerial levels. However, there is no financial provision under the current institutional set-up for the medium-term employment of professional staff. Hence, APCTT seeks the support of member countries in placing non-reimbursable loan experts. Through ESCAP, APCTT has also sent requests to the United Nations in New York for the placement of associate experts at the Centre.

14. In bulletin ST/SGB/1998/6 on building the future, the Secretary-General stressed that the greatest strength and the key to the success of the organization was the quality of the people employed. The United Nations is, therefore, committed to building human resource capacity for the future. However, as most staff development and training programmes are usually conducted in Bangkok, APCTT is not able to take full advantage of learning activities offered by ESCAP. Some APCTT staff have attended need-based training in the areas of administration, leadership and business

continuity planning in Bangkok. The possibility of offering training in additional areas will be jointly explored in 2010.

#### IV. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION

15. The Commission may wish to consider the following issues and provide the secretariat with guidance to enhance and sustain institutional and programme funding for the Centre on a long-term basis:

(a) *Enhanced institutional support.* Increased funding is needed to meet increasing recurring expenditures and upgrade existing facilities to ensure the effective delivery of services. The Centre has consistently upgraded existing facilities in an incremental manner using the limited resources available. During the biennium 2008-2009, it upgraded its information technology infrastructure. While the Executive Secretary of ESCAP writes to the seats of Governments to seek enhanced contributions for its regional institutions, including APCTT, guidance is requested from the Commission on supplementary approaches that may be taken to obtain enhanced annual financial contributions to enable more effective programme delivery;

(b) *Mobilizing technical cooperation project resources.* Enhanced programme support is needed to implement the programme of work recommended by the APCTT Technical Committee and endorsed by its Governing Council, including projects in the areas of national innovation systems and the renewable energy technology cooperation mechanism. The Government of India is actively considering providing funding for the national innovation systems and renewable energy technology cooperation mechanism projects. Advice is sought from the Commission on non-traditional sources of funding that may be approached;

(c) *Joint activities and partnerships recommended by the Governing Council.* Partnering approaches for South-South cooperation, particularly cost-sharing and sponsoring of participants from other member States, need to be explored with member States when implementing national-level programmes. Joint activities will also be needed for the dissemination of information on technologies that are relevant for the management and mitigation of man-made disasters. Guidance is sought from the Commission on approaches that may be taken to secure funding for such joint activities and partnerships;

(d) *Assignment and secondment of national experts and senior personnel.* APCTT is seeking the placement of non-reimbursable loan experts in the areas recommended by the APCTT Technical Committee and endorsed by its Governing Council. Requests to member countries through APCTT focal points for such assignment have not met with success. Guidance is sought from the Commission on approaches that may be taken to secure such assignment/secondment.

*Annex I*

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2009**

**(Funds received as of 31 December 2009)**

(In United States dollars)

Country/area	2008	2009
India <sup>a</sup>	0.00	401 287.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>401 287.72</b>

Country/area	2008	2009
Bangladesh <sup>b</sup>	10 000.00	5 000.00
China	20 000.00	20 000.00
Indonesia	35 000.00	35 000.00
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10 060.37	6 000.00
Macao, China	5 000.00	5 000.00
Malaysia	14 985.00	14 985.00
Pakistan	12 500.00	7 490.00
Papua New Guinea	20 000.00	20 000.00
Philippines	1 478.24	-
Republic of Korea	10 000.00	10 000.00
Sri Lanka	4 975.00	4 975.00
Thailand	15 000.00	15 000.00
Viet Nam <sup>c</sup>	-	8 000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>158 998.61</b>	<b>151 450.00</b>

<sup>a</sup> The contribution in 2009 represents \$200,986.19 for 2008-2009 and \$200,301.53 for 2009-2010.

<sup>b</sup> The contribution of \$10,000.00, representing \$5,000 for 2007 and \$5,000 for 2008, was received and recorded in 2008.

<sup>c</sup> The contribution of \$8,000 in 2009 represents \$4,000 for 2008 and \$4,000 for 2009.

*Annex II*

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**STATUS OF ACCOUNTS - APCTT**  
(In United States dollars)

**As of 31 December 2009**

	Donor	Balance carried over 31 Dec. 2008	Contributions (2009)	Expenditure (2009)	Interest earned (2009)	Account transfers (2009)	Balance at 31 Dec. 2009
<b>Institutional support</b>	Institutional support - joint contribution	320 220.11	151 450.00	93 204.34	8 950.98	0.00	387 416.75
	Institutional support - Government of India	183 210.47	401 287.72	229 958.22	13 530.82	0.00	368 070.79
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>503 430.58</b>	<b>552 737.72</b>	<b>323 162.56</b>	<b>22 481.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>755 487.54</b>
<b>Technical cooperation projects</b>	German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)	103 817.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	103 817.62	0.00
	United Nations regular programme for technical cooperation (section 22) <sup>a</sup>	0.00	262 250.00	206 881.85	0.00	0.00	55 368.15
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>103 817.62</b>	<b>262 250.00</b>	<b>206 881.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>103 817.62</b>	<b>55 368.15</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>607 248.20</b>	<b>814 987.72</b>	<b>530 044.41</b>	<b>22 481.80</b>	<b>103 817.62</b>	<b>810 855.69</b>

<sup>a</sup> Fund balance under the regular programme of technical cooperation cannot be carried forward to the next biennium (2010-2011).



### *Annex III*

## **REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON ITS FIFTH SESSION**

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### **I. SUMMARY OF THE DELIBERATIONS**

1. The Council had before it three documents: (a) report on the activities of the Centre during the period from December 2008 to November 2009; (b) report on the status of financial resources for 2009; and (c) report of the Technical Committee on its fifth meeting.

2. The Council noted the activities and accomplishments of APCTT in 2009. It endorsed the activities planned for 2010 as described in paragraph 26 of the relevant report.

3. The Council noted the administrative and financial status of APCTT, in particular its financial and human resources. It discussed the possibility of member States augmenting their contributions and modalities to ensure that payments were remitted on a regular basis. The Council made the following suggestions and recommendations.

#### **(a) Enhancement of institutional support:**

- (i) Seeking to strengthen the financial base in view of rising operational costs, the Council encouraged member States to augment their contributions to APCTT in line with the proposals of US\$ 30,000 for developing countries and US\$ 7,000 for least developed countries. Several representatives indicated that they would discuss the proposals for increased institutional support with their Governments.

- (ii) Noting that the Executive Secretary of ESCAP would normally write to member States to propose such an increase in their contributions, the Council suggested that a copy of each such request be forwarded to APCTT and its focal points for follow-up purposes.
  - (iii) The Council recommended that ESCAP communicate with the Government of India regarding the continuation of its institutional support for APCTT in the face of increasing operational costs, inflation and exchange fluctuations.
  - (iv) Discussion of potential funding support from non-traditional sources, such as industry associations, foundations and trusts, led to suggestions that: (a) ESCAP could guide APCTT in exploring such alternatives; and (b) ESCAP could consider the mechanisms for external contributions of such agencies as the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for use by APCTT.
- (b) Technical cooperation project resources:
- (i) APCTT should work closely with focal points to implement programmes recommended by the Technical Committee and explore cost-sharing possibilities in programme implementation.
  - (ii) Growing out of the discussion was the proposal that APCTT could send to member States, in tandem with its approaches to funding agencies, copies of project profiles with indicative budgets in order to gauge interest in contributing towards such projects.
  - (iii) Another proposal was that APCTT could partner with other United Nations entities and regional organizations in mobilizing resources for implementing projects.
  - (iv) In another proposal by member States, APCTT was urged to develop measures to ensure that long-term initiatives within a project remain sustainable even after project completion. IT-based networking initiatives were cited as an example.
  - (v) In response to a query about procedures for finalizing trust fund agreements regarding ESCAP technical cooperation projects, the secretariat confirmed that ESCAP had been delegated the authority to sign agreements that followed the standard United Nations trust fund agreement model. Agreements that differed from the model were subject to approval by the United Nations Controller.
  - (vi) Another proposal urged APCTT to include impact assessment indicators that also dealt with social returns. Such an approach could supplement efforts to promote inclusive development while facilitating resource mobilization.
- (c) Joint activities:
- (i) Several representatives recommended that APCTT partner with member States on national-level programmes to explore opportunities for cost-sharing and sponsoring of participants from other member States, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as an example of South-South cooperation.
  - (ii) In another proposal, APCTT was urged to support interested national agencies in disseminating information on technologies that were relevant for the management and mitigation of human-made disasters. Also, APCTT could consider incorporating policy and infrastructure issues related to

technology business “incubators” in its programme of work on national innovation systems and high-tech clusters.

(d) Assignment of national experts:

- (i) Member countries should consider providing the services of experts on a non-reimbursable loan (NRL) basis to enhance professional capability.
  - (ii) APCTT could write to all focal points with information on the ESCAP internship programme to use in exploring the possibility of internships for postgraduate students.
4. The Council endorsed the report of the Technical Committee on its fifth meeting.

**A. Report on the activities of APCTT from December 2008 to November 2009  
and presentation of the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011  
(Agenda item 4)**

5. In introducing the report on APCTT activities, the Officer-in-Charge of APCTT mentioned that the report on APCTT financial resources for 2009 provided a general overview of the main programme initiatives, including specific activities during the year 2009, and of personnel and financial resources.

6. He expressed the hope that APCTT would become a centre of excellence, with the Council's support and guidance, for helping member countries to promote inclusive development and accelerate economic progress through effective management of technology transfer and innovation.

7. The report on APCTT activities from December 2008 to November 2009 gave an overview of the year's specific activities. Activities had been directed towards technology capacity-building, promotion and management of innovation, as well as subregional and regional networking, to help countries of the region respond to the challenges posed by the new global economy and to promote inclusive development.

8. As part of its endeavour towards technology capacity-building, APCTT, he said, continued to strengthen its well-established and regionally accepted ICT-based networks such as the [www.technology4sme.net](http://www.technology4sme.net) and [www.business-asia.net](http://www.business-asia.net) that enabled use and sharing of knowledge relevant to technology transfer. Those networks and partnerships had enabled APCTT to expand the geographical coverage of its activities in the Asian and Pacific region. Those websites continued to provide effective and user-friendly delivery of technology transfer services and were important in facilitating national and international technology transfers and in promoting new and emerging technologies among member countries.

9. He informed the Council that the APCTT-designed search engine APTITUDE that supported the [www.technology4sme.net](http://www.technology4sme.net) website, had been substantially upgraded. The abbreviation APTITUDE, he explained, stood for Asia-Pacific Technology Information Tracking and Unified Data Extraction. It had been programmed to search a list of specific technology databases in the Asia-Pacific region. It had been upgraded to search 12 databases in the public domain; more would be added to make it a versatile “one-stop” tool for both buyers and sellers of technology.

10. From mid-2002, he stated, APCTT and its member countries had made efforts to establish the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network (APTMNET) in close cooperation with the Hubei Provincial Science and Technology Department in Wuhan, China. Its main aim was to become an information exchange centre for traditional medical and herbal medicinal technology and the development of herbal medicines in the Asia-Pacific region. With the website [www.apctt-tm.net](http://www.apctt-tm.net), APTMNET linked 14 countries and aimed to address issues relating to biodiversity, protection of traditional knowledge, sustainable industrial utilization of natural resources and promotion of sound agronomic practices at the grass-roots level. He stated that all the APTMNET partners needed to work more closely, with the full commitment of their national focal points, to help realize its goals. APCTT was working with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies in Yokohama, Japan, to find resources to revitalize the valuable network.

11. He explained that, during 2009, APCTT had conducted capacity-building training programmes on technology transfer and innovation management. A national training programme, Planning and Implementing International Technology Transfer in a Global Business Setting, had been conducted in Hanoi for over 60 participants in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of Viet Nam. He added that APCTT had also extended training support in the areas of technology transfer and innovation management to the regional training programme Competitiveness Strategies and Technology Access and Adoption by SMEs that had been conducted in New Delhi under the aegis of the Colombo Plan. Senior government officials from six countries had participated in the programme. APCTT had also trained three senior officials from Mongolia on national innovation systems and managing collaboration in research and development.

12. He informed the Council that, in its resolution 64/3 of 30 April 2008 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission had requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to establish a mechanism for institutional cooperation with APCTT and expert research institutions in the region and to draw up a programme of cooperation by identifying activities on development, demonstration and capacity-building pertaining to various renewable energy technologies. He stated that, in accordance with that resolution, in early 2009, APCTT had commenced work on the project "Supporting the development of an institutional cooperation mechanism to promote renewable energy in Asia and the Pacific". Under that project, with the active participation of 15 countries from the Asia-Pacific region, APCTT had conducted an expert group meeting in July 2009 to seek guidance for a programme of work for the next three years. A detailed project proposal, "Establishing an institutional cooperation mechanism to promote renewable energy", had been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Government of India for possible funding.

13. He explained that, under the current programme of work on renewables, in 2009, APCTT had completed 11 country studies on the status of adoption and utilization of renewable energy technologies (RETs). In addition four manuals on the assessment of solar, wind, biomass and mini-hydro power resources had been completed. In October 2009, APCTT had conducted the training programme Renewable Energy Technology Resource Assessment and Planning at New Delhi. APCTT had supported two participants each from 15 member countries in the training. The design of a web-based resource centre called the Renewable Energy Cooperation Network for Asia and the Pacific (RECAP) was nearing completion and

all the country studies and training manuals and material developed would be available through its website.

14. He informed the Council that APCTT could begin the implementation of the three-year National Innovation System (NIS) Phase 2 project early in 2010 with the funding support of the Government of India. APCTT had planned to initiate work on building national capacity in member countries for promoting the commercialization of grass-roots innovations to foster social entrepreneurship. As part of its programme of work on NIS, APCTT had organized the High-level Workshop Fostering Innovation through Hi-tech Clusters from 9 to 10 November 2009 at Hanoi, Viet Nam and another on Promoting Innovation in Nanotechnology and Fostering its Industrial Application: an Asia-Pacific Perspective from 2 to 3 December at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

15. APCTT publications, he said, continued to be essential in the dissemination and promotion of technology information and utilization. Such products as the periodical *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor* or the information resources of Value-Added Technology Information Services (VATIS) in the areas of ozone layer protection, waste technology, biotechnology, food processing, and non-conventional energy were being disseminated widely. Such products had become entirely web-based and could be downloaded free of charge following suggestions from the Governing Council.

16. He explained how APCTT activities strengthened cooperation with least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

17. He elaborated on the normative and analytical work of APCTT and its partnering and cooperation initiatives with leading national and United Nations agencies.

18. He outlined the work programme recommended by the Technical Committee at its fifth session that had included:

- (a) Promoting NISs in countries of the Asia-Pacific region (funding approved)
- (b) Establishing an institutional cooperation mechanism to promote renewable energy (under consideration by the Government of India)
- (c) Building technology transfer capacity in the region
- (d) Strengthening innovation in research and development (R&D) institutes in the region
- (e) Promoting South-South cooperation in selected areas of technology
- (f) Expanding the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network
- (g) Commercializing grass-roots innovations (GRI) to foster social entrepreneurship.

19. He reported to the Council on the administrative and financial status of APCTT, in particular its financial and human resources, on funds received by APCTT and on its expenditures during the reporting period. He informed the Council of the difficulties that APCTT faced owing to increased local operating costs. Contributions from member States had not kept pace with increasing costs. He urged the Council to consider the recommendation by the APCTT Governing Board in 1997 that

contributions for institutional support be made at the proposed levels of US\$ 20,000 for developing countries and US\$ 5,000 for least developed countries.

20. He informed the Council that APCTT lacked sufficient staff at the professional level. With no financial provision under the current institutional set-up for medium-term employment of professional staff, the solution to improving staffing lay in assignment of experienced professionals on an NRL basis to APCTT for periods of two or three years. He urged the member countries to assign such experts and senior personnel to work at APCTT in relevant areas.

21. Following his presentation, the participants made several suggestions that are summarized in paragraph 3.

### **B. Report on the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee (Agenda item 5)**

22. The Council had before it the report of the Technical Committee on its fifth meeting (IDD/APCTT/GC(5)/5).

23. The Council noted with interest the proposals of the Technical Committee to strengthen such activities as technology transfer through web-based services and products, establishment of APTMNET, promotion of grassroots innovations and the provision of technology information services. The Council also noted with interest the new projects and activities proposed by the Technical Committee and its efforts to promote South-South cooperation. The Council urged APCTT to continue strengthening cooperation with least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

24. The Council endorsed the report of the Technical Committee on its fifth meeting.

### **C. Proposed future projects and programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 (Agenda item 6)**

25. The Council noted the recommendations of the Technical Committee for future projects and activities of APCTT. The Council advised APCTT to develop the proposed project concepts in collaboration with the concerned member countries and seek financial resources for their implementation. With regard to future projects, the Council stressed the importance of partnership for improved efficiency and sustainability and suggested that the member countries take the lead in developing the projects, providing, where possible, the necessary expertise and in-kind contribution to facilitate South-South cooperation. The Council advised APCTT to link its activities with related projects in member countries to draw benefit from their expertise and experience.

26. Suggestions for future activities and new projects consisted of the following:

(a) Initiating NIS Phase 2 (funding approved, in principle)

- (i) Build capacity at the national level to enable policymakers to understand the importance, key components and implementation strategy and management practices of NIS and its organic linkages with subnational and sectoral innovation systems. (They could include subnational systems in such areas as biotechnology, advanced materials and nanotechnology.)

- (ii) Provide advisory support, through experience-sharing and regional workshops, on strengthening of subnational innovation systems in sectors such as biotechnology, advanced materials and nanotechnology, with attention to specific and well-defined areas within those sectors based on national priorities.
  - (iii) Conduct a regional workshop to examine strategies and policy interventions needed to assist raw-material-exporting countries to develop their technological capacity to produce raw-material-based, high-value-added products.
  - (iv) Continue to disseminate information on NIS for promoting high and emerging technologies through the NIS Resource Centre at the APCTT website.
- (b) Establishing an institutional cooperation mechanism to promote renewable energy (proposal submitted for funding)
- (i) Build a multidimensional mechanism for institutional cooperation to promote the adoption and utilization of specific RETs of relevance to the region.
  - (ii) Foster the development of information networks including specialized RET databases and their incorporation in the RECAP website.
  - (iii) Conceptualize policy settings for promoting the RET sector in member countries.
  - (iv) Assist in capacity-building in such areas as renewable energy resource assessment, preparation of technical specifications for choosing RETs, and planning and implementing of renewable energy technology-transfer projects.
- (c) Strengthening innovation in R&D institutes in the Asia-Pacific region (funding being sought)
- (i) Create a regional web-based R&D resource facility that contains information on nodal R&D institutions, a database of prominent researchers in member countries, and details of research projects where collaboration is being sought.
  - (ii) Conduct training programmes, in association with knowledge partners and leading R&D institutions, to introduce best practices in critical areas such as R&D proposal preparation, R&D project selection, R&D project monitoring, enhancing of creativity in R&D human resources, R&D management information systems, commercialization of research results, and planning and implementing of joint international research projects. Training programmes should be geared to the stage of technological development of participating countries.
- (d) Building technology-transfer capacity in the Asia-Pacific region (funding being sought)
- (i) Conduct training in technology needs assessment.
  - (ii) Develop a comprehensive training manual that covers all stages in the life cycle of international technology transfer projects.
  - (iii) Conduct training-of-trainers programmes to develop national capacity for advisory and consultancy support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at all stages in the life cycle of technology transfer projects.

- (iv) Provide support to member countries to enable the trainers to organize national training programmes for developing a critical mass of expertise.
  - (v) Develop a website for technology-transfer training support that contains the training manual and other relevant materials and link it with the two [www.technology4sme.net](http://www.technology4sme.net) and [www.business-asia.net](http://www.business-asia.net) websites.
- (e) Promoting South-South cooperation in selected areas (funding being sought)
- (i) Create a network among institutions in member countries to share and exchange research findings and information on the production and usage of alternative energy options (*Jatropha* oil bio-diesel, biomass pellets and small-scale biomass plants) for commercial and practical applications.
  - (ii) Provide opportunities for hands-on training and learning-by-doing at centres in member countries that are technologically more advanced in the selected areas.
- (f) Expanding the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network (funding being sought)
- (i) Strengthen APTMNET to promote effective dissemination of information to promote industrial/technical cooperation in traditional medicine in the Asian and Pacific region; and to help member countries that have not yet established a nodal station nor developed one to agreed levels in network architecture, website design, structure of the database, technical standards of the nodal stations, and the role and responsibilities of the project coordinator at the nodal station.
  - (ii) Revitalize APTMNET, with the cooperation of APCTT, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia — following the suggestion from the fourth Technical Committee meeting, the Islamic Republic of Iran has prepared a proposal for fund raising to be shared with APCTT for dissemination among member countries, finalization and commencement of agreed activities.
  - (iii) Explore funding possibilities among APCTT, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, and Pakistan, in collaboration with China, India and other interested member countries, for organizing a regional workshop on evolving strategies for promoting traditional medicine as a viable business proposition and an exhibition/trade fair on traditional medicine.
- (g) Commercializing grass-roots innovations (GRI) to foster social entrepreneurship (funding being sought)
- (i) Extend support to interested countries, other than the four countries covered during the completed GRI project, for building of scouting, documentation and dissemination (SDD) skills.
  - (ii) Help member countries evolve institutional mechanisms for value adding and entrepreneurship development, including access to markets through sharing of experiences and benchmarking of best practices.

27. The Council endorsed the work programme proposed for 2010.



**D. Date and venue of the sixth session of the Governing Council  
(Agenda item 7)**

28. Indonesia offered to host the sixth meeting of the Technical Committee during the last week in November 2010. In line with the ESCAP recommendation, the Council recommended that the sixth session of the Governing Council of APCTT be held at ESCAP in Bangkok during mid-December 2010.

**E. Other matters  
(Agenda item 8)**

29. The Council noted with appreciation the programme and institutional support provided to APCTT by the Government of India.

30. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP of her inaugural address that had set the tone for the deliberations.

31. The Council expressed its appreciation of the guidance and valuable backstopping support provided to APCTT by ESCAP.

**F. Adoption of the report  
(Agenda item 9)**

32. The Council adopted this report on 18 December 2009.

**II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

**A. Opening of the session  
(Agenda item 1)**

33. The fifth session of the Governing Council of APCTT was held on 18 December 2009 at Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was called to order by the Chief of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP gave the opening statement.

34. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP observed that, while technology had always been a significant promoter in national growth and productivity, the crucial issue was deciding which types of technologies could best help in responding to contemporary challenges.

35. She stated that Governments had made significant commitments at the climate change talks taking place in Copenhagen to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as a result of which demand for renewable energy and other green technologies would grow substantially over the coming decade. Emerging nano- and biotechnologies held significant growth potential for SMEs in the Asia-Pacific region. She stated that efforts to alleviate unemployment and reduce poverty would need to focus on how to promote growth for such businesses as one of the most important sources of employment of the poor. The adoption of emerging technologies by SMEs would increase their competitiveness in the international marketplace.

36. She observed how many countries had missed the opportunity to take advantage of the information technology wave and added that the same mistake must not be made with the low-carbon technology wave that was about to occur with the

drive for RETs. She pointed out that the Asia-Pacific region had some of the leading RET developers and manufacturers and that opportunities for South-South cooperation were never more needed than at present.

37. She noted that APCTT had, within the past year, embarked on an ambitious programme of promoting the adoption and utilization of low-carbon technologies – mainly RETs – in direct response to a request from member States. The manufacturing sector had been one of the hardest hit by the current economic crises and APCTT had begun to promote the use of nano- and biotechnologies in that sector. Initiatives such as those could help improve the position of SMEs as they recovered from the current crisis.

38. She noted that APCTT had assisted its member States in upgrading the technology transfer capacities of their SMEs and technology-transfer intermediaries by providing training and advisory and support services. APCTT had also begun to enable its members to refine their NISs in order to promote the application and business-oriented development of emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology, emphasizing promotion of high-tech clusters.

39. While APCTT continued to receive support from various sources to implement its work programme, greater efforts were needed to strengthen the institutional framework, increase its financial base and strengthen the personnel infrastructure of APCTT. She urged the Governing Council to provide guidance on measures to ensure the sustainability of APCTT so that it could effectively conduct its work programme and continue to serve as a centre of excellence in the region. The continuation and expansion of APCTT's work greatly depended upon the enhanced and timely institutional support of member countries. She expressed her appreciation to the Government of India of its hosting and financial support of APCTT.

## **B. Attendance**

40. Nine of the 11 member countries sent representatives: China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam. The remaining two members, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, had been unable to send representatives.

41. Observers from Nepal, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea also participated at the session.

## **C. Election of officers (Agenda item 2)**

42. The Council unanimously elected Prof. Dr. Lukman Hakim of Indonesia as the Chairperson and Ms. Samuwai Vani Rarawa of Fiji as the Vice Chairperson.

## **D. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 3)**

43. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report on the activities of APCTT from December 2008 to November 2009 and presentation of the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011.
5. Report on the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee.
6. Proposed future projects and programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011.
7. Date and venue of the sixth session of the Governing Council.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

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