MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AND

THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AND

THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (each a “Participant”) reaffirm their desire to work together on the areas of science, technology and innovation (STI) through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

2. IsDB is an international Islamic financial institution. The purpose of IsDB is to foster the economic development and social progress of member countries.

3. ESCAP serves as the United Nations’ regional hub for Asia and the Pacific promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

II. PURPOSE OF ESCAP-ISDB COOPERATION

4. As both ESCAP and IsDB have established programmes to promote STI as a means to foster inclusive and sustainable development, ESCAP and IsDB plan to work together to support our respective Member States to:

   (a) Promote STI as a key means of implementation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

   (b) Design, develop and implement effective STI policies, strategies, and programmes in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development.

   (c) Facilitate multi-stakeholder knowledge-sharing and collaboration with actors and organizations in the innovation ecosystem.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESCAP-ISDB COOPERATION

5. ESCAP and IsDB will be guided by the following general principles:

   a. Sharing information on strategic and operational priorities for collaborative activities, and
b. Utilizing comparative strengths and complementary roles of each organization in identifying and developing collaborative activities in the areas of cooperation.

IV. FOCUS OF ESCAP-IsDB JOINT ACTIVITIES

6. The priority areas for joint activities would include those listed below, which may be amended. Collaborative activities may include as follows:

(a) Research, analysis and papers to promote STI as a key means of implementation for the achievement of the SDGs.

(b) The formation of a network of scientists, technologists, innovators and entrepreneurs to foster greater knowledge-sharing and collaboration between innovation ecosystems.

(c) Co-development of relevant training materials on areas such as entrepreneurship and intellectual property protection amongst others.

(d) Undertake workshops, seminars and events to support increased capacity of actors and organizations in the innovation ecosystem; and

(e) Play an advisory role on the respective STI work programmes of ESCAP and IsDB.

7. All activities will be subject to the availability of funds. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no fund exchange between the Participants under this MoU. Any fund exchange will be subject to a separate written agreement.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

8. ESCAP and IsDB recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They have decided to make appropriate arrangements to share relevant information for the purposes of this MoU. This will include:

(a) Providing copies of publications relevant to this MoU;

(b) Giving notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
   - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored, that relate to the purpose of this MoU;
   - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents that relate to the purpose of this MoU;
   - programme and project approval documents; and
   - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations that relate to the purpose of this MoU.
VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

9. ESCAP and IsDB recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of furthering the objectives of this MoU. They have decided that:

(a) where appropriate, reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend the related meetings and other important consultative fora that have a bearing on the envisaged cooperation; and

(b) where appropriate, invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

10. ESCAP and IsDB recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THIS MOU

11. ESCAP and IsDB agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:

(a) for ESCAP: Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division

(b) for IsDB: Science, Technology and Innovation Adviser

IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

12. ESCAP and IsDB will prepare and review annually:

(a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;

(b) a list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next year; and

(c) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for subsequent years.

X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

13. ESCAP and IsDB recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They have decided that:
(a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation;

(b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage; and

(c) neither Participant will acquire any rights to the intellectual property of the other Participant under this MoU.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

14. The term of this MoU will be from the date of signature by both Participants until 28 February 2023.

15. This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Participants.

16. This MoU may be terminated by either Participant on six months' notice in writing.

17. The Participants wish to emphasize that nothing in this MoU is intended to create legally binding obligations between the Participants. The Participants will use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to this MOU or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof.

18. Nothing in this MoU shall be deemed a waiver of the IsDB or the United Nations Privileges and Immunities.

For the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Shamshad Akhtar
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Date:
Place:

For the Islamic Development Bank

Bandar M. H. Hajjar
President
Islamic Development Bank Group

Date:
Place: