



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

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Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Management issues**Report on the evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre
for Transfer of Technology****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document is submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 71/1 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission decided to review the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of each regional institution. The document contains an overview of the independent evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology conducted by an external evaluation consultant and its conclusions and recommendations for improving the results-orientation, relevance, sustainability and efficiency of the Centre. The document contains a description of the actions taken by the secretariat to address the evaluation recommendations and further actions it may wish to consider in that regard.

I. Background

1. In resolution 71/1, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) decided to review the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of each regional institution every five years. In line with that decision, the secretariat commissioned an independent evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in 2018. The work of the Centre had not been independently evaluated since 2003.

2. The evaluation consultant gave a presentation on the outcome of the evaluation to the members of the Governing Council of the Centre at its fourteenth session held in Bangkok on 28 and 29 November 2018. The conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation are excerpted from the full report and are included in the present document for the information of the Commission.¹

* ESCAP/75/L.1.

¹ The full report on the evaluation of the Centre is provided in ESCAP/75/INF/3.

II. Purpose and method

3. The evaluation aimed to inform the review by the Commission of the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of the Centre and provide recommendations to ESCAP management and the Commission on how to improve the substantive relevance and financial viability of the Centre. The evaluation assessed the substantive relevance of the mandate of the Centre in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the sustainability of the Centre in terms of its financial and human resources; and the results achieved and efficiency of the Centre in delivering capacity-building activities.

4. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the norms, standards and procedures set out in the “ESCAP monitoring and evaluation: policy and guidelines”² to ensure the evaluation would be independent, objective and high quality. The evaluation was conducted from July to December 2018 by Mr. Filemon Uriarte, Jr., former Secretary (Minister) of Science and Technology of the Philippines.

5. The evaluation included a comprehensive review of relevant documents, consultations, interviews and a survey of the stakeholders of the Centre. The evaluation consultant conducted a mission to New Delhi from 9 to 11 October 2018 and consulted with government officials, including the Minister of Science and Technology; a Joint Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; the Chair and Managing Director of the National Research and Development Cooperation; senior officials of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations; and senior officials of the International Solar Alliance. Interviews were conducted with members of the Governing Council of the Centre and other stakeholders attending two events of the Centre, namely the regional forum on strategies to enhance innovation and management capacities of start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises, held in Manila on 18 and 19 July 2018, and the regional consultation on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through sector-focused science, technology and innovation policies, held in Bangkok on 27 and 28 August 2018.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

6. The evaluation provided conclusions and action-oriented recommendations to enhance the performance of the Centre. It found that the mandate of the Centre remained relevant in the context of the ongoing reform of ESCAP and the 2030 Agenda. It showed that the majority of stakeholders in the Center favoured keeping the Centre at its current location in New Delhi. Furthermore, it found that the Centre delivered capacity-building activities efficiently despite the current limited financial and human resources, however, under those limitations, it concluded that the effective operations of the Centre could not be sustained in the future.

7. Based on the findings and conclusions of the evaluation, six recommendations were proposed for improving the results-orientation, relevance, sustainability and efficiency of the Centre. The secretariat welcomed the recommendations of the evaluation and appreciated the full cooperation accorded by the member States, the host Government and other development partners to the evaluation consultant by engaging in constructive interviews and discussions and providing relevant information for addressing the evaluation issues.

² www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ESCAP-Monitoring-and-Evaluation--Policy-and-Guidelines-2017-rev-20180507.pdf.

8. The following paragraphs provide excerpts from the evaluation recommendations and describe the actions taken by the secretariat to address the recommendations and further actions it may wish to consider in that regard.

Recommendation 1: The Centre should remain at its present location provided that the host Government commits to increase its financial contribution to the Centre, over an agreed period, to a level comparable to that contributed by Governments hosting other ESCAP regional institutions.

Recommendation 2: Renegotiate the host country agreement to allow the use of funds from the Government of India to recruit international staff through a formal amendment or an exchange of letters, or hold the provision of article XIII, 1 (d) in abeyance through an exchange of letters, whichever was more expedient, to enable the immediate use of the host Government contribution for the salaries and allowances of internationally recruited staff.

9. With regard to recommendations 1 and 2, the secretariat is consulting with the host Government regarding its financial contribution to the Centre, including through official missions to New Delhi in January 2019 of the Executive Secretary and in October 2018 of the Deputy Executive Secretary. The consultations have confirmed that the host Government appreciates the work of the Centre and would like to strengthen the Centre within the framework of the host country agreement and was actively considering enhancing its voluntary contributions for institutional support. The secretariat will continue to engage in bilateral discussions with the Government of India to address the issues of the host country agreement and funding required for internationally recruited staff in response to these recommendations and the decision made by members of the Governing Council at its fourteenth session held in Bangkok on 28 and 29 November 2018.

Recommendation 3: Pursue vigorously the implementation of the 2009 Governing Council decision urging member States to increase institutional support to an annual contribution of \$30,000 from developing countries and \$7,000 from least developed countries to enable the Centre to deliver effective services to members and associate members on a sustainable basis.

10. With regard to recommendation 3, the Commission may wish to reiterate its call to members and associate members to continue to provide voluntary resources to support the work of the Centre and to consider enhancing such support to enable the Centre to play a more effective role in assisting the member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals pursuant to paragraph 4 (e) of resolution 71/1 and paragraph 2 of resolution 72/3. The Commission may also pay special attention to the decisions made by members of the Governing Council of the Centre at its fourteenth session, calling upon members and associate members to consider enhancing voluntary contributions, financing new technical cooperation projects or developing new joint projects, and contributing national experts to work at the Centre.³

11. The secretariat continues to seek increased voluntary contributions from the members and associate members of ESCAP as well as from other sources for the work of the Centre. During the first quarter of 2019, the secretariat sent out official communications to the members of the Governing Council of the Centre as well as to the members and associate members of ESCAP, inviting them to provide voluntary contributions to the Centre in line with recommendation 3 and the recommendations made in the 2009 by the Governing Council of the Centre.

³ ESCAP/APCTT/GC/2018/4.

Recommendation 4: Strengthen the Centre by providing it with additional professional staff comprising one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and the corresponding technical and support staff.

12. With regard to recommendation 4, the secretariat will initiate a process to recruit international professional staff and the corresponding technical and support staff to strengthen the Centre following receipt of sufficient additional voluntary contributions from the host Government and other members and associate members of ESCAP. Since 1 January 2018, the Centre has had no internationally recruited professional staff, except for the Officer-in-Charge, as a result of the redeployment of the P-5 post to ESCAP in line with paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 71/1, in which the Commission specified that the regional institutes will be primarily funded by extrabudgetary resources. As the host country agreement does not allow ESCAP to use the institutional support funds received from the Government of India to recruit international staff, the Centre will continue to face challenges to its sustainability until the issue raised in recommendation 2 is addressed.

Recommendation 5: Endeavour to develop robust multi-stakeholder partnerships and meaningful engagement with the private and non-governmental sectors through, among others, linkages and cooperation with various technology transfer networks.

13. With regard to recommendation 5, the Centre has actively initiated and strengthened new and existing partnership arrangements with the private and non-governmental sectors. In 2018, the Centre forged and strengthened institutional partnerships with over 17 agencies, including the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asian Development Bank, the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation.

Recommendation 6: Give greater focus in the Centre's work programme to the transfer, dissemination and diffusion of emerging and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms in delivering capacity development and technical cooperation work.

14. The work programme of the Centre for 2019 had already been aligned with the recommendation.