

ECOSOC Resolution 2005/40

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the particularly rapid development in information and communications technology and its applications, and their implications for economic and social development, which have posed unprecedented challenges for developing countries in need of efficient, informed and timely access to information, information services, tools, best practices and other information and communications technology-related resources,

Expressing grave concern about the prevailing digital divide between countries and within countries and communities and its implications for development and the persistence of poverty,

Acknowledging the importance of information and communications technology for development and for building inclusive knowledge societies, as well as the role of the United Nations in promoting regional cooperation through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action,¹ adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society on 12 December 2003 during its first phase, which called for capacity-building with an emphasis on creating a critical mass of qualified and skilled information and communications technology professionals and experts, the promotion of regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

Recalling also the Tokyo Declaration adopted on 15 January 2003 by Governments of the Asian and Pacific region as the region's input to the World Summit, which identified information and communications technology development, capacity-building and fostering of partnerships as priority areas for action in advancing the region's information society,

Recalling further Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in information and communications technology for development as well as General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration and resolved, inter alia, to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technology,

¹ See A/C.2/59/3.

were available to all, and resolution 57/144 of 16 December 2002 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/295 of 20 December 2002 on information and communications technology for development and resolution 56/189 of 21 December 2001 on human resources development, in which the Assembly made several references to information technologies,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling its resolution 2002/2 of 19 July 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the establishment of a subcommittee on information, communications and space technology,

Noting with satisfaction the outstanding success achieved by a number of countries in the region in the long-term development of their information and communications technology sectors and in harnessing new technologies for their national development,

Noting also with satisfaction the work of such international organizations as the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Acknowledging, in particular, the important work of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in facilitating capacity-building in the field of information and communications technology based on demand by its member States,

Recognizing the advantages of regional resource centres on information and communications technology development issues in Asia and the Pacific that may optimize the sharing of expertise on information and communications technology in the region and further improve the effectiveness of regional capacity-building activities and the sharing of tools and processes,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its offer to host the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and to bear its institutional and operational costs,

Cognizant of the need to avoid any possible duplication between the work of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre and the human resources development work of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and other concerned international organizations,

1. *Decides* to establish the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, which will contribute to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific programme of work in the area of training in information and communications technology as decided by the Commission in its resolution 61/6;

2. *Approves* the statute of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the field concerned, to provide support to the Training Centre and cooperate in the implementation of its work programme;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to establish mechanisms for close coordination between the Training Centre and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in its human resources development work programme, and to avoid possible duplication with the Telecommunity in the formulation of the Centre's workplans;

6. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in monitoring and evaluating the work of the Training Centre in order to ensure that its activities do not duplicate those of other institutions and agencies in the region;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report annually to the Commission on the progress made by the Training Centre in: (a) capacity-building to bridge the digital divide; (b) creating a sustainable institutional framework for the training of trainers in the field of information and communications technology; and (c) enhancing regional cooperation in human resources development in that field;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report in 2008 on the performance of the Training Centre, in particular regarding the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other relevant international organizations, which would serve as the basis for a midterm review by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, in 2008;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a comprehensive report on the work of the Training Centre based on the findings of the midterm review, including an assessment of its financial sustainability and the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other concerned international organizations, which would serve as the basis for a comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in 2010;

10. *Decides* to assess the performance of the Training Centre, on the basis of the findings of the comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, and to determine whether to proceed with its operation thereafter.

*39th plenary meeting
26 July 2005*

Annex

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

Establishment

1. An Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (hereinafter referred to as “APCICT”) is established, with a membership identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “ESCAP” or “the Commission”).
2. APCICT shall have the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objective

3. The objective of APCICT is to build the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP through training programmes in the use of information and communication technology (ICT) for the purposes of socio-economic development.

Functions

4. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 3, APCICT shall have such functions as:
 - (a) Enhancing knowledge and skills in ICT for policymakers and ICT professionals;
 - (b) Enhancing the capacity of ICT trainers and ICT training institutions by providing for training-of-trainers programmes and exchanges of trainers and experts;
 - (c) Providing advisory services on human resources development programmes to members and associate members;
 - (d) Undertaking analytical studies related to human resources development in ICT, including identifying training needs and sharing best practices on human resources development programmes and training methods.

Status and organization

5. APCICT shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director and staff.
6. APCICT shall be located in the Republic of Korea.
7. The activities of APCICT shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. APCICT shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

8. APCICT shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative nominated by the Government of the Republic of Korea and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP

elected by the Commission. The Council shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council. An interim Council shall be elected by ESCAP and constituted upon the adoption of the present statute. The Council shall be reconfirmed at the sixty-second session of the Commission.

9. The Director of APCICT shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

10. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

11. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

12. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

13. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

14. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

15. The Council shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the work programme. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of APCICT and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

16. APCICT shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

17. The Director shall be appointed for one year and be eligible for reappointment. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of APCICT and the implementation of its programme of work.

Resources of the Centre

18. The operation of APCICT shall not involve additional regular budget resources of ESCAP. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution, on a voluntary basis, to the operations of APCICT. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

19. APCICT will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

20. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of APCICT.

21. The financial resources of APCICT shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

22. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

23. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 11 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

24. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.