



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AND
THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest in the service of developing countries of common membership through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

II. PURPOSE OF ESCAP-AIT COOPERATION

2. As both ESCAP and AIT have desire to build and strengthen cooperation, ESCAP and AIT plan to work together:

- (a) to assist countries of Asia and the Pacific “build forward better” from the COVID-19 pandemic especially in the context of decarbonizing their economies by 2050; and
- (b) to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region with a focus on climate change.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESCAP-AIT COOPERATION

3. ESCAP and AIT will be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) ESCAP and AIT will focus on shared strategic and operational priorities within their mandates and resources; and

- (b) ESCAP and AIT will use the comparative advantages and strengths of each entity in the delivery of results.
4. ESCAP and AIT jointly plan to:
- (a) undertake research and analysis, and organize policy dialogues, workshops and trainings, to be specified through separate arrangements;
 - (b) design and implement capacity building initiatives, to be specified through separate arrangements;
 - (c) share knowledge, best practices, lessons learned and evaluations on areas of mutual interest; and
 - (d) explore developing internship, fellowship or other programmes for AIT students and faculty, to be specified through separate arrangements.

IV. FOCUS OF ESCAP-AIT JOINT ACTIVITIES

5. The priority areas for joint activities would include those listed in the Appendix to this MoU, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the Parties.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

6. ESCAP and AIT recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:
- (a) provide copies of every publication and all public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and
 - (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - programme and project approval documents; and
 - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

7. ESCAP and AIT recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. They agree that:

- (c) reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend the annual meetings of AIT and the ESCAP annual sessions; and
- (d) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this MoU will be sent, where appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

8. ESCAP and AIT 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 three years.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

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

- (a) for ESCAP: Director, Strategy and Programme Management Division (SPMD)
- (b) for AIT: Director, Office of International Affairs (OIA)

IX. MONITORING OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

10. ESCAP and AIT agree that:

- (a) the Parties will prepare a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation and planned cooperation activities;
- (b) the Parties will conduct a joint review of the ESCAP-AIT cooperation three years after signature of this MoU, in consultation with the evaluation offices of the respective organizations; and
- (c) these assessments will be reviewed by ESCAP and AIT in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MoU.

X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

11. ESCAP and AIT recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree 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; and
- (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.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

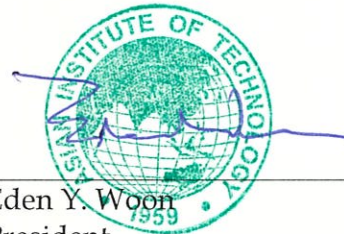
- 12. The term of this MoU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2025.
- 13. Any specific activities under this MoU will be covered by a project document or written agreement.
- 14. This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
- 15. This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months' notice in writing.

Signed in two original copies in English on 7 April 2021 in Bangkok, Thailand.

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

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Under-Secretary-General of the United
Nations and Executive Secretary of
ESCAP

For the Asian Institute of Technology



Eden Y. Woon
President
Asian Institute of Technology

APPENDIX**PRIORITY AREAS FOR ESCAP-AIT COOPERATION**

1. Disaster risk reduction, preparedness, mitigation and management;
2. Space applications for sustainable development;
3. Data and statistics, particularly application of new data analytic tools, methods and resources, including, but not limited to, advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, civil registration and vital statistics, and oceans statistics;
4. Transport and climate change including energy efficiency in transport;
5. Energy, including on (i) sustainable energy transitions, including in the areas of power system planning, regulation, modeling, and off-grid access (fourth industrial revolution and frontier technologies for power systems integration and renewable distributed energy resources); and (ii) implementation of SDG 7 in Asia and the Pacific;
6. Natural resources for sustainable development; and
7. Policy analysis to enhance fiscal space for building forward better economies.
