
SPEECH By

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Chair of the 17th Session of the Governing Council of APCTT***

***78th Session of the Commission (ESCAP), 23 to 27 May 2022
Agenda item 4, Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific***

*Agenda item 4 (h) Trade and investment – Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its seventeenth session
26 May 2022, 1400-1600 hours (Bangkok Time)*

Distinguished Chairperson,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and pleasure for me to brief the outcomes of the 17th Session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT).

As we know, technology and innovation are the key enablers to support and accelerate achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). APCTT plays key role in advancing science, technology and innovation for achieving sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 17th Session was held in hybrid mode on 1st and 2nd December 2021 and hosted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of India. It was attended by all the 11 member States of the Governing Council as well as by observer countries and organizations. The session was preceded by the 'International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies for Sustainable Development' that brought together very eminent experts from the field and around 200 participants from across the region.

With reference to the substantive work of the Centre, the Governing Council expressed utmost satisfaction and appreciation to the excellent results and outcomes achieved by the Centre during December 2020 to November 2021 period.

Despite continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre successfully delivered and contributed to 6 **demand-driven capacity building** events in different thematic areas including fourth industrial revolution technologies for sustainable development with focus on healthcare and climate change, research commercialization and technology transfer, technologies to fight COVID-19 pandemic, and inclusive technologies and innovations. Undertaken in collaboration with 52 partner institutions, the

Centre's capacity building activities enhanced knowledge and skills of more than 500 policymakers and participants from 24 member States of the region.

The Centre strengthened **regional technology cooperation through technology facilitation consultation** which brought together 8 member States to address the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic. The consultation meeting was timely and addressed the immediate needs of member States at a critical juncture. The Centre also enhanced capacity of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal to harness inclusive technologies through **Country needs assessments** and **Roadmap for technology database development**.

The Centre facilitated **improved access to knowledge on technologies and innovations** through **Online periodical** Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor, **Guide for policymakers** on Intellectual Property Management & Technology Licensing, and **Theme papers** on Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies with focus on Sustainable development, Healthcare, and Climate change mitigation. These knowledge products have a wide reach among stakeholders in the member countries.

As a decision, the Council requested APCTT to continue its useful work by providing demand-driven policy advice, analytical and capacity-building support to strengthen national innovation systems, technology innovations and transfer, and regional technology cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Council adopted the proposed programme of work of the Centre for 2022 and requested the Centre **to include the concrete proposals on the areas of cooperation** presented by the member States and observers.

In this regard, the Council also recommended the Centre to **develop a strategic plan** and redesign the work programme to bring it into alignment with the current priorities and needs of the member States for consideration by the Council at its eighteenth session.

The Council requested the Centre to continue **establishing and strengthening partnerships with stakeholders** including international agencies and technology networks to support technology development, transfer and adoption in the region.

With reference to the review of the administrative and financial status of the Centre, the Council invited member States to help strengthening the substantive programmes and activities of the Centre through financial contributions, in-kind support, providing national experts, and development of new joint technical cooperation projects.

The Governing Council stands committed to support APCTT in delivering on the needs of member States to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, address climate change and Building Back Better from the pandemic. We assure that APCTT's programmes and activities would contribute to the overall work programme of ESCAP in strengthening the capacity of member States and cooperation in the region.

Your support and encouragement are invaluable to our efforts.

Thank you.