Economic and Social Council

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Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions: Information and communications technology

Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The mission of APCICT is to strengthen the human and institutional capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP to use information and communications technology (ICT) for socio-economic development. In pursuance of this mandate, the Centre's work is focused on three interrelated pillars: training; advisory services; and research and knowledge sharing. The present report reviews the results of the key activities of APCICT during the reporting period, presents a summary of the Centre's programme of work for the next reporting period, and summarizes its administrative and financial issues.

The Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders is the flagship training programme of APCICT. It seeks to build the capacity of policymakers and government officials to integrate the use of ICT in development programmes and policies. The programme, which has been rolled out in 18 countries, has expanded rapidly in close partnership with government ministries, national training institutions, other United Nations bodies and international organizations, academic networks and civil society entities. During the reporting period, it was launched in five new countries, of which three are countries with special needs. The Academy curriculum has also been translated into three languages in the Asia-Pacific region, and an African version of it has been developed and introduced by the Economic Commission for Africa. As an indicator of the strong field uptake of the programme, 20 Academy workshops were organized by partners of APCICT on their own initiative during the reporting period. Together with course enrolments in the APCICT Virtual Academy, which offers the Academy modules in e-learning format, more than 8,000 people have participated in 87 APCICT ICT for Development (ICTD) capacity-building workshops, training, and other events to date. This has strengthened the role of APCICT as a regional hub for ICTD capacity-building.

APCICT is currently developing two new Academy modules to address critical areas of the global development agenda, namely ICT for Disaster Risk Management (module 9) and ICT and Climate Change, Green Growth and Sustainable Development (module 10). The development of these modules has undergone multiple expert reviews to ensure their high quality. Moreover, in view of the importance of sensitizing the next generation workforce to the potential of ICT for socio-economic development, APCICT launched a new project to enhance ICTD coverage in

university curricula, which includes the development of an ICTD learning module specifically for students.

With regard to advisory services, APCICT drafted a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Academy programme aimed at providing a practical tool for partners to capture the progress and impact of the programme. Through its research efforts, the Centre published the first eight issues of the APCICT ICTD Briefing Note Series and the first two issues of the ICTD Case Study Series in order to enable more informed policy formulation by decision makers in the Asia-Pacific region. The purpose of the Briefing Note Series is to provide at-a-glance information on key ICTD issues for policymakers, while the Case Study Series provides analyses and compilations of best practices and case studies on various aspects of ICTD. Approximately 2,500 copies of the publications were disseminated via online and offline means with the active support of Academy partners. APCICT also continued to offer more ICTD knowledge resources through the e-Co Hub, its online knowledge sharing platform, which has received more than 32,000 unique visitors up to now.

During the reporting period, the Governing Council of APCICT at its fifth session, as well as the ESCAP Committee on ICT at its second session, expressed appreciation for the ICTD capacity-building programmes and services of APCICT. Moreover, at its sixty-sixth session, the Commission, under resolution 66/14, extended the Centre's operations beyond its initial five-year term. Based on the lessons learned through programme implementation since its establishment and the strong demand for its services expressed by member States, APCICT developed a comprehensive business strategy (2011-2016) to guide its work in the extended phase of operations. The APCICT business strategy also received the support of the Governing Council.

As part of its programme of work for the next reporting period, APCICT will continue to adopt an integrated approach across its three programmatic pillars so that each pillar reinforces the impact of the other pillars. Under training, APCICT will focus on strengthening the Academy as its flagship programme based on the principle of national ownership. Collaboration with open universities and distance learning institutions will be established to reach more people through the e-learning platform. The Centre's advisory services will focus on ongoing needs assessments, and partner-driven localization and customization in order to ensure the relevance of the training content, while its research and knowledge-sharing efforts will promote the collection and dissemination of best practices among partners through online and offline channels. The Centre will also prioritize expanding partnerships with member States, other United Nations agencies and international organizations, academia, and civil society and private sector entities. This can help widen the reach and impact of the Centre's ICTD capacity-building initiatives.

Among the administrative and financial issues, APCICT will commence its new phase of operations after May 2011. In context of the growing demand for the Centre's ICTD capacity-building services and programmes, one of the key issues to be addressed is its human resource limitations.

Contents

I. Results and outcomes achieved during the reporting period

1.   During the reporting period, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) intensified its well-integrated programmatic efforts under the training, advisory services, and research and knowledge-sharing pillars. It strengthened its position as a regional hub for capacity-building and as a valued partner of member States, while enhancing partnerships with and outreach to relevant stakeholders. The Centre has also drafted a detailed business strategy to guide its operations for the next five years.

2.   Under the training pillar, APCICT has made concerted efforts to address the growing demand for information and communications technology for development (ICTD) capacity-building services in the region, especially in countries with special needs, through the expansion of its flagship Academy programme. The programme comprises an eight-module (soon to be 10) ICTD training curriculum, covering basic to more advanced topics on ICTD. Since its launch in June 2008, the programme has expanded rapidly, and has already been rolled out in 18 Asia-Pacific countries in strategic partnership with a range of institutions, including government ministries, national training institutions, international organizations, academic networks and civil society entities. The Academy curriculum has been translated into three languages, with further translation into six other languages under way. The curriculum has also been adopted into national capacity-building frameworks in many countries, thus ensuring its long-term sustainability.

3.   Since the submission of the report for the previous reporting period, APCICT has been organizing five national-level Academy workshops in new countries, including Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, to address the ICTD capacity-building needs of policymakers and government officials. National Academy workshops were also held in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. At the regional level, APCICT organized a web-based Academy workshop on the theme of climate change and information and communications technology (ICT), involving experts from five countries, and a key regional training of trainers (TOT) workshop for building a pool of local resource persons for the delivery of modules 9 and 10 at the national and subregional levels. Another 20 Academy workshops and events were organized by partners of APCICT on their own initiative, indicating a strong field uptake of the programme. In an effort to keep the content of the Academy modules current and relevant to the target users, module 4, entitled "ICT Trends for Government Leaders", was updated during this period to reflect the latest technological developments in the subject area. In recognition of the need to leverage ICT for addressing the important issues of climate change and disaster risk management (DRM), APCICT is developing two new Academy modules, namely module 9 (ICT for DRM) and module 10 (ICT and Climate Change, Green Growth and Sustainable Development). Both modules are being developed in a consultative manner with inputs from government representatives and subject matter experts to ensure high quality, and are expected to be finalized shortly.

4.   The Academy programme has gained the support of a number of donors, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, which has further enabled its rapid expansion. Given its relevance in varied

development contexts, the Academy has been introduced in Africa by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for ICTD capacity-building in that region, which comprises more than 50 member States. Efforts are under way to introduce the programme in Western Asia and Latin America in partnership with the respective United Nations regional commissions.

5.   APCICT Virtual Academy (AVA), the online, distance-learning version of the Academy, continued to enhance its reach during the reporting period. The AVA platform was localized into Bahasa Indonesia and Russian to increase its effectiveness in local contexts, and the first three AVA modules were launched in both languages. ECA has mirrored AVA in order to make an African version of the Academy available in its region.

6.   In addition to efforts directed towards the Academy programme and AVA training, APCICT organized a number of thematic events on ICTD for the sensitization and capacity-building of policymakers and other stakeholders. These included a training session during the Pacific Islands Forum e-Government Workshop, a regional TOT on the theme of improving public services through ICT, in partnership with ADB and the National Information Society Agency of the Republic of Korea, and three national-level workshops on the same theme in Mongolia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

7.   In response to continuous feedback received from partners and member States for sensitizing youth, who comprise the workforce of the future, of the potential of ICT for achieving developmental goals, APCICT initiated a new project entitled "Strengthening ICT for Development Education in Institutions of Higher Learning". The project is aimed at enhancing the coverage of ICTD in undergraduate and graduate programmes/curricula for the benefit of students and youth, thus helping to create a cadre of future ICTD leaders. APCICT conducted a comprehensive assessment of the current ICTD coverage in university programmes and curricula for identifying existing gaps. It also organized an expert regional consultative workshop with more than 70 participants from 30 countries, comprising senior representatives from ministries of education, academia, Academy partner organizations and the private sector. The workshop highlighted, with a strong consensus, the need for greater coverage of ICTD in education. It also mobilized stakeholder opinion in favour of the project's objectives, and presented and gathered feedback on the draft of a new ICTD learning module for university students, which would be offered as a resource to fill the gaps in the curricula.

8.   In accordance with its integrated programmatic approach, the work of APCICT under the advisory services pillar reinforces and, at the same time, benefits from its training initiatives. In an effort to help localize training content to fit national needs and support programme implementation, the Centre has provided consultation and technical support to partners in 23 countries for the customization of the Academy programme, localization of the Academy curriculum, integration of the programme into national capacity-building frameworks, and mobilization of resources for implementation. During the reporting period, APCICT also developed a draft monitoring and evaluation framework for the Academy programme aimed at capturing the short-, medium- and long-term impact of the programme and enabling the Academy partners to undertake a more focused and need-based execution. The framework was presented at the second Academy partners meeting for review and comments, and was subsequently presented at the fifth session of the APCICT Governing

Council in which the Council welcomed the initiative. During this period, APCICT provided technical and substantive support for the translation of the Academy modules into the national languages of the following countries: Afghanistan; Cambodia; Mongolia; Myanmar; and Viet Nam.

9.   APCICT has been conducting research on ICTD human resource development and publishing various knowledge products to support more informed decision-making by policymakers in the region. These knowledge products include the APCICT Briefing Note Series and the Case Study Series. During the reporting period, the first eight issues of the briefing notes, drawn from the eight Academy modules, were published. The first two issues of the Case Study Series, ICT Human Capacity Building for Development and ICT for Disaster Risk Reduction, were also published. Approximately 2,500 copies of the publications were disseminated through both online and offline means with the active support of Academy partners. The briefing notes were translated into Uzbek and Myanmar by national partners during the reporting period for dissemination among national policymakers.

10.   To enable knowledge sharing among its partners, APCICT organizes annual Academy partners meetings for peer learning, sharing best practices and discussing the future course of the Academy programme. The Centre is also at an advanced stage of developing the Academy Partners Resource Centre (APRC), a dedicated online facility for the exchange of information and networking among Academy partners.

11.   APCICT has increasingly consolidated its position as a regional hub for ICTD capacity-building in Asia and the Pacific. In this regard, the Centre organized two major regional events during the reporting period for facilitating the exchange of views and learning about ICT for development, the second annual Academy partners meeting, and a regional consultative workshop on the theme "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's ICTD Leaders". Both events underscored the Centre's inclusive and participatory approach, and involved extensive regional and national-level advocacy. APCICT also supported two other important events: the Pacific regional ICT officials' and ministers' meeting held in Nuku'alofa in June 2010, and the Asia Economic Community Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea in November 2010. Thus far, the Centre has organized or supported 87 workshops, meetings, conferences and other events in strategic partnership with national, subregional and international organizations. In addition, more than 8,000 participants from 120 countries and territories have been reached through the Centre's training, other conferences/events and AVA online course enrolments.

12.   As part of its efforts to raise awareness on the importance of ICTD capacity-building in the Asia-Pacific region and strengthen outreach to relevant stakeholders, APCICT used media platforms and promoted its work through both online and offline channels. The APCICT website, which provides detailed information on all aspects of the Centre's work, had received 94,220 unique visitors from 210 different countries and territories as of December 2010. The Centre's e-Collaborative Hub (e-Co Hub), an online resource, continued to highlight the role of APCICT as an ICTD knowledge-sharing and networking hub with more than 32,000 unique visitors to date. APCICT also contributed to three landmark publications, *Tomorrow Today*, *Digital Outreach for a Better Future* and *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report*, produced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International

Telecommunication Union (ITU), and ESCAP-International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) respectively. APCICT has, thus far, issued more than 80 press releases, and there have been 149 noted instances of media coverage on the Centre and its activities by numerous regional and national daily newspapers. Online media outlets devoted to development and ICT also regularly cover APCICT and its activities. Another APCICT initiative to promote outreach during the reporting period was the development of a portable exhibition designed to be used at key events and forums to display a range of APCICT knowledge products, research publications and promotional videos.

13. Noting the successful performance of APCICT, the Commission in its resolution 66/14 extended the Centre's operations beyond the initial five-year term. Among the follow-up actions, APCICT drafted a detailed business strategy (2011-2016) to guide the next five years of its operations. The development of the strategy involved the preparation of a detailed action plan, the consolidation of lessons learned, an analysis of the demand for ICTD capacity-building in the region and consultations with partners. It addressed a range of issues, including enhancement of the core activities of APCICT, strengthening the Centre's role as a multilateral cooperation mechanism, promoting outreach, and building and nurturing strategic partnerships.

14. The fifth session of the Governing Council of APCICT was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 1 and 2 December 2010 and was attended by representatives of all nine member countries. The Council expressed strong appreciation for the ICTD capacity-building programmes and services provided by APCICT, and supported both the Centre's annual workplan for 2011 and its draft business strategy (2011-2016). The Council acknowledged the Centre's ongoing emphasis on building strategic partnerships.[1] In addition, the second session of the ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology was held during the reporting period. The Committee commended the activities of APCICT and expressed strong support for its ICTD capacity-development programmes (see E/ESCAP/67/9).

II. Summary of the programme of work for the next reporting period

15. Since its establishment in June 2006, APCICT has gained valuable experience in formulating and implementing ICTD programmes designed to build human capacity. In designing the programme of work for the next reporting period, the Centre has therefore been guided by the following key principles:

(a) A demand-driven, yet integrated and focused approach should be adopted in order to ensure that programmatic interventions address current needs of member States and lead to long-term and sustainable impacts;

(b) Given the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region, it is important to localize and customize ICTD capacity-building programmes and the training content so that they address specific local contexts and can be better absorbed by training participants;

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[1] For the report of the Governing Council, see annex III.

(c)   National ownership must be encouraged for the success of ICTD capacity-building programmes. This can be achieved by creating a network of champions with the ability as well as commitment to lead local implementation;

(d)   Exchange of lessons learned and sharing of best practices on ICTD capacity-building are necessary for bridging knowledge gaps, and optimizing the outcomes of resources invested by APCICT and its partners.

16.   Based on these principles, APCICT has developed its work programme for the next reporting period as described below. The programme was presented at the fifth session of the Governing Council of APCICT, and at the second session of the ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

A.   Training

17.   In the next reporting period, the efforts of APCICT under the training pillar will focus on addressing the evolving capacity-building needs of member States in the region to bridge the digital divide and successfully leverage the potential of ICT to achieve national development goals. It will support expected accomplishment (d) of subprogramme 5 of the ESCAP strategic framework 2010-2011,[2] namely improved institutional capacity of ESCAP member States to apply ICT for socio-economic development.

18.   In accordance with the road map identified in its five-year business strategy, APCICT will aim to scale up the Academy programme in member States which have already rolled it out by promoting training on more modules, assisting with customization of the content, including collection of local case studies for enhancing relevance in national contexts, strengthening the pool of local resource persons for long-term sustainability and assisting partners in extending the programme to provincial or local government levels as well as covering other target groups. In this process, APCICT will adopt a tiered approach for each member State to suit the varying levels of maturity of the Academy programme in different countries. For member States that are about to launch the programme, APCICT will encourage the identification of national champions to drive national implementation, provide guidance towards delineating the scope and target group of the training, assist in designing a suitable curriculum and put in place a promotion strategy. Newly localized versions of the Academy modules will be widely utilized. Subject to national demand and availability of resources, further localizations will be explored as part of a partner-driven approach.

19.   In a globalizing and digitally networked world, a good understanding of the technical aspects of ICT, Internet governance and information security, which are subject matters of the technical cluster of Academy modules (modules 4-7), is essential for developing country policymakers to take informed positions at international forums. Moreover, an appreciation of the importance of issues, such as cybersecurity, is necessary in view of the greater use of information technology in business and commerce, and the need to guard against socio-economic losses as a result of information breach. As the Academy programme at the national level gains maturity in many countries, there is also an increased capacity to

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[2]   *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/63/6/Rev.1), programme 15.

utilize relatively more technical content. Consequently, in the next reporting period, APCICT plans to prioritize training on the technical cluster modules, namely module 4 (ICT Trends for Government Leaders), module 5 (Internet Governance), module 6 (Network and Information Security and Privacy), and module 7 (ICT Project Management in Theory and Practice).

20.   Given the importance of strengthening the pool of local resource persons for the Academy programme, APCICT will continue to organize national and subregional TOT, in collaboration with national and subregional partner institutions.

21.   APCICT will further tap the potential of the AVA e-learning platform to increase the reach of the Academy programme. Content from new Academy modules will be added to the platform and localized versions of it will be developed, as necessary. APCICT will also initiate efforts towards collaboration with open universities or distance-learning institutions in various countries of the Asia-Pacific region in order to explore the possibilities of offering AVA courses to students as part of the institutions' ongoing programmes. This has the potential to substantially increase the reach of ICTD training at the national level. Such partnerships can also address the need to provide trainees with joint, locally well-recognized training certification. APCICT also plans to prioritize the creation of an inclusive and interactive Academy network between APCICT, Academy module authors, Academy partners, online facilitators/mentors, AVA learners and potential users.

22.   Taking forward its project on mainstreaming ICTD in academic learning, APCICT will revise the draft ICTD learning module for university students based on the comments received at a recent regional expert consultative workshop. A number of countries have also volunteered to host a pilot implementation of the new module, which will provide useful feedback. APCICT will further develop the project strategy and undertake sustained advocacy among policymakers to support the national roll out of this initiative, utilizing its network of Academy partners and national champions identified at the consultative workshop.

B.   Advisory services

23.   APCICT will continue to provide partners with advisory services to strengthen on-the-ground capacities to leverage ICT for development. These services will include consultations on locally driven initiatives for customization and localization of the Academy programme, and its integration into national capacity-building frameworks. The draft monitoring and evaluation framework for the Academy programme will be further developed in consultation with Academy partners. In addition, the Centre will make efforts to address the important need for channelling donor funding to Academy partners for the roll out of ICTD training programmes at the national level. In this context, APCICT will seek to play a constructive role as an intermediary by linking potential donor organizations with Academy partners.

C.   Research and knowledge-sharing

24.   In the next reporting period, the research and knowledge-sharing work of APCICT will be directed at adding to the knowledge base of policymakers and other ICTD stakeholders, enabling the exchange of best practices and promoting networking. To contribute towards these

objectives, APCICT will continue to produce new issues of the ICTD Briefing Note Series, capturing policy extracts from the latest Academy modules. The Centre also plans to produce a new issue of the ICTD Case Study Series and a collection of case studies from various countries. It also plans to carry out monitoring and evaluation of ICTD projects. The resource base of e-Co Hub, the Centre's ICTD knowledge-sharing platform, will be expanded, and incorporation of linkages with other ICT or development-oriented platforms and portals for wider reach will be explored.

25.   In addition, APCICT is developing a directory of ICTD training institutions to promote collaboration across projects, networking and knowledge sharing among ICTD stakeholders in the region. It is also developing a compilation of Everyday ICT Terms for Policymakers as a useful reference resource for government officials. Both of these knowledge products are expected to be released shortly, and hosted on e-Co Hub and ARPC for rapid and cost-effective online dissemination.

26.   The workplan of the Centre for 2011 was endorsed by the Governing Council at its fifth session, held in December 2010.

III.   Administrative and financial issues

A.   Financial issues

27.   Under the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Korea regarding the administrative and financial arrangements for APCICT, the Government of the Republic of Korea has provided $7.5 million, which was paid in five instalments of $1.5 million per year, to cover the institutional and operational costs of the Centre for its first five years of operation lasting until 31 May 2011. The Government also agreed to provide office space for the Centre and three non-reimbursable loan experts to support the technical cooperation activities of the Centre. In addition, APCICT received a contribution of $200,000 from the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund (KECF) for the Strengthening ICT for Development Education in Institutions of Higher Learning project.

28.   Contributions from other members/associate members in 2010 were as follows:

(a)   Government of Bangladesh $5,000.00

(b)   Government of India $10,000.00

(c)   Government of Macao, China $5,000.00

In addition, the Government of Pakistan pledged $7,500.

29.   APCICT receives in kind contributions from various institutions of the Government of the Republic of Korea for carrying out the Centre's ICTD capacity development programmes, including from the Incheon City government and the Korea Communications Commission. The Centre has also received in kind contributions from committed partners in many other countries. These contributions have been instrumental in the rapid roll out and expansion of the Centre's initiatives, especially the Academy programme. For instance, APCICT received an in kind contribution equivalent to $230,000 from the Government of Indonesia for the Academy programme in 2010. The in kind contributions come in various forms, such

as material, logistical and human resource support for the organization of national- or subregional-level Academy programme workshops and support for localization or translation of the Academy modules.

30.   Another source of resource mobilization for the expansion of the Academy programme has been funds raised from other donors. APCICT Academy partners have received funding from the World Bank for a project in Mongolia, the European Union for a project in the Pacific islands, and UNDP for projects in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. APCICT has also leveraged support from ADB through a joint technical assistance project to complement the Academy programme's activities in Mongolia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

31.   At the fifth session of the Governing Council of APCICT, in December 2010, the Governing Council members agreed that each member would consider initiating or expanding its voluntary contribution to APCICT to help the Centre diversify its sources of funding. [3]

B.   Human-resource-related issues

32.   The staff of APCICT comprises three professional staff members (one Director, one Senior Programme Officer and one Programme Officer), three non-reimbursable loan experts and three support staff. For the Centre's training programmes, resource persons have been outsourced, while some have been engaged through partnerships with relevant agencies of the Government of the Republic of Korea as well as the private sector. In order to cope with the limitations on its human resources and continue to optimize the impact of its programmes, the Centre has taken measures to achieve efficiency in its operations, such as putting in place an electronic document management system and an Intranet. It also utilizes innovative methods for the delivery of training such as through its online AVA platform. Moreover, APCICT actively establishes partnerships with member States, national training institutions, multilateral donor agencies and other relevant stakeholders so that synergies can be tapped and individual efforts have maximum outreach.

33.   There is, however, growing demand for the ICTD capacity-building services of APCICT from ESCAP members and associate members, national training institutions, and other United Nations organizations and regional commissions. In this context, the limited number of staff is a key constraint in meeting the demand and fulfilling the Centre's role as a regional ICTD capacity-building hub. Hence, there is a strong requirement for additional staff on more stable contracts. The need for additional staff was also noted in the report on the evaluation of the Centre (E/ESCAP/66/18).

IV. Issues for consideration by the Commission

34.   Adoption of ICTD training programmes at the national level, further engagement of regional and subregional organizations and appropriate policy advocacy are key for APCICT to attain a broader reach and the long-term sustainability of its ICTD human capacity development programmes. In this context, the Commission may wish to consider the following issues and provide recommendations to APCICT for addressing them:

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[3]   See annex III for the report of the Governing Council on its fifth session.

(a)   Integration of the Academy into national capacity-building frameworks: For long-term sustainability of the Academy initiative at the country level, it is important to encourage its integration into national capacity-building frameworks. For instance, the adoption of the Academy modules in the regular courses of national training institutions can help to optimize reach to the target group and ensure continuity. APCICT seeks the guidance of the Commission in mobilizing national support for this purpose;

(b)   Identification and engagement of regional and subregional partners: In addition to national-level agencies, regional and subregional organizations play an important role in enhancing the Centre's initiatives, such as the Academy programme and AVA. They can provide networks, resources and valuable expertise to facilitate the implementation and expansion of these programmes. APCICT seeks the support of the Commission in identifying potential regional or subregional partners and securing collaboration between those partner organizations and APCICT;

(c)   Policy advocacy for a new project on ICTD education in universities: As noted above, the new APCICT project, entitled "Strengthening ICT for development education in institutions of higher learning", is aimed at enhancing the coverage of ICTD in the undergraduate and graduate curricula of universities in the Asia-Pacific region. One of the critical components of the project is active advocacy to policymakers in ministries of education and academia with the goal of sensitizing them to the need for ICTD education in universities. APCICT thus seeks the support of the Commission in highlighting the importance of ICTD in education as a priority issue on the regional development agenda;

(d)   Diversifying funding sources: Enhanced financial contributions by members and associate members of ESCAP to APCICT can play an important role in promoting the quality and reach of the centre's programmes, and its sustainability. At its fifth session, in December 2010, the Governing Council of APCICT recommended that ESCAP enhance the sources of funding for the Centre, and discuss this matter during the sixty-seventh Commission session. One of the options which the Commission may wish to consider is to establish a joint contribution trust fund for APCICT in which contributions from individual member States can be deposited. The United Nations can administer this trust fund;

(e)   Collection of case studies: Member States and Academy partners have expressed a strong interest in a compilation of ICTD case studies (including cases of both successes and failures) in order to enable peer learning. This is also important to promote South-South cooperation and would give member States the opportunity to learn about locally relevant solutions to common problems faced in ICTD programmes. As this task requires the cooperation of national and subregional stakeholders, the Commission may wish to advise APCICT with a view to achieving success in this endeavour.

Annex I

Contributions in 2009-2010

Table 1. Global fund for institutional support - ROK/APCICT (I007)

(United States dollars)

Country/Area	2009	2010
Republic of Korea (Incheon Metropolitan City)	999 980.00	999 980.00
Republic of Korea (Korea Communications Commission)	500 000.00	500 000.00
Total	**1 499 980.00**	**1 499 980.00**

Table 2. Global fund for institutional support - JCE/APCICT (I009)

(United States dollars)

Country/Area	2009	2010
Bangladesh	-	5 000.00
India	9 975.00	10 000.00
Macao, China	5 000.00	5 000.00
Papua New Guinea	20 000.00	-
Total	**34 975.00**	**20 000.00**

Annex II

Statement of accounts

Institutional support and technical cooperation projects, as of 31 December 2010

(United States dollars)

	Donor	Balance carried over 31 December 2009	Allocation adjustment[a]	Contributions (2010)	Expenditure (2010)[b]	Interest earned (2010)	Balance at 31 December 2010[c]
Institutional support	Korea Communications Commission and Incheon Metropolitan City	1 611 851.15	25 071.00	1 499 980.00	1 348 729.96	36 132.23	1 824 304.42
	Institutional support - joint contribution	65 558.69	(25 071.00)	20 000.00	0.00	1 103.12	61 590.81
	Subtotal	**1 677 409.84**	**0.00**	**1 519 980.00**	**1 348 729.96**	**37 235.35**	**1 885 895.23**
TC projects	ESCAP - Korea Cooperation Fund	293 610.34	0.00	200 000.00	178 579.15	0.00	315 031.19
	Subtotal	**293 610.34**	**0.00**	**200 000.00**	**178 579.15**	**0.00**	**315 031.19**
	TOTAL	**1 971 020.18**	**0.00**	**1 719 980.00**	**1 527 309.11**	**37 235.35**	**2 200 926.42**

[a]   Adjustment after issuance of year-end financial statement to correctly identify allocation in 2009.

[b]   Expenditure in 2010 includes the transferred fund of 13 per cent for programme support costs and 1 per cent for costs ($24,000) related to Appendix D of contract for four non-reimbursable loan experts extended to APCICT.

[c]   The fund balance shown is already earmarked to meet expenditures for programmatic and operational activities of APCICT to 2011.

Annex III

Report of the Governing Council on its fifth session

I.   Recommendations of the Governing Council

1.   The Governing Council expressed strong appreciation for the programmes and services provided by APCICT for strengthening the human and institutional capacities of members and associate members of ESCAP to use information and communications technology (ICT) for socio-economic development. It welcomed the decision made by the Commission in its resolution 66/14 to extend the operations of APCICT beyond its initial term. The Council also recommended that further efforts be made to communicate to the member countries about the good work of APCICT in order to better enable local partners to increase the visibility of the Centre at the national level.

2.   The Governing Council reviewed the activities and accomplishments of APCICT since the last session of the Council as well as its proposed Business Strategy for the next five years. It complimented the Centre on its performance and the passion it demonstrated for its work. The Council supported the APCICT Business Strategy for 2011-2016 and endorsed the Centre's work plan for 2011. In that context, it recommended prioritizing the organization of regional-level workshops, engaging high-level policymakers, expanding the Academy programme based on customized approaches for two different groups or tiers of countries, enlarging the pool of resource persons, promoting the utilization of Academy modules 4 to 7, enhancing the reach of online training through the APCICT Virtual Academy, continuing expansion of the beneficiary group to include youth, and collecting and disseminating ICT for development (ICTD) case studies. It also supported the APCICT strategy of localization of the Academy training modules through partnerships with national institutions.

3.   Noting the limited sources of funding for APCICT and the increasing demand for the services and programmes of the Centre, the Governing Council members agreed that each member would consider initiating or expanding its voluntary contribution to APCICT to help the Centre diversify its sources of funding. The Council recommended that ESCAP enhance the sources of funding for APCICT and that the matter be taken up for discussion during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, to be held in 2011. In addition, the Council acknowledged the ongoing emphasis of APCICT on building strategic partnerships with national Governments, international organizations, private sector, multilateral development banks and academia, and recommended further assessment of such partnerships for resource mobilization for its programmes at the regional and national levels.

4.   The Governing Council welcomed the effort and progress made by APCICT to develop a generic and flexible monitoring and evaluation framework for ICTD capacity-building initiatives, such as its Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders programme. It underscored the relevance and importance of such a framework in capturing the impact and effectiveness of ICT capacity-building projects, and supported the proposal of APCICT to implement it on a pilot basis. The Council also noted the demand from member countries for participation in the APCICT Young

ICTD Leaders programme as well as its new project for enhancing coverage of ICTD in institutions of higher learning.

II.   Summary of deliberations

5.   The Council had before it the following documents: (a) report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT (IDD/APCICT/GC(5)/2); and (b) work programme and project activities of APCICT (IDD/APCICT/GC(5)/3). Presentations were made by the Director of APCICT, other APCICT staff, and by APCICT partners from Indonesia and the Philippines.

A.   Report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT

6.   The Council took note of four main aspects: (a) the background and mission of APCICT; (b) administration and management of the Centre; (c) the financial status of the Centre; and (d) the measures undertaken by APCICT to enhance the visibility of its programmes and work. It was pointed out that APCICT had been established in 2006 with an initial term of five years, its mission being to strengthen the human and institutional capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to use ICT for socio-economic development. At its sixty-sixth session, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in May 2010, the Commission decided to continue with the operations of the Centre beyond 31 May 2011.[a]

7.   The summary of the financial status of the Centre highlighted contributions from the host country, other member States and partner organizations. The limited staff strength of APCICT and the current situation of primarily having a single source of funding were highlighted during the presentation as concerns requiring the advice of the Governing Council.

8.   The representatives of Bangladesh and Thailand stated that, in view of the appreciable work being done by APCICT, all efforts should be made to ensure the availability of adequate funding for its operations, including an assessment of possibilities of partnerships with other relevant international agencies and organizations. Recognizing the current limitations on sources of funding and the need to diversify those sources, the Governing Council agreed that its members would explore the possibility of initiating or enhancing their individual voluntary contributions to the Centre. That was considered especially relevant given the increasing demand for the services of APCICT from member States in the region.

B.   Presentation of the work undertaken by APCICT since the fourth session of the Governing Council

9.   The Governing Council noted the programme activities of APCICT since its fourth session (see IDD/APCICT/GC(5)/3), especially with regard to the four key recommendations adopted by the Council at that session.

10.   The Governing Council was informed about the progress achieved under the various pillars of work of APCICT, namely serving as a multilateral cooperation mechanism, training, research and knowledge-sharing, and advisory services. The Council was also briefed about the

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[a]   See Commission resolution 66/14 of 19 May 2010.

APCICT flagship ICT for development capacity-building programme, called the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders (Academy), which had been developed and was being implemented through an inclusive and participatory approach. The programme had already been rolled out in 17 countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

11.   The Council welcomed the extension of the term of APCICT beyond May 2011 by ESCAP, as well as the positive report on the comprehensive external evaluation of the Centre conducted in 2010 (see E/ESCAP/66/18 and Add.1). The Director of APCICT thanked the Governing Council for its strong support, which had been instrumental in achieving both those outcomes.

12.   The representative of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for the support, encouragement and contributions of the representatives of the member States at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, which had led to the eventual decision to continue the operation of APCICT. The representative congratulated the Director and the staff members of APCICT for their hard work and excellent performance, noting that that had contributed to the decision.

13.   The representative of Thailand expressed appreciation for the performance of APCICT since its establishment. The representative of India commended APCICT on its good work and recommended that the Centre further promote its visibility, especially in countries, such as India, which were implementing large-scale e-government projects and could utilize the services of the Centre. Further, he endorsed the current strategy of APCICT of having partnerships with member States to localize the Academy training modules through cost-sharing arrangements.

14.   The representatives of India and Mongolia expressed a keen interest in participating in the Young ICTD Leaders Programme, which offered internships to students. Both representatives also expressed an interest in participating in the new APCICT project aimed at enhancing coverage of ICTD in institutions of higher learning.

15.   The representative of the Republic of Korea complimented APCICT for its impressive performance in 2010, and noted with satisfaction the interest and eagerness demonstrated by the members of the Governing Council to promote the use of ICT for development in the Asia-Pacific region. The representative expressed the hope that stronger partnerships would emerge within the region, which would further facilitate the work of APCICT.

C.   Presentation by APCICT of an assessment framework for ICT for development capacity-building projects

16.   The Council took note of the new monitoring and evaluation framework that the Centre had developed for the Academy, its flagship ICTD capacity-building programme. That framework had been developed in response to a recommendation made at the Governing Council session last year. It had evolved through a process of extensive consultations held by APCICT involving needs assessment surveys conducted in 10 countries, and discussions with 30 government leaders, Academy partners and representatives of academia from 21 countries.

17.   The Council members recognized the strong need to develop such a framework. The representative of Indonesia pointed out that the initiative aligned well with the needs of his organization, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, which had been requested by the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) and the Ministry of Finance to put in place an assessment mechanism in order to access further funding for its training programmes.

18.   The representative of India also welcomed the initiative to develop the monitoring and evaluation framework. He proposed collaboration between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of India and APCICT, and invited APCICT to consider piloting the framework in India.

D.   Presentation by APCICT partners of their experiences with the roll-out of the Academy programme

19.   Representatives of Academy partner organizations from the University of Indonesia and the Career Executive Service Board of the Philippines made presentations about their experiences with the roll-out of the Academy programme.

20.   The representative of Indonesia recounted the various achievements of the Academy programme in his country, namely the organization of a field testing workshop, two rounds of training of trainers and four subsequent national workshops targeting local and central Government officials. He highlighted the feedback received from the trainees, which included suggestions for including representatives of the legislature in the workshops for securing high-level buy-in, organizing on-site training directly at the municipality or city level and covering additional topics in the training, such as information technology governance and planning, and ethical hacking/security. With regard to the impact of the programme, the presentation noted individual initiatives taken by trainees to promote information technology projects in their areas, collaboration among municipalities on information technology-related issues, the establishment of an e-governance forum by Academy alumni and the drafting of e-government regulations, and the creation of blended training content utilizing both the Academy modules and material for government chief information officers. Future plans involved carrying forward the Academy programme, including training for government chief information officers on module 4 (ICT Trends for Government Leaders), module 5 (Internet Governance), and module 6 (Network and Information Security and Privacy), with specific emphasis on the information security aspect. Incorporating the Academy modules in a Master's programme at the University of Indonesia was also among the plans for the future. The presentation highlighted synergy and collaboration among APCICT, the University of Indonesia, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and local governments as important success factors in which each partner had contributed respective in kind and/or financial resources.

21.   The representative of the Philippines described the context and the stages through which the Academy had been adopted and customized to suit the needs of career executive officers or senior civil servants in the Philippines. The Career Executive Service Board had integrated the Academy into the training and career development programme for civil servants, had held multiple training courses and workshop sessions of the Academy, and had included questions on ICT in the qualifying examination

for civil servants. Anecdotal evidence from the Academy alumni attested that the knowledge imparted from the programme helped in enhancing the operational performance of civil servants and expediting process work in various agencies. Future plans included further customization of the upcoming Academy modules, strengthening of monitoring and evaluation, accreditation of Academy training at the national level and collection of local best practices in alignment with the strategic direction of APCICT envisaged for the Academy programme. The representative mentioned that a provision had been built in the annual budget of her department for funding regular Academy workshops. The presentation also recounted the key outcomes of the annual Academy Partners Meeting held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in November 2010, which provided strategic guidance for Academy partners in rolling out the programme.

E.   Presentation on the APCICT business strategy (2011-2016)

22.   The Council reviewed the draft business strategy developed by APCICT to guide the operations of the Centre in the phase beyond 31 May 2011. The business strategy covered various aspects, such as enhancing the core activities of the Centre including its flagship Academy programme, strengthening its role as a multilateral cooperation mechanism, promoting communications and outreach, and building and nurturing strategic partnerships.

23.   The Director of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP pointed out that, at the second session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology of ESCAP, held in Bangkok from 24 to 26 November 2010, the importance of cybersecurity, especially in the context of developing countries, had been underscored.[b] That lent relevance to the promotion of modules 4, 5 and 6 of the Academy, which covered such technical aspects of ICTD.

24.   The representative of Bangladesh emphasized the importance of prioritizing the organization of regional-level workshops, engaging high-level policymakers and expanding the pool of resource persons.

25.   With regard to strategies for engaging policymakers and senior officials for promoting APCICT programmes, the representative of the Career Executive Service Board of the Philippines shared her experiences. She mentioned that measures such as identifying a national champion, finding the right ways to incentivize participation in the training—for instance, making it a legislative requirement—and selecting the appropriate set of modules tailored to the needs of the target group, had proved successful in her country.

26.   The Governing Council expressed support for the APCICT business strategy (2011-2016).

F.   Presentation on the APCICT work plan for 2011

27.   The Governing Council reviewed the proposed work plan of the Centre for 2011, which was aligned with the Business Strategy (2011-2016). The work plan provided an overview of activities related to the roll-out and

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[b]   See E/ESCAP/67/9, paras. 8, 9 and 57.

expansion of the Academy programme based on customized approaches for two different groups or tiers of countries. It also described plans associated with expanding the beneficiary group of the services of APCICT, enhancing online and offline channels for knowledge sharing and fostering regional cooperation on ICTD.

28.   Among the potential challenges highlighted in the context of implementing the proposed 2011 work plan were the need for building the institutional memory of APCICT programmes, including collection and documentation of case studies, conducting effective monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring the financial sustainability of the efforts to roll out the Academy programme. Furthermore, some of the issues raised for the advice of the Governing Council included identification and sustained engagement of Academy partners, strategies for integration of the Academy into national capacity-building frameworks, identification of national focal points for the Young ICTD Leaders programme, ways to promote the APCICT distance-learning platform and options for diversifying funding sources for APCICT.

29.   Detailed Academy implementation plans from member countries in the Tier I group had been collected by APCICT during the second Academy Partners Meeting held in November 2010 and were reflected in the overall 2011 work plan of APCICT. That had enabled coordination of individual country plans with the overall work plan of APCICT.

30.   In response to one of the discussion points, the representative of India concurred that there was potential for member States to utilize the APCICT Virtual Academy for the training of officials selected to work on e-government projects, but stressed that the implementation plans for such training should be customized, as appropriate, to meet existing needs. Recognizing the relevance of the Academy modules, the representative of India reiterated the need for, and the willingness of his Government to fund, localization of the Academy programme for the country's 500 million-strong Hindi-speaking population and requested support of APCICT in that regard. Among other suggestions, he recommended that APCICT explore the development of new training content in areas such as ICT for agriculture. He also suggested that the Governing Council use online communication channels to interact more frequently.

31.   The Governing Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its commitment to continue financial support to APCICT beyond 31 May 2011. The representatives of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka suggested that the importance of enhancing voluntary contributions by member States to APCICT in order to diversify the sources of funding should be conveyed to the Commission. It was recommended that the topic be discussed at the next session of the Commission.

32.   The Governing Council endorsed the 2011 work plan of APCICT.

G.   Date and venue for the sixth session of the Governing Council

33.   The Governing Council noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of India to host the next session of the Council in 2011.

H. Other matters

34. No other matters were proposed for discussion.

I. Adoption of the report

35. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 20 December 2010.

III. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

36. The fifth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 1 and 2 December 2010.

37. In her opening statement, delivered by the Director of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP, the Executive Secretary welcomed the members of the Governing Council of APCICT and thanked the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia for hosting the fifth session and for organizing, in collaboration with the University of Indonesia, the national Academy workshop, which was being held in parallel with the Governing Council session. She mentioned that building the human and institutional capacity to use ICTs for socio-economic development was essential for the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and attain sustainable development. In that context, she reiterated the commitment of ESCAP to prioritize the enhancement of regional social and economic connectivity. She reported to the Council that the Commission, in its resolution 66/14 of 19 May 2010, had extended the operations of the Centre beyond the first five years, noting the performance of the Centre as successful. She expressed appreciation for the achievements of the Academy programme and the impactful partnership strategy adopted by APCICT. She also conveyed her appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for agreeing to provide financial support to the Centre beyond 2011, and to other member States and Academy partners for their additional financial and in kind support to APCICT and its programmes.

B. Attendance

38. The session was attended by 12 representatives of 9 members of the Governing Council, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

C. Election of officers

39. The Council elected Mr. Udi Rusadi (Indonesia) Chair, Mr. Shankar Aggarwal (India) Vice-Chair, and Mr. Amgalanbat Batsuren (Mongolia) Rapporteur.

D.   Adoption of the agenda

40.   The Council adopted the following agenda:

1.   Opening of the session.

2.   Election of officers.

3.   Adoption of the agenda.

4.   Report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT.

5.   Presentation of the work undertaken by APCICT since the fourth session of the Governing Council.

6.   Presentation by APCICT of an assessment framework for information and communications technology for development capacity-building projects.

7.   Presentation by APCICT partners on their experiences with the roll-out of the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders programme.

8.   Presentation of the APCICT business strategy (2011-2016).

9.   Presentation of the APCICT work plan for 2011.

10.   Confirmation of the date and venue of the sixth session of the Governing Council.

11.   Other matters.

12.   Adoption of the report.

13.   Participation in Indonesia National Academy Workshop:

(a) Field trip: One Stop Service - Denpasar City;

(b) Round-table discussion and closing session of Indonesia National Academy Workshop.

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