



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-fifth session**

Bangkok, 27–31 May 2019

Item 4 (i) of the provisional agenda*

Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its thirteenth session***Summary*

The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development held its thirteenth session in Bangkok on 31 August 2018.

The Council reviewed the work of the Centre since its twelfth session and expressed appreciation for the Centre's contribution to strengthening the capacities of member States with regard to utilizing information and communications technology for sustainable development. It also reviewed the Centre's administrative and financial status.

The Council endorsed the Centre's programme of work for 2019, which aims to enhance the relevance of the Centre's work to the needs of member States; to enable the Centre to innovate capacity-building programmes and expand on existing ones; and to foster greater integration among the subprogrammes and the cross-sectoral initiatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The Council expressed appreciation to the host country, the Republic of Korea, for its continued funding and support to the Centre and to other member States for their voluntary and in-kind contributions. It called on all member States to support the Centre's programmes and operations to promote human capacity development in the area of information and communications technology in the region.

* ESCAP/75/L.1.

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

1. The Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for its capacity-building work related to information and communications technology (ICT), which has contributed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. The Council commends the Centre's continued efforts to enhance ICT knowledge and skills of policymakers and civil servants, women entrepreneurs, and students and young people through three flagship programmes: Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders; Women ICT Frontier Initiative; and Primer Series on ICTD for Youth.
3. The Council endorses the Centre's programme of work for 2019, which will enhance the relevance of its work to the needs of member States; enable the Centre to innovate capacity-building programmes and expand on its existing ones, including in the area of frontier technologies; foster greater integration in the subprogrammes and cross-sectoral initiatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and facilitate measuring of the results and assessing their impact.
4. The Council expresses its appreciation to the host country, the Republic of Korea, for its continued funding support to the Centre and to other member States for their voluntary and in-kind contributions.
5. The Council calls upon all member States to support the Centre's programmes and operations to carry out its mission to develop ICT human capacity in the region.

II. Proceedings

A. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre (Agenda item 2)

6. The Council had before it the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre (ESCAP/APCICT/GC/2018/1).
7. The Council was informed about the Centre's financial status, management and staffing capacity. A summary of the operational funding was presented, including the institutional funding provided by the host country, the Republic of Korea, through the Incheon Metropolitan City and the Ministry of Science and ICT. Additional funding was received from the Government of Canada to support the implementation of an ESCAP project aimed at catalysing women's entrepreneurship. The Centre was mandated to implement the ICT capacity-building component of that project.
8. Over the reporting period, voluntary contributions were received from the Governments of Bangladesh, Cambodia, India and Thailand. It was noted that additional contributions would be received from the governments of India and Macao, China, based on pledges made during the seventy-fourth session of the Commission, which was held in Bangkok from 11 to 16 May 2018.
9. The representative of Indonesia expressed appreciation of the Centre's excellent operation notwithstanding the limited number of staff. Recognizing the increasing demand from the region for capacity-building support and the

rapid changes in the ICT landscape, the representative recommended that the staffing of the Centre be increased. The representative also expressed gratitude to the host country, the Republic of Korea, for the continued funding it had extended to the Centre, and to the Government of Canada for its support of the Centre's programme to promote women entrepreneurs.

10. The representative of India, while noting that the Centre's funding base was narrow, stressed the need for robust funding by diversifying the donor base to include more countries. He encouraged all Council members to make financial contributions to indicate their strong support for the Centre's work.

11. The Council encouraged all member States to provide voluntary contributions to support the Centre's operations and programme implementation.

B. Work of the Centre since the twelfth session of the Governing Council

(Agenda item 3)

12. The Council had before it the report on the work of the Centre since the twelfth session of the Council, which was held in Manila on 7 December 2017 (ESCAP/APCICT/GC/2018/2).

13. The Council was informed about the progress made in implementing the Centre's flagship ICT capacity development programmes for policymakers and civil servants (Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders), women entrepreneurs (Women ICT Frontier Initiative), and students and young people (Primer Series on ICTD for Youth).

14. Under the Academy programme, the Centre continued to enhance the curriculum for policymakers through the development of training modules. It cooperated with the Korea Internet and Security Agency to update the Academy module on Information Security and Privacy. A new Academy module on data-driven governance was also being developed and was slated to be launched at the end of 2018.

15. The Centre continued to support its national partners in organizing Academy workshops for policymakers. It cooperated with the Union Civil Service Board of Myanmar to conduct two workshops for senior government officials in March and July of 2018.

16. The Council was informed that the Women ICT Frontier Initiative, the Centre's ICT capacity development programme for women entrepreneurs was launched in Andhra Pradesh, India, in February 2018. Since the launching of the initiative in 2016, in addition to India, it was being implemented in Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

17. The Council was informed about the Centre's efforts to strengthen cooperation with the ESCAP subprogrammes and divisions. The Centre had been working with the Social Development Division and the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division to implement the five-year project on catalysing women's entrepreneurship, which was being funded under the Canada-Asia Trade and Investment for Growth Program. It also had been cooperating with other divisions in developing training modules related to the following topics: data-driven governance (Statistics Division); disaster risk management and building resilient infrastructure through co-deployment of ICT (Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division); and climate change (Environment and Development Division).

18. The Council was informed about the Centre's knowledge-sharing activities, including the continued enhancement of its online platforms, such as the Virtual Academy, e-Collaborative Hub, and Women ICT Frontier Initiative InfoBank.

19. The Council expressed appreciation for the Centre's continued efforts to enhance and implement its programmes in the region.

C. Programme of work for 2019
(Agenda item 4)

20. The Council reviewed the Centre's programme of work for 2019.

21. The objectives of the programme of work for 2019 were to enhance the relevance of the Centre's programmes to the needs of member States; enable the Centre to provide more practical support; foster greater integration in the ESCAP subprogrammes and cross-sectoral initiatives; and facilitate the measuring of results and their impact.

22. The Centre reported that it planned to conduct an in-depth assessment of its programmes, review its positioning in the ICT for development ecosystem, consolidate and streamline activities, and identify niche areas for programme development. It also indicated that a three-year medium-term strategic plan would be developed and presented at the next Council session.

23. The Centre indicated that it would continue to enhance its training modules, scale-up implementation of the Academy, Women ICT Frontier Initiative and the Primer Series programmes, facilitate exchange of experiences among national partners, and strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders on programme development and delivery.

24. The representative of the Philippines expressed her country's support for the Centre's plan to conduct an assessment of its work. She underscored the need for an effective programme monitoring and evaluation mechanism, noting that one had already been developed for the Academy programme, which could be revisited and shared with the Centre's national partners.

25. The representative of India stressed the need for gap analysis and suggested that one be conducted at the regional or national level. The results of such analyses would be useful in identifying specific capacity gaps that could be addressed by the Centre.

26. The representative of Cambodia stated that countries were increasingly becoming capable of developing their own ICT solutions. He recommended that the Centre identify specific sectors or areas in which a particular country would need capacity-building support. The representative also emphasized the importance of enhancing awareness of government leaders on leveraging ICT to innovate the governmental processes and on ICT cross-sectoral applications.

27. The representative of Indonesia recommended that the Centre's programmes be designed to also benefit civil society and that training modules on digital literacy for women and children and modules to enhance the employability of youth in the digital era be developed. With regard to the Academy programme, the representative stressed the need to support the government sector in its transformation to digital government services.

28. The representative of Cambodia recommended that the Centre strengthen its collaboration with other international organizations, such as the International Telecommunication Union, and with the private sector.

29. The representative of Thailand recommended that the Centre cover in its programmes such topics such as Internet of things, security and data privacy, free-flow of cross-border data, competency standards, e-commerce and smart city. The representative welcomed the Centre's plan to strengthen its partnerships with international organizations, in particular with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and recommended that it also work with other relevant subregional organizations.

30. The representative of the Republic of Korea congratulated the Centre on its accomplishments, noting that its programmes would contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The representative recommended that the Centre identify priorities with regard to programme development and have more focused goals when expanding its activities. The representative also recommended that the Centre facilitate the sharing of best practices among countries on effective implementation of ICT capacity-building activities.

31. The Chair underscored the need to bridge the digital divide, particularly in frontier technologies, and emphasized that the Centre should play a role in reducing capacity gaps among countries. Support from top-level government leadership would be instrumental for the successful implementation and sustainability of the capacity-building programmes. The Chair recommended that the Centre strengthen its partnerships with civil society, including with ICT professional associations.

D. Date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Governing Council
(Agenda item 5)

32. The secretariat, in consultation with the Council, would make the necessary arrangements for the organization of the fourteenth session, to be held, tentatively, in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in the fourth quarter of 2019.

E. Other matters
(Agenda item 6)

33. No other matters were discussed by the Council.

F. Adoption of the report on the thirteenth session of the Governing Council
(Agenda item 7)

34. The Council adopted the present report on 28 September 2018.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

35. The thirteenth session of the Council was held in Bangkok on 31 August 2018.

36. A statement was made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP. In his remarks, the Deputy Executive Secretary reminded the Council of the importance of the Centre's work in the context of harnessing science, technology and innovation to implement the 2030 Agenda. He stressed that the

Council's deliberations would be instrumental in enabling the Centre to develop effective programmes that could help bridge the digital divide in Asia and the Pacific. He called for the Centre to be more focused in its work, with targeted interventions that deliver greater impact.

B. Attendance

37. The session was attended by representatives of the nine members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Indonesia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

38. The representative of Myanmar attended as an observer.

C. Election of officers

39. The Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Damith Tilanka Hettihewa (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Molruedee Puangngern (Thailand)

D. Adoption of the agenda

40. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre.
3. Work of the Centre since the twelfth session of the Governing Council.
4. Programme of work for 2019.
5. Date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Governing Council.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report on the thirteenth session of the Governing Council.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/APCICT/GC/2018/1	Report on the administrative and financial status of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	2
ESCAP/APCICT/GC/2018/2	Report on the work of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development since the twelfth session of the Governing Council	3
	Programme of work for 2019	4
ESCAP/APCICT/GC/2018/3	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its thirteenth session	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/APCICT/GC/2018/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)

Annex II

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for the year ended 31 December 2018

(United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	1 659 557
Interest income	85 327
Exchange difference	729
Total income	1 745 613
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	(1 109 681)
Net income over expenditure	635 932
Fund balance as at 1 January 2018	2 798 917
Refund to donors	(6 049)
Fund balance as at 31 December 2018	3 428 800^a

^a The balance amount is earmarked for future programmatic and operational activities of the Centre.

Annex III

**Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for
Information and Communication Technology for Development for
the year ended 31 December 2018, by project component**
(United States dollars)

	<i>Incheon Metropolitan City and Ministry of Science and ICT</i>	<i>Joint contributions and other projects</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Income</i>			
Contributions	1 563 101	96 456	1 659 557
Interest income	79 590	5 737	85 327
Exchange difference	-	729	729
Total income	1 642 691	102 922	1 745 613
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>			
	(1 028 942)	(80 740)	(1 109 681)
Net income over expenditure	613 749	22 182	635 932
Fund balance as at 1 January 2018	2 532 907	266 011	2 798 917
Refunds to donors/fund transfer	-	(6 049)	(6 049)
Fund balance as at 31 December 2018	3 146 656	282 144	3 428 800^a

^a The balance amount is earmarked for future programmatic and operational activities of the Centre.

Annex IV

**Cash contributions to the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for
Information and Communication Technology for Development for
the year ended 31 December 2018**

(United States dollars)

<i>Country/area</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2018</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2017</i>
1. Incheon Metropolitan City and Ministry of Science and ICT		
Republic of Korea (Incheon Metropolitan City)	800 000	800 000
Republic of Korea (Ministry of Science and ICT)	763 101	729 670
Subtotal	1 563 101	1 529 670
2. Other technical cooperation projects		
Bangladesh	10 000	-
Cambodia	2 000	2 000
India	20 000	-
Macao, China	5 000	5 000
Sri Lanka	-	-
Thailand	15 000	-
Republic of Korea (Ministry of Science and ICT)	44 456	45 788
Subtotal	96 456	52 788
Total	1 659 557	1 582 457