ESCAP-initiated organizations, regional institutes, agreements and frameworks

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP-initiated organizations, regional institutes, agreements and frameworks

The following list provides brief summaries on the establishment of key organizations, agreements and frameworks that ESCAP has initiated or endorsed throughout its history supporting economic and social development across Asia and the Pacific.

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Organizations (currently active)

Asian Clearing Union (ACU)

Currently, the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) is a payment arrangement whereby participants settle payments for intraregional transactions among participating central banks on a multilateral basis. The settlement difficulties was recognized among the countries of the Asia and Pacific region in 1948, when the Commission adopted resolution 47 (IV) on the Desirability of Establishing a Regional Multilateral Clearing System, requesting the International Monetary Fund to investigate whether and to what extent the regional multilateral clearing system could remove any financial or payment impediments to trade within the region.[1]

The Decision to establish the ACU was finally taken at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation held in December 1970 in Kabul, where the Council of Ministers adopted the Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic Co-operation and Development. This Declaration established a preparatory committee to examine guidelines and negotiate an agreement for the establishment of an Asian clearing union.[2]

The agreement establishing the ACU[3] was finalized at a meeting of senior Government and central bank officials at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok in December 1974. Its operations started a year later, in November 1975.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The idea to establish the Asian Development Bank (ADB) came about in December 1963, when the then-ECAFE (now ESCAP) Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation, held in Manila, adopted a resolution outlining the Programme of Regional Economic Cooperation, which made reference to the establishment of such a bank[4].

An Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Asian Development Bank was convened in October 1964. The group submitted its report to the Commission during the 21st session in 1965, recommending the establishment of ADB as an autonomous institution. The Commission adopted resolution 62 (XXI), calling upon member States to consider the establishment of the Asian Development Bank[5]. In 1966, during its 22nd session, the

[1] E/CN.11/RES/47 (IV).
[2] E/CN.11/987, Paragraph 6 on Page 1.
[3] ACU - Agreement.
[4] E/CN.11/641.
[5] E/CN.11/RES/62 (XXI).

Commission adopted resolution 65 (XXII), urging the member States to sign an agreement establishing the ADB[6].

In November 1966, the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank was held in Tokyo, and the Bank's first President was elected. Currently, ADB has 69 members, of which 49 are from Asia and the Pacific.

Asian Reinsurance Corporation (Asian Re)

The need to strengthen national insurance and reinsurance markets to assist trade expansion was noted in 1969 during the Committee on Trade of then-ECAFE (now ESCAP), leading to UNCTAD resolution 42 (III)[7] on insurance and reinsurance, adopted at the 3rd session of UNCTAD, in 1972.

An agreement establishing the Asian Reinsurance Corporation as an intergovernmental organization was finalized at a round table meeting organized by UNCTAD/ECAFE in December 1976. The agreement was ready for signature at the 33rd session of the ESCAP Commission in April 1977[8] and entered into force on May 24, 1979.

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) works to expand telecommunication services and networks throughout the region by facilitating regional cooperation, conducting research and supporting technological infrastructure. Its establishment was a product of cooperation between ESCAP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The need to establish a regional telecommunication network was first recognized at ESCAP in the early 1970s. In 1972, during its 28th session, the Commission adopted resolution 126 (XXVIII) on the Asian Telecommunication Network (ATN)[9]. This was followed by resolution 163 (XXXII)[10] in 1976, on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. The Commission also endorsed the report of the Intergovernmental Working Party of Experts to Finalize the Constitution of the Asia-Pacific

[6] E/CN.11/RES/65 (XXII).
[7] Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session, Santiago de Chile, 13 April to 21 May 1972, Volume I: Report and Annexes, Page 57.
[8] E/ESCAP/19 and E/ESCAP/19/Corr.1.
[9] E/CN.11/RES/126 (XXVIII).
[10] E/CN.11/RES/163 (XXXII).

Telecommunity[11]. APT was finally established as an intergovernmental organization in 1979.

Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC)

The Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) provides statistics and other information on the natural rubber industry to its 13 member countries, aiming to improve the productivity of rubber holdings, capitalize on eco-friendly solutions and improve the well-being of rubber farmers.

Its origins date back to 1968, when instabilities and low prices for commodities spurred then-ECAFE (now ESCAP), the International Rubber Study Group and Asian rubber-producing countries, to consider forming an Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC), similar to other commodity communities such as the Asian Coconut Community. ECAFE carried out the International Rubber Study, focusing on natural rubber production, to support the work of such an association.

In April 1970, ANRPC was inaugurated by the leading rubber-producing countries in Kuala Lumpur. ANRPC and ECAFE established a working relationship and organized meetings of the expert group on rubber in 1972[12] and 1973[13].

CITYNET

Established in 1987, CITYNET is the largest association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region, connecting actors, exchanging knowledge and building commitment to establish more sustainable and resilient cities. The discussion on human settlements started at ESCAP as early as 1972, when the issue was included in the programme of work under the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources.

In 1982, during its 37th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 37/221[14]proclaiming 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. In June of that year, the 1st Regional Congress of Local Authorities for the Development of Human Settlements in the Asia-Pacific region was held in Yokohama, Japan, making several important recommendations on urban issues. In July 1987, the 2nd Congress of Local Authorities for the Development of Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific was held in Nagoya, Japan.

[11] E/CN.11/L.441/INF.
[12] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.329.
[13] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.391.
[14] A/RES/37/221.

The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements was officially established in 1987 with the support of ESCAP, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, the City of Nagoya and 26 members. During the 46th session, in 1990, the ESCAP Commission started referring to this network as CITYNET.

In November 1989, at the 1st General Meeting of the Network in Shanghai, the CITYNET Charter was adopted. ESCAP undertook the functions of the Secretariat until the official CITYNET Secretariat was established in February 1992, in Yokohama, Japan. It became known as the CITYNET Yokohama Project Office. In September 1995, CITYNET was granted Consultative Status of the United Nations by ECOSOC, and in 2013, the CITYNET Secretariat relocated to Seoul, Republic of Korea. Currently, CITYNET has 154 members.

Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP)

With 16 member countries, 14 cooperating countries and 19 cooperating organizations throughout the world, the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) deals with geoscientific issues through international partnership. Surveying the commercial possibilities of mineral deposits became part of the work of then-ECAFE (now ESCAP) in 1948, as recommended by the Working Party on Industrial Development.[15]

In 1965, during its 21st session, the Commission adopted resolution 59 (XXI), requesting "the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development to give increasing attention to the full and rational utilization of mineral resources available in countries of the region." In addition, a report by the Meeting of the Representatives of Governments on Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas through Joint and Co-operative Efforts recommended the establishment of a Coordinating Committee on Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP)[16]. In December the same year, the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation adopted a resolution urging member countries to act on this recommendation.[17]

The Governments of China, Japan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea agreed to join the CCOP.[18] During the 22nd session of the ESCAP Commission, the Government of the Philippines offered to host the 1st meeting of the CCOP in Manila, in May-June 1966.

In 1987, 20 years after its establishment, the UNDP financial support for CCOP ended. The Memorandum of Understanding to confer on CCOP the status of an

[15] See Page 43 of E/CN.11/190
[16] See Paragraph 38 on Page 12 of E/CN.11/739/REV.1.
[17] See Paragraph 69 on Page 21 of E/CN.11/739/REV.1.
[18] *Ibid*.

Intergovernmental Organization was signed by China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand on 25 March 1987.

Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division under the Pacific Community (SPC)

In April 1971, during the 27th session of the ESCAP Commission, a proposal was made for a Coordinating Committee on Prospecting for Mineral Resources for the South Pacific Ocean Area (CCOP/SOPAC).[19] In July that year, the Preparatory Meeting for Establishing a Coordinating Body for Offshore Prospecting in Countries of the South Pacific Region was held in Manila to draft the terms of reference for the proposed new body.[20]

In November 1972, CCOP/SOPAC was established, and its first session was held in Suva, Fiji, from 7-13 November 1972.[21] Its members comprised the then-British Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Western Samoa. A Technical Advisory Group of experts from Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and then-ECAFE (now ESCAP) was set up to formulate its work programme. From the onset, 21 projects for offshore prospecting were initiated, with the cooperation of Australia, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.[22]

In 1974, a small technical secretariat for CCOP/SOPAC was established in Suva, with one marine geologist provided by UNDP. The administrative support by ESCAP was continued.[23]

In 1984, CCOP/SOPAC was reconstituted as an intergovernmental organization and ceased to be an ESCAP subsidiary.[24] It was reestablished as South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in 1990. In addition to marine mapping and geosciences, its scope was broadened to include hazard assessment, risk management, environmental vulnerability, oceanography, energy, water and sanitation, and information and communication technologies. ESCAP continued to provide administrative and technical support.

In 2001, ESCAP ceased supporting SOPAC, and in 2010, it transitioned into the Geoscience Division under the Pacific Community (SPC).[25] In 2017, it merged with the

[19] E/CN.11/987, Paragraph 346, Page 36.
[20] E/CN.11/1044, Paragraph 6, Page 2.
[21] E/CN.11/1101, Paragraph 7, Page 2.
[22] E/CN.11/1101, Paragraph 8, Page 2.
[23] E/CN.11/1222, Paragraph 255, Page 26.
[24] E/ESCAP/470, Paragraph 224, Page 29.
[25] See https://gem.spc.int/about/gem-history

Economic Development Division to form the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division.[26]

International Coconut Community (ICC)

Currently, the International Coconut Community (ICC) consists of 21 member countries. Its objectives are to promote, coordinate and harmonize all activities of the coconut industry to achieve maximum socio-economic development. Considering that the production and marketing of coconut and coconut products have been of vital importance to the economies of several countries of the region for long, the Commission in 1962 adopted resolution 40(XVIII).[27] In the resolution, member States took note of the activities of the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products and the FAO Technical Working Party on Coconut Production, Protection and Processing, as well as technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East, and urged interested members to participate actively and take advantage of the technical assistance offered by FAO.

In 1967, the economic importance of the coconut industry and the need for greater efficiency, productivity and less wastage were recognized by then-ECAFE (now ESCAP), and the Commission, during its 23rd session, adopted resolution 76 (XXIII). The ECAFE secretariat subsequently established a Joint Philippine-Indonesian Coconut Commission. While open to other members, the main aims of the Commission were to exchange technical information and prepare for the establishment of a regional coconut institute.

In 1969, ECAFE released the Regional Plan Harmonization and Integration Studies Series No.1: Coconut Industry of Asia, calling for the establishment of an Asian Coconut Community.[28]

In the same year, during its 25th session, the ESCAP Commission "requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to extend to the Asian Coconut Community the status of inter-governmental organization"[29] and adopted resolution 95 (XXV),[30] endorsing fully the formation of the ACC. Following extensive consultations, the ACC was established and held its inaugural meeting from 2-8 September, in Colombo.

In 1971, the ACC was recognized as an intergovernmental organization. Its secretariat was established in Jakarta. UNDP, UNCTAD, FAO, ADB and the ECAFE secretariat continued to provide financial support to the Community. The ACC was renamed as the

[26] *Ibid*.
[27] E/C.11/RES/40 (XVIII).
[28] The Regional Plan Harmonization and Integration Studies Series No.1: Coconut Industry of Asia, Page 2.
[29] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 281, Page 31.
[30] E/CN.11/RES/95 (XXV).

Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) in 1976 and as International Coconut Community (ICC) in 2018.

International Pepper Community (IPC)

The main objectives of the International Pepper Community (IPC) are development and research on technical and economic aspects of the pepper industry. Today, the membership consists of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam as permanent members and Papua New Guinea and the Philippines as associate members.

Pepper was first put firmly on the ESCAP agenda in 1969, when during its 24th session, the Commission suggested to UNCTAD to explore possible approaches to international joint action for improving productivity and developing new uses for commodities of particular interest in developing ECAFE countries, including pepper. In July 1970, the major Asian pepper producing countries held informal talks in Jakarta and reached out to ECAFE. In response, ECAFE held the Intergovernmental Consultations on Regional Cooperation in Pepper in Asia,[31] in February 1971, and discussed the establishment of a Pepper Community, modelled on other commodity communities such as the Asian Coconut Community.

In April 1971, during the 27th session of the Commission, the Governments of India, Indonesia and Malaysia signed the agreement to establish the Pepper Community while the ECAFE secretariat extended its services to the Community. In 1972, an informal consultation was held on 25-30 August 1972, leading to the inauguration of the Pepper Community (PC) under the auspices of ECAFE which also acted as its temporary secretariat. In November 1973, UNIDO proposed the establishment of a pepper processing research and product development centre.[32]

In April 1976, the permanent secretariat of the PC was established in Jakarta, Indonesia. Its focus on the dissemination of technical and economic information intensified and marketing became the central focus for cooperative activities.

The name of the organization was officially changed from “Pepper Community (PC)” to “International Pepper Community (IPC)” following a decision adopted during the 8th Session of the IPC, held from 15–17 September 1980 in Cochin, India. In 1981, Brazil joined the PC as a full member. However, effective January 2017, Brazil voluntarily withdrew its membership from the IPC. In 2002, Sri Lanka joined the PC as a full member, followed by Viet Nam in 2005.

[31] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.297.
[32] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.390.

Mekong River Commission (MRC)

The study of the lower Mekong basin started as early as 1951, when the Commission, at its 7th session, decided to study technical problems in the flood control of international rivers.

In March 1957, at its 13th session, the Commission studied the Report on Activities in the field of flood control and water resources development.[33] The Commission also endorsed the wish of the Governments concerned[34] that the ECAFE Secretariat studies relating to the development of the lower Mekong basin be continued jointly. Later that year, the Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin held its first session in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

In 1977, Cambodia left the organization because of the unstable political climate in the country, resulting in the establishment in 1978 of the Interim Mekong Committee, comprising Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In 1995, the four governments signed the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin[35] (a.k.a. 1995 Mekong Agreement) and the Protocol for the Establishment and Commencement of the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

South-East Asian Iron and Steel Institute (SEASI)

Iron and steel have been focus areas for ECAFE since its establishment. In 1949, the Commission adopted resolution 60 (IV)[36], setting up an expert Sub-Committee, working in association with the secretariat, adequately reinforced with expert consultants.

In 1967, the Asian Industrial Development Council (AIDC) undertook a survey mission on the iron and steel industry in South-East Asia to assess the possibilities for the promotion of inter- and intra-regional cooperation for the development of iron and steel and non-ferrous metal industries. Based on the findings, the AIDC proposed to establish a South-East Asian Iron and Steel Institute.

In 1970, the 26th session of the Commission heard that "a constitution and regulations for the proposed South-East Asia Iron and Steel Institute were finalized by the Meeting of Six (China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) on the South-East

[33] E/CN.11/440 and E/CN.11/440/Corr.1.
[34] E/CN.11/454, Page 37.
[35] Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin .
[36] E/CN.11/RES/60 (IV).

Asia Iron and Steel Industry convened at Bangkok from 3 to 7 November 1969." Additionally, Singapore's offer to provide host facilities was accepted."[37]

SEASI is a technical institute. Its main objective consists of promoting the iron and steel industry in South-East Asia. SEAISI is governed by a Board of Directors with members from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan Province of China, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The secretariat of SEASI was relocated from Singapore to Manila, Philippines and relocated again to Shah Alam, Malaysia.

Typhoon Committee

In 1963, in view of the frequent occurrence of typhoons which inflicted heavy damage on many countries in the region, the Commission recommended that the

Bureau of Flood Control, in cooperation with World Meteorological Organization (WMO), investigate practical means of initiating a joint programme and might include in its programme of work a synthesis of studies on typhoons in the region. Consultation between ECAFE and leading experts on tropical cyclones or typhoons was initiated in 1964 to discover ways and means of reducing typhoon intensity and diminishing the extent of damage.

The 1st Working Group Meeting of Experts on Typhoons was held jointly with WMO and ECOSOC Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (BTAO) in Manila, in December 1965. It was at the 2nd Working Group, held in Bangkok by ECAFE, WMO and OTC in October 1967 which recommended that a Typhoon Committee, with a Regional Typhoon Centre as its executive arm, be established under the auspices of ECAFE in co-operation with WMO, to be composed of representatives of Governments in the ECAFE region affected by typhoons.[38]

An Ad Hoc Meeting on the Statute of the Typhoon Committee was held from 29 February-2 March, 1968.[39] In 1968, during its 24th session, the Commission endorsed the recommendation to establish the Typhoon Committee and adopted the statute of the Typhoon Committee.[40] Later in 1973, the Statute was amended[41].

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[37] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 103, Page 9.
[38] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.189.
[39] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.209.
[40] E/CN.11/L.206, Annex.
[41] Statute of the Typhoon Committee, as amended in 1973.

Currently, the Typhoon Committee is composed of the following members: Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; the Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; the United States of America and Viet Nam.

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC)

In October 1970, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ECAFE Meeting of Experts on Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea identified the meteorological, hydrological and telecommunication facilities required to mitigate flood damages caused by tropical cyclones and recommended the establishment of a WMO/ECAFE Panel of Experts on Tropical Cyclones.[42]

Two weeks later, the Bhola cyclone caused the death of approximately 400,000 people in Pakistan, leading to the recognition of the urgency of a subregional body to concentrate on the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Therefore, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2733 (XXV),[43] the WMO/ECAFE Panel of Experts on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) was constituted and held a meeting in October 1971.

In 1972, the WMO/ECAFE Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) was officially established, with its initial member states of Burma, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Furthermore, the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS) cooperated with the Panel. Its first official session was held in December 1973. In 1974, the government of the Netherlands approved providing funding to the WMO/ECAFE PTC, enabling the establishment of a Technical Support Unit in New Delhi in 1975. The government of India provided the host facilities. Starting in 1994, as the Panel began to increase its cooperation with ESCAP, the first joint session between the Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP PTC was held. In 1996, the representative of the PTC requested that the PTC become part of the ESCAP conference structure with a status like that of the Typhoon Committee. At the 54th session of the Commission in 1997, the WMO/ESCAP PTC reported for the first time to the Commission. In 1999, ESCAP and WMO established the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund for the Panel's Activities.

In 2014, during its 70th session, the Commission adopted resolution 70/13, welcoming greater collaboration between the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in order to reduce disaster risk, particularly for countries with special needs.[44] In April 2019, the report of an evaluation of the ESCAP-

[42] E/CN.11/987, Paragraph 62-63, Page 6.
[43] A/RES/2733 (XXV).
[44] E/ESCAP/RES/70/13.

WMO Partnership for Strengthening Regional Platforms on Tropical Cyclones was issued.[45]

[45] For the report of the meeting, see Report on Evaluation of ESCAP-WMO Partnership for Strengthening Regional Platform on Tropical Cyclones.

ESCAP Regional Institutes

Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM)

A discussion on strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning started at ESCAP as early as in 2007, during its 63rd session. At this session, the Commission adopted resolution 63/10[46] requesting the Executive Secretary to commission an independent feasibility study on the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning and to assess the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the following years, the Commission also adopted resolutions 64/10,[47] 65/5[48] and 66/8[49] on the Review of the Operational Details of the Feasibility Study for the Establishment of an Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communications and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management. In 2011, during its 67th session the Commission adopted resolution 67/4[50], expressing its decision to initiate the process for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (the Centre) in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The discussion continued through the 71st session, in 2015, when the Commission finally adopted Resolution 71/11[51] to establish the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) in Tehran.

Currently, APDIM serves as an information and knowledge repository to support Governments and other stakeholders in the region in building their capacities and facilitating regional cooperation on transboundary hazards in Asia and the Pacific. As an information and knowledge repository, APDIM consolidates and shares disaster risk data, information, and knowledge for Asia and the Pacific region. Also, APDIM connects with other UN entities, ESCAP Divisions and its regional institutions as well as other stakeholders to facilitate the sharing of services, exchanging and building of technical and institutional capacities. Additionally, it produces guidelines, analytics and risk information management products working closely with its partners.

[46] E/ESCAP/RES/63/10.
[47] E/ESCAP/RES/64/10.
[48] E/ESCAP/RES/65/5.
[49] E/ESCAP/RES/66/8.
[50] E/ESCAP/RES/67/4.
[51] E/ESCAP/RES/71/11.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)

The discussion on the need to establish the regional centre for transfer of technology started at ESCAP in the early 1970s. In 1974, during its 30th session, the Commission "agreed that there was a need for such a centre to serve as a clearinghouse for information and to examine problems relating to choice of technology for industries with small markets, for which only limited capital was available, and to the utilization of untapped manpower and natural resources."[52]

In 1975, during its 31st session, the Commission adopted resolution 159 (XXXI)[53] "requesting the Executive Secretary to appoint a group of regional experts to make a feasibility study of the proposal to establish a centre for regional transfer in India, and to prepare a comprehensive project report for consideration by the Committee on Industry, Housing, and Technology". In 1976, during its 32nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 164 (XXXII)[54] requesting the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the establishment of the centre.

On 16 July 1977, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) was inaugurated at Bangalore, India.[55] In 1985, during its 41st session, the Commission adopted resolution 243 (XLI),[56] adopting the APCTT statute. In July 1993, the APCTT moved its headquarters to New Delhi after the basic construction of the new office building was completed.

In 2005, during its 61st session, the Commission adopted resolution 61/4[57] containing the revised statute of APCTT. The statute was revised again in 2016, by resolution 72/3[58]

Currently, APCTT's functions are to research and analyze the trends and opportunities of technology, circulate information, provide advice, and create a network with all partners and stakeholders. These functions help member States improve the capabilities of the national innovative system management and promote technology transfer within Asia and the Pacific region.

[52] E/CN.11/1153, Paragraph 246, Page 23.
[53] E/CN.11/RES/159 (XXXI).
[54] E/CN.11/RES/164 (XXXII).
[55] E/ESCAP/97, Paragraph 7, Page 2.
[56] E/ESCAP/RES/243 (XLI).
[57] E/ESCAP/RES/61/4.
[58] E/ESCAP/RES/72/3.

Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT)

In 2005, during the 61st session, the Commission adopted resolution 61/6[59] to establish the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) as a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

The Centre was established on 16 June 2006, with the aim of training ESCAP member States to use information and communication technology (ICT) for socio-economic improvement. The APCICT's functions are to provide training and workshops to expand ICT knowledge and skills for policy making as well as provide consulting services and training on the improvement of human resource programmes.

In 2010, during its 66th session, in recognizing the strong demand for the services of the Centre expressed by member States, the Commission adopted resolution 66/14,[60] deciding that the Centre should continue to operate beyond 2011 as a subsidiary body of the Commission, based on the Statute of the Centre, to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of members and associate members in the use of information and communications technology to support inclusive and sustainable economic and social development.

Today, APCICT runs three flagship programmes for building ICT capacity within Asia and the Pacific: The Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders (Academy), the Primer Series on ICTD for Youth (Primer Series), and the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI). The aim of these three flagship programmes is to provide essential knowledge and skills of ICT to government, youth and educators.

Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)

In 1972, during its 28th session, the Commission endorsed a proposal by the Asian Industrial Development Council (AIDC) to set up an Asian institute for the development of agricultural machinery and that an expert working group, consisting of representatives of ECAFE, FAO, UNIDO and IRRI, with experts provided by India, Japan and other interested member countries, should be organized to consider the recommendation on the

[59] E/ESCAP/RES/61/6.
[60] E/ESCAP/RES/66/14.

establishment of such institute.[61] In October of the same year, an expert working group was held and determined that the institute's main functions should be the development and commercialization of suitable machines for local and regional conditions and advisory services in farm mechanizations.

In 1974, during its 30th session, the Commission adopted resolution 145 (XXX)[62] endorsing the decision by the Asian Industrial Development Council at its 9th session to establish an Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery and decided to set up the Centre in the Philippines as soon as possible.

Later in 1975, during its 31st session, the Commission adopted resolution 156 (XXXI)[63] urging international organizations and institutions concerned with the development and adaptation of suitable agricultural machinery and all member countries to extend their fullest assistance to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

The work pertaining to the proposed Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery was pursued in accordance with the directives of the Commission. A UNDP/UNIDO/FAO/ESCAP Preparatory Mission was fielded to consult interested governments on technical assistance for the development of agricultural machinery suitable for use and production in Asian countries and to finalize the project document[64].

In April 1977, following completion of the project document, the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) was inaugurated, at Los Baños, Philippines. In 2000, during its 56th session, the Commission approved the broadening of RNAM activities in engineering, especially in post-harvest and food-processing technologies. Therefore, RNAM was renamed to Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (RNAEM).[65] Due to its integration into the UN system, the office of the RNAEM was relocated to Bangkok, Thailand.

In 2002, during its 58th session, the Commission adopted resolution 58/5[66], upgrading RNAEM from a regional network to a centre and renaming it to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM). In 2003, the office was relocated to Beijing, with the government of China providing instrumental financial resources. The main objectives of the Centre are to enhance technical cooperation among the members of ESCAP through the exchange of information and sharing of commercially successful machinery and technology, and to promote research and development and extension of agricultural engineering, including machinery and rural industry for poverty reduction in the region.

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[61] E/CN.11/1044, Paragraph 14, Page 2.
[62] E/CN.11/RES/145 (XXX).
[63] E/CN.11/RES/156 (XXXI).
[64] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/1242/INF.
[65] E/ESCAP/1197, Paragraph 143, Page 19.
[66] E/ESCAP/RES/58/5.

In 2005, during its 61st session, the Commission adopted resolution 61/3,[67] renaming the APCAEM to the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM). Further, UNAPCAEM became a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

In 2012, during its 69th session, the Commission adopted resolution 69/5[68], renaming UNAPCAEM to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) and adopted the statute of the CSAM. The statute was revised and adopted again in 2016, during the 72nd session, by resolution 72/2.[69]

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)

The discussion on establishing a regional institute to train local statisticians in the region started as early as 1966, during the 22nd session of the Commission, when the Expert Group on Education and Training of Statisticians in the ECAFE Region reported to the Commission the region's shortage of statisticians and the need to train them at the professional level[70].

In the same year, the Commission adopted resolution 64 (XXII)[71], requesting the Executive Secretary to examine existing facilities in the statistical field in the ECAFE region and to take appropriate steps with a view to establishing an Asian Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, as soon as possible. In 1967, during its 23rd session, the Commission adopted resolution 75 (XXIII)[72] requesting the Executive Secretary and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide assistance for establishing the institute.

In 1970, during its 26th session, the progress report on the establishment of the Institute[73] was submitted to the Commission reporting that the institute would be established in Tokyo. The Commission also welcomed the announcement by the Project Manager/Director of the Asian Statistical Institute that the Institute would be inaugurated on 3 June 1970.[74] In 1977, during its 33rd session, the Commission adopted resolution 175 (XXXIII)[75] renaming the Institute to Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

In 1994, during its 50th session, the Commission adopted resolution 50/5,[76] with the revised statute of the Institute. The statute was revised again in 1995 and 2005 by

[67] E/ESCAP/RES/61/3.
[68] E/ESCAP/RES/69/5.
[69] E/ESCAP/RES/72/2.
[70] E/CN.11/739/REV.1, Paragraphs 166 – 169, Pages 49 – 50.
[71] E/CN.11/RES/64 (XXII).
[72] E/CN.11/RES/75 (XXIII).
[73] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.251.
[74] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 433, Page 46.
[75] E/CN.11/RES/175 (XXXIII).
[76] E/ESCAP/RES/50/5.

resolutions 51/1[77] and 61/2[78], respectively. In 1995, the Institute officially became a subsidiary body of ESCAP. Its main function is to train statisticians to produce timely and high-quality reports by offering a broad spectrum of training courses from general statistics to the application of information and technology to produce reliable statistics. In 1999, SIAP was relocated to Chiba, Japan.

Today, the institute's training methods largely revolve around monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[77] E/ESCAP/RES/51/1.
[78] E/ESCAP/RES/61/2.

Regional Agreements and Frameworks

Asian Highway Network (AH Network, Great Asian Highway)

An attempt to establish a network to improve Asian countries' connectivity via highway systems started as early as 1959, when the Commission, at its 15th session, approved and endorsed recommendations of the Highway Sub-Committee, under the Division of Inland Transport and Communication to develop international highways within the ECAFE region.[79]

In 1961, during its 33rd session, the Commission adopted resolution 30 (XVII),[80] requesting the Executive Secretary to take concerted action and harmonize policies aimed at implementing the Working Groups of Experts on International Highways recommendations and at mobilizing financial and technical resources for the completion of the international highway system. In the following years, the Commission also adopted resolutions 39 (XVIII)[81] and 69 (XXII),[82] in 1962 and 1966, respectively, requesting the Executive Secretary to continue working towards completing the international highway system.

In 1973, during its 29th session, the Commission adopted resolution 133 (XXIX),[83] calling upon UNDP, the cooperating countries, and aid-giving agencies to give their fullest support to ensure that the implementation of Asian Highway project will produce the desired-far reaching and salutary results.

The formalization of the Network began in 2002, resulting in the development of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network. In 2003, the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, held in Bangkok on 17 and 18 November 2003, adopted an Intergovernmental Agreement, which entered into force on 4 July 2005.

In 2004, during its 60th session, the Commission adopted resolution 60/4,[84] inviting all the relevant members of ESCAP to become parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network to ensure the Agreement's speedy entry into force.

The Asian Highway Network (AH) now comprises over 145,000 km of roads passing through 32 countries. It is part of the overall goal of ESCAP to see the development of an international, integrated, intermodal transport and logistics system for the region, with

[79] E/CN.11/506, Paragraph 307, Page 32.
[80] E/CN.11/RES/33 (XVII).
[81] E/CN.11/RES/39 (XVIII).
[82] E/CN.11/RES/69 (XXII).
[83] E/CN.11/RES/133 (XXIX).
[84] E/ESCAP/RES/60/4.

the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and dry ports of international significance as major components. The Asian Highway Network is currently administered by the ESCAP Transport Division.

Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS)

The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative has evolved through a series of resolutions, meetings, and strategic frameworks aimed at enhancing information and communications technology (ICT) connectivity in the region.

The initiative began in 2015, during the 71st session, when the Commission adopted resolution 71/10[85] to strengthen regional ICT connectivity. In September 2015, the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group on the AP-IS furthered this goal. Significant progress was made later in 2016, during the 72nd session, when the Commission adopted a decision 72/15,[86] acknowledging the Secretariat's note on the AP-IS, emphasizing inclusive and seamless connectivity, and resolution 72/10,[87] requesting a regional review of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines, underscoring the importance of continuous evaluation and adaptation.

In 2017, during the 73rd session, the Commission adopted resolution 73/6,[88] marking a pivotal moment in the initiative, calling for the implementation of the AP-IS through regional cooperation. This Resolution highlighted the crucial role of ICT in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, reducing the digital divide and enhancing regional connectivity. It emphasized the necessity of broad-based partnerships, including North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation, for the effective implementation of the AP-IS Master Plan and the Regional Cooperation Framework document.

Members were invited to cooperate in implementing these strategic goals, and the Executive Secretary was requested to prioritize their implementation. This included involving various stakeholders such as UN bodies, regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, research institutes and think tanks. Additionally, ongoing research, capacity development and regular progress reports were deemed essential to address challenges and maximize opportunities.

Currently, the APIS platform is governed by the APIS Steering Committee, its highest decision-making body, led by the Bureau of APIS Steering Committee, including three Working Groups that implement the APIS Action Plan 2022-2026.

[85] E/ESCAP/RES/71/10.
[86] E/ESCAP/72/33, Page 35.
[87] E/ESCAP/RES/72/10.
[88] E/ESCAP/RES/73/6.

Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT)

In 2004, during its 60th session, the Commission expressed its support for the Secretariat's initiative in establishing the Asia-Pacific Trade Research Network (ARTNet).[89] Later in 2005, during its 61st session, it welcomed the establishment of ARTNet and recommended that it be developed further as a useful vehicle for enhancing policy-related decision-making and promoting regional cooperation in trade research analysis and information-sharing.[90]

Currently, ARTNeT is an open network of research and academic institutions strongly interested in trade and investment policy and facilitation issues, with support from several international donors and national development agencies. Its members are national-level research and academic institutions involved in trade research and located in ESCAP member countries.

ESCAP's Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division acts as its secretariat. Key ARTNeT features include a region-wide network, training and workshops, reports and policy briefs, an information repository, and a trade indicators portal.

Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

In recognizing the great significance of international trade in economic and social development, the Secretariat initiative on the topic led to the signing of the First Agreement on Trade Negotiations Among the Developing Countries of ESCAP[91] (also known as the Bangkok Agreement) by seven ESCAP developing countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Laos, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand, on 31 July 1975.

The Agreement is the oldest preferential trade arrangement among developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. Its objective is to promote the economic development of its members through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures that contribute to regional trade expansion and economic cooperation.

At the 1st session of the Ministerial Council of the Bangkok Agreement in Beijing on 2 November 2005, representatives from the member countries endorsed the revised text of

[89] See E/ESCAP/1330, Paragraph 164, Page 17.
[90] See E/ESCAP/1359, Paragraph 141, Page 14.
[91] The First Agreement on Trade Negotiations among Developing Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok Agreement)

the Agreement[92] and renamed the Agreement the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). The agreement was amended again in 2017.[93]

The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement is administered by a Standing Committee made up of all the participating states. The ESCAP Trade and Investment Division functions as its Secretariat. The current members of APTA are Bangladesh, China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. All ESCAP members that are developing countries are eligible to accede to the Agreement.

ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness

After an unprecedented tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean and parts of South-East Asia in December 2004, the General Assembly, in 2005, during its 59th session, adopted resolution 59/279[94] on Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. Later in the same year, the ESCAP Voluntary Tsunami Trust Fund was established to support tsunami early warning through a multi-hazard approach, through an initial contribution of 10 million United States dollars (US$) from the Government of Thailand and a subsequent contribution of 2.5 million US$ from the Government of Sweden.[95] The Trust Fund is administered by ESCAP.

In 2006, during its 62nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 62/7[96] to strengthen emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster by inviting Governments, donor countries, relevant international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to consider contributing to the Voluntary Trust Fund through financial contributions and technical cooperation. The resolution also requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the Voluntary Trust Fund is administered efficiently, effectively and transparently, in accordance with the terms and conditions and objectives of the Fund.

In 2010, the Trust Fund was broadened to encompass disaster and climate preparedness, and later in 2015, it expanded its geographic scope to include SIDS in the South-West Pacific.

Since its establishment in 2005, the Trust Fund has promoted innovative pilot initiatives, scaled up successful early warning systems and facilitated regional cooperation, directly benefiting 19 countries. By pooling resources, the Trust Fund facilitates south-south

[92] Amendment to the First Agreement on Trade Negotiations among Developing Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok Agreement)
[93] Second Amendment to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, 13 January 2017
[94] A/RES/59/279.
[95] E/ESCAP/1359, Paragraph 324, Page 29.
[96] E/ESCAP/RES/62/7.

cooperation to strengthen disaster resilience in high-risk, low-capacity countries and contributes to the global efforts towards Early Warning for All.

Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

The Commission started its discussion on paperless trade in 2011. During its 67th session, while observing that, over the medium term, Asia-Pacific exporting economies would need to generate more aggregate demand in the region to sustain their dynamism to mitigate some loss of demand from the developed economies, the Executive Secretary stated that such challenge could be turned into an opportunity to promote inclusive and sustainable development in the region. Among other things, paperless trade was mentioned as part of her five-point policy agenda to that end. That is, "physical infrastructure needed to be strengthened and the soft connectivity covering trade facilitation needed to be improved, including through paperless trade, as the hidden cost of red tape could amount to as much as US$300 billion, or 15 per cent of the value of goods being exported."[97]

In 2012, during its 68th session, the Commission adopted resolution 68/3[98] requesting the Executive Secretary to, among other things, support and facilitate the process for the development of regional arrangements on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade, including by conducting studies, developing potential options, and organizing expert review and member consultations. Later in April 2014, the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade was held in Bangkok. Shortly afterward, during its 70th session, the Commission adopted resolution 70/6[99] regarding the implementation of the decision of such an intergovernmental meeting.

In 2016, during its 72nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 72/4,[100] containing the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

[97] E/ESCAP/67/23, Paragraph 305, Pages 46 – 47.
[98] E/ESCAP/RES/68/3.
[99] E/ESCAP/RES/70/6.
[100] E/ESCAP/RES/72/4.

Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was established by the Tashkent Declaration[101] of 26 March 1998, signed by the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan later joined them.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) jointly support the activities under this Programme.

The programme's objective is to support the SPECA region in developing cooperation and creating incentives for economic development and integration into the economies of Europe and Asia. Its implementation will be based on cooperation and reciprocal benefits, transparency, and equality of the countries' participants, with the support of donor countries and international organizations.

On 20 November 2023, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of SPECA, the General Assembly adopted resolution 78/9.[102] Later, on 24 November 2003, SPECA member States adopted the Baku Declaration[103] on their intention to enhance the role of SPECA as a platform of economic cooperation and continuous dialogue in order to explore ways of pursuing, in solidarity, opportunities for regional integration and formulation of common responses to shared emerging challenges. This would take place through promoting interaction in priority areas such as connectivity, trade, transport and logistics, digital transformation and innovations, industry, energy, water management, environment, green transition and other areas of mutual interest.

Trans-Asian Railway Network

In 1959, during the 6th session of the Railway Sub-Committee of ECAFE, it was suggested that ECAFE-region railways examine the issues of connecting their networks with neighbouring countries to establish international links with Middle Eastern and European rail systems.[104] This suggestion was repeated in 1962.

In 1966, during its 23rd session, the Commission received the recommendation of the 15th session of the Inland Transport and Communications Committee to create a large rail

[101] Tashkent Declaration
[102] A/RES/78/9.
[103] Baku Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
[104] E/CN.11/530, Paragraph 94, Page 12.

transport network with the co-operation of all railway administrations in the region[105] and included in its work programme the project on regional railway research and regional railway networks with an aim to link the Asian network with European and African systems by a trans-Asian railway.[106] Due to the growing emphasis on the promotion of international railway traffic, the Inland Transport and Communications Committee was renamed as the Transport and Communications Committee.

In 1967, during the 9th session of the Railway Sub-Committee, the proposal for a pre-feasibility study of a Trans-Asian Railway Network was endorsed, while Japan offered its full cooperation and support.[107] In the same year, the trans-Asian railway network survey was initiated by experts of the Japanese Government, investigating existing conditions relating to the standards of railways in the ECAFE-region. In 1969, after the success of several techno-economic surveys was noted, the government of India also offered its full cooperation and support for the project.

In January 1972, the Transport and Communications Committee endorsed the establishment of the Trans-Asian Railway Network project during its 20th session[108]. Later in 1973, UNDP included the Trans-Asian Railway Network project into its inter-country programme.[109]

In December 1991, the Intergovernmental Meeting of Highway and Railway Officials on Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development was held in Bangkok,[110] while China also joined the Trans-Asian Railway Network project,[111]

In 1992, during the 48th session, the Commission endorsed the integration of the Asia Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway network into the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project.[112] ALTID started its implementation 1993 in cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization. ALTID was disbanded in April 2004.

Starting in late 2004, an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network was prepared. In 2006, during its 62nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 62/4[113] containing an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network. The agreement was signed by the member States at the Ministerial Conference on Transport in 2006 and came into force in 2009.

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[105] E/CN.11/791, Paragraph 118, Page 33.
[106] E/CN.11/791, Pages 314 – 315.
[107] E/CN.11/824, Paragraph 102, Pages 22 -23.
[108] E/CN.11/1044, Paragraph 36, Page 4.
[109] E/CN.11/1101, Paragraph 368, Page 37.
[110] E/ESCAP/889, Paragraph 599, Page 86.
[111] E/ESCAP/889, Paragraph 600, Page 87.
[112] E/ESCAP/889, Paragraph 599, Page 86.
[113] E/ESCAP/RES/62/4.

In 2015, during its 71st session, the Commission adopted resolution 71/7,[114] providing a framework for harmonizing the requirements for international railway transport across the region. The Trans-Asian Railway Network currently comprises around 125,500 km of railway lines serving 28 countries.

Transport Research and Education Network (TREN)

In 2003, the Asia-Pacific Network of Transport and Logistics Education and Research (ANTLER) was established to enhance coordination and collaboration among education and research institutions in the transport and logistics sector within the region. The primary goal of ANTLER is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices and research outcomes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of transport and logistics systems across member countries. The network seeks to address the challenges faced by the region in these sectors by promoting joint research projects, academic exchanges and professional development programmes.

Additionally, ANTLER aims to support policy development and implementation by providing evidence-based recommendations and fostering a community of experts dedicated to advancing the field of transport and logistics. The network's activities include organizing conferences, workshops and seminars to disseminate research findings and promote dialogue among stakeholders. By fostering collaboration and innovation, ANTLER contributes to the sustainable development of transport and logistics infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, ultimately enhancing regional connectivity and economic growth.

In December 2021, during the 4th session of ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport, ANTLER was replaced by the Transport Research and Education Network (TREN).

[114] E/ESCAP/RES/71/7.

Earlier efforts (inactive/dissolved/absorbed)

Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (APCWD)

The establishment of the Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (APCWD) was rooted in UN General Assembly resolutions 3010 (XXVII)[115] and 3520 (XXX),[116] adopted in 1972 and 1975 respectively. The former resolution proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year, while the latter established the World Conference of the International Women's Year and proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 United Nations decade for Women: Equality, development and peace.

In 1975, during its 31st session, the Commission adopted resolution 157 (XXXI)[117] on a Regional Plan of Action for the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Development, which inter alia requested the Executive Secretary to undertake the early implementation of the Asian Plan, and endorsed the offer made by the Government of Iran to the Commission to host a Centre in Iran as a regional institution of the Commission.

During the same session, the Commission also adopted resolution 158 (XXXI),[118] requesting the Executive Secretary to establish a SINGLE intergovernmental governing council for the FOUR existing institutions, namely (a) Asian and Pacific Development Institute (APDI), (b) Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre (APDAC), (c) Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific (SWDCAP) and (d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (APCWD).

While the planning to merge the four existing institutions was ongoing, in 1976, during its 32nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 165 (XXXII),[119] deciding that APCWD be established on the same line as the Commission's other regional training and research institutions. In March 1976, the Commission adopted resolution 166 (XXXII),[120] requesting the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps to implement Commission resolution 158 (XXXI).

On 27 February 1977, the Centre was officially inaugurated.[121] The draft document to establish the center was signed by Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States of America.[122]
In 1978, APCWD faced security challenges due to the political situation in Iran and moved to Bangkok in 1979 on an emergency basis. In the same year, during its 35th session, the

[115] A/RES/3010 (XXVII).
[116] A/RES/3520 (XXX).
[117] E/CN.11/RES/157 (XXXI).
[118] E/CN.11/RES/158 (XXXI).
[119] E/CN.11/RES/165 (XXXII).
[120] E/CN.11/RES/166 (XXXII).
[121] E/ESCAP/58, Paragraph 366, Page 43.
[122] E/ESCAP/58, Paragraph 573, Page 167.

Commission adopted Resolution 191 (XXXV)[123] to merge all FOUR institutions, by 1 July 1980, as one regional institute for conducting policy-oriented research and training for development programmes in the Asia-Pacific region, entitled Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC). APCWD was dissolved as a result.

In 1980, during the 36th session, the Commission adopted resolution 206 (XXVI),[124] adopting the Statute of the Asia and Pacific Centre for Development.

APDC was dissolved as a legal entity in September 2004. The Economic Planning Unit of the Government of Malaysia was mandated by the General Council to act as a temporary secretariat to oversee the closure of APDC.

Asian and Pacific Development Institute (APDI)

In September 1961, the 1st session of the Conference of Asian Economic Planners was held in Delhi, India. The Conference emphasized that an Asian institute of economic development should be established in the region, with a training programme geared to the urgent needs of the countries of the region and that the Executive Secretary should present detailed proposals for such an institution to the Commission at its 18th session.[125] Later in 1962, during the 18th session of the Commission, the Executive Secretary submitted a proposal to establish an Asian Institute of Economic Development in Bangkok.[126] In response, the Commission adopted resolution 36 (XVIII)[127] requesting the Executive Secretary to convene an ad hoc committee composed of representatives of all interested governments in Bangkok as soon as possible, with the authority to prepare and submit to the Special Fund an application for the early establishment of the Institute and consult the Special Fund on its early approval and implementation.

Later in 1963, during its 19th session, the Commission adopted resolution 43 (XIX)[128] to establish the Asian Institute of Economic Development and Planning and provide its Statute. In 1964, during its 49th session, the Commission adopted resolution 49 (XX)[129] the Institute was established to provide training to selected personnel of member and associate member countries to raise the technical competence of such personnel in the planning and implementation of national development programmes.
In 1967, during its 23rd session, the Commission adopted resolution 84 (XXIII)[130] urging the UNDP and the Governments of the member and associate member countries to continue to support the Institute financially for the second five-year period (1969-1973).

[123] E/ESCAP/RES/191 (XXXV).
[124] E/ESCAP/RES/206 (XXXVI).
[125] E/CN.11/593, Paragraph 129, Page 19.
[126] E/CN.11/L.105.
[127] E/CN.11/RES/36 (XVIII).
[128] E/CN.11/RES/43 (XIX).
[129] E/CN.11/RES/49 (XX).
[130] E/CN.11/RES/84 (XXIII).

The work of the Institute was extended to 1978 and to 1980 by resolutions 123 (XXVIII)[131] and 150 (XXX),[132] adopted in 1972 and 1974, respectively.

In 1975, during its 31st session, the Commission adopted resolution 155 (XXXI)[133] changing the name to Asian Development Institute (ADI), and resolution 158 (XXXI),[134] taking note of the overall review of the Commission's Regional Training Institutions Supported by the United Nations Development Programme and its recommendations and requesting the Executive Secretary to establish a SINGLE intergovernmental governing council for the four existing institutions, namely (a) Asian and Pacific Development Institute (APDI), (b) Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre (APDAC), (c) Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific (SWDCAP) and (d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (APCWD).

The name of the Institute was changed again to Asian and Pacific Development Institute (APDI), in 1977, during the 32nd session of the Commission, by resolution 166 (XXXII)[135] requesting the Executive Secretary, in close consultation with Governments concerned, to take all necessary steps to implement resolution 158 (XXXI).

Later, in 1979, during the 35th session, the Commission adopted resolution 191 (XXXV)[136] to merge all FOUR institutions, by 1 July 1980, as one regional institute for conducting policy-oriented research and training for development programmes in the Asia-Pacific region, entitled Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC).

In 1980, during the 36th session, the Commission adopted resolution 206 (XXXVI)[137] adopting the Statute of the APDC and decided that its office would be in Kuala Lumpur. The first Director of APDC assumed office on 16 September 1980. A small core group of initial Professional staff and administrative support staff began work at the Centre on 1 July 1980.

APDC was dissolved as a legal entity in September 2004. The Economic Planning Unit of the government of Malaysia was mandated by the General Council to act as a temporary secretariat to oversee the closure of APDC.

[131] E/CN.11/RES/123 (XXVIII).
[132] E/CN.11/RES/150 (XXX).
[133] E/CN.11/RES/155 (XXXI).
[134] E/CN.11/RES/158 (XXXI).
[135] E/CN.11/RES/166 (XXXII).
[136] E/ESCAP/RES/191 (XXXV).
[137] E/ESCAP/RES/206 (XXXVI).

Asian Centre for Training and Research in Social Welfare and Development (ACTRSWD)

In 1969, ECOSOC adopted resolution 1406 (XLVI),[138] endorsing a report and recommendation by an International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, held in 1968 in New York. The recommendation was that the regional centre for advanced training and research in social welfare be set up for the purpose of providing training for senior and high-level social welfare personnel.

In response to the ECOSOC resolution, the Commission, in 1974, during its 30th session, adopted resolutions 148 (XXX)[139] and 149 (XXX)[140] regarding the launch of a project to establish an Asian Centre for Training and Research in Social Welfare and Development (ACTRSWD).

On 4 February 1976, the permanent building of the Centre, financed by the Government of the Philippines, was inaugurated. However, since the UNDP contribution had been reduced from the original proposed amount of $250,000 to $131,750, the starting date for the operation of the Centre was postponed until June 1976.[141]

In 1975, during the 31st session, the Commission adopted resolution 158 (XXXI),[142] requesting the Executive Secretary to establish a SINGLE intergovernmental governing council for the FOUR existing institutions, namely (a) Asian and Pacific Development Institute (APDI), (b) Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre (APDAC), (c) Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific (SWDCAP) and (d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (APCWD).

In 1976, during its 32nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 166 (XXXII)[143] requesting the Executive Secretary, in close consultation with Governments concerned, to take all necessary steps to implement resolution 158 (XXXI).

While the plan to merge the four existing institutions was ongoing, the Commission noted in 1977, during its 33rd session, that while the UNDP contribution of $131,750 to the Centre in 1976 was considered sufficient for the operational costs of ACTRSWD during the second half of 1976, the UNDP contribution of $150,000 for the full year of 1977 was inadequate.[144]

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[138] E/RES/1406 (XLVI).
[139] E/CN.11/RES/148 (XXX).
[140] E/CN.11/RES/149 (XXX).
[141] E/CN.11/1274, Paragraph 297, Page 35.
[142] E/CN.11/RES/158 (XXXI).
[143] E/CN.11/RES/166 (XXXII).
[144] E/ESCAP/58, Paragraph 358, Page 43.

Later, in 1979, during the 35th session, the Commission adopted Resolution 191 (XXXV)[145] to merge all FOUR institutions, by 1 July 1980, as one regional institute for conducting policy-oriented research and training for development programmes in the Asia-Pacific region, entitled Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC). This new Centre was finally established in 1980 by the Commission resolution 206 (XXXVI),[146] adopted during its 36th session. ACTRSWD was dissolved as a result.

APDC was dissolved as a legal entity in September 2004. The Economic Planning Unit of the Government of Malaysia was mandated by the General Council to act as a temporary secretariat to oversee the closure of APDC.

Asian Handicraft Centre

Considering the high artistic level and enormous range of handmade traditional products that are produced in cottage industries in the ECAFE region, as well as the vast opportunities of employment that the handicraft industry provides to the artisans of the countries of the region, during the 25th session, in 1969, the Commission adopted resolution 97 (XXV)[147] to establish the Asian Handicraft Centre in Singapore to (i) display and sell handicrafts produced in the various countries in the region, and (ii) provide a permanent exhibition where the art of creating the various traditional handicrafts would be demonstrated by craftsmen drawn from throughout the region.

In August 1969, the 1st Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of an Asian Handicraft Centre was held Singapore. It was noted there that the Centre should be organized by the ECAFE secretariat, with UNDP assistance, prior to the actual execution of the project. Later in the same year, during the 26th session, the Commission noted that the Government of Singapore believed the proposed Asian Handicraft Centre should be an investment project and that it was prepared to provide land and buildings in Singapore but would charge an economic rent for the space occupied to ensure economic use of space.[148]

In 1971, during the 28th session, the Commission expressed its appreciation of the offer made by the Government of the Philippines to provide a site for the Asian Handicraft Centre in Manila and to appropriate the funds required for constructing the building and related facilities.[149] The Commission also noted that the request for funding to be submitted by interested countries to UNDP was expected to be ready soon.[150] It was reported to the 30th session that the project, entitled ”Assistance to interested

[145] E/ESCAP/RES/191 (XXXV).
[146] E/ESCAP/RES/206 (XXXVI).
[147] E/CN.11/RES/97 (XXV).
[148] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 298, Page 33.
[149] E/CN.11/1044, Paragraph 19, Page 3.
[150] E/CN.11/1044, Paragraph 282, Page 32.

Governments in establishing the Asian Handicraft Centre in Manila" was handled by the ILO.[151]

There has been no report on the establishment of the Asian Handicraft Centre of the Commission since the 31st session.

Asian Industrial Development Council (AIDC)

In March 1964, ECAFE recognized the need to accelerate industrial development in the developing countries of the region to react to the low level of industrial output, extensive population growth, the shortage of skilled labor and the limited size of markets. Therefore, ECAFE adopted resolution 52 (XX),[152] committing to hold an international symposium on industrialization, to be preceded by a regional conference on industrialization in the ECAFE region.

In 1965, during its 21st session, the Commission decided to hold the 1st Asian Conference on Industrialization in Manila from 6 to 20 December 1965. The Conference recommended establishing the Asian Industrial Development Council (AIDC) to promote industrialization and regional cooperation in the ECAFE region.[153]

In 1967, during its 22nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 68 (XXII)[154] establishing AIDC and resolution 80 (XXII)[155] inviting all Governments of member countries of ECAFE and the international organizations concerned, especially UNIDO and UNDP, to give high priority as far as possible to the work of the Council and to extend all possible assistance and cooperation, and also requesting the Executive Secretary to take steps to mobilize all possible assistance to enable the Council to operate effectively.

From 8 to 21 September 1970, the 2nd Asian Conference on Industrialization was held in Tokyo.[156] Strengthening AIDC as a key agency for industrial development in the ECAFE region became the main agenda of the conference. Therefore, the Conference formulated resolution ACI.2/3., requesting the post of an Executive Director for AIDC and urging the member countries of ECAFE to provide adequate funds to finance the work of AIDC.

In December 1972, the AIDC Advisory Group emphasized the AIDC shift their objective to policy issues in the field of industrialization and not on techno-economic studies anymore. For unknown reasons, AIDC was disbanded in 1974.

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[151] E/CN.11/1153, Page 161.
[152] E/CN.11/RES/52 (XX).
[153] For the report of the meeting, see Report of the Asian Conference on industrialization, Manila, Philippines, 6 to 20 December, 1965.
[154] E/CN.11/RES/68 (XXII).
[155] E/CN.11/RES/80 (XXIII).
[156] For the report of the meeting, see Industrial development in Asia and the Far East: Report of the Second Asian Conference on Industrialization.

During its existence, AIDC was the main driver for the establishment of several organizations by ESCAP and for multiple projects in the region. Techno-economic studies by the AIDC led to the establishment of commodity communities such as the Asian Coconut Community (ACC), the Pepper Community (PC) and the South-East Asia Iron and Steel Institute (SEAISI).

One of its last successful accomplishments was the endorsed proposal to establish an Asian institute for the development of agricultural machinery during its 8th session in 1973 and the publication of the Asian Industrial Survey for regional cooperation.[157] The AIDC held its 9th and last session in 1974.

Asian Reserve Bank (ARB)

The Asian Reserve Bank (ARB) was an initiative to foster regional monetary cooperation through the pooling of reserves under joint management, promoting regional trade expansion and economic development. The establishment of ARB was one of the key topics discussed at the Commission during the period of 1971 to 1975, after the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Asian Economic Cooperation, held in Kabul in December 1970, adopted Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic Cooperation and Development, which, inter alia, established an inter-governmental committee to examine principles guidelines for the establishment of an ARB.[158]

In pursuance of the Kabul Declaration, the 1st meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Establishment of an ARB was held in Bangkok, 15 –21 August 1972. After examining the draft Guidelines for the Establishment of an Asian Reserve Bank, prepared by the Meeting of Government and Central Bank Officials on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation held in November 1970, the Intergovernmental Committee had concluded that the Asian Reserve Bank was a feasible project, given adequate membership and financial structure, and sound management, although the proposal required careful consideration in the context of the international monetary system, which was then being reviewed by the Committee of Twenty.[159] Such a report was transmitted to the member countries of ECAFE and other interested Governments for consideration.

The ARB project was supported by various international organizations, including UNCTAD and the IMF, and involved extensive intergovernmental collaboration. Efforts included organizing meetings to finalize the draft agreement for the ARB, planning an inaugural meeting of government representatives, and providing technical assistance for the

[157] Asian industrial survey for regional co-operation: a summary.
[158] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/961: Report of the Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Asian Economic Co-operation (4th session: Kabul, Afghanistan: 1970).
[159] E/CN.11/1101, Paragraph 292, Page 30.

Clearing Union's expansion.[160] These actions were part of a broader strategy to enhance economic integration within the region, streamline financial transactions, and promote stability and growth in intraregional trade. The Commission's work on the ARB also involved addressing related economic challenges, such as the development of a regional export credit reinsurance scheme and an Asian Re-insurance Corporation, which was successfully established later in 1979.

During the 31st session, in 1975, the Commission felt that further efforts should be made to achieve closer regional monetary co-operation, and, in that connection, the secretariat was requested to accelerate its work on the creation of an ARB.[161] In 1976, during the 32nd session, the Secretariat was further urged to give increased attention to this work.[162]

Despite the strong effort towards the establishment of the ARB, it was not established. There has been no report on the topic of ARB since the 32nd session.

Asian Rice Trade Fund (ARTF)

In March 1973, an intergovernmental meeting on the establishment of an Asian Rice Trade Fund (ARTF), initiated by the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, was convened by ECAFE in Bangkok.
In April of the same year, during its 29th session, the Commission adopted resolution 136 (XXIX)[163] welcoming the report of the meeting and approving the draft agreement on the establishment of an Asian Rice Trade Fund.[164]

On 1 December 1974, the agreement entered into force.[165] The membership was opened only to developing countries in ESCAP that exported and imported rice. There were six participating countries, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. The functions of the Rice Fund were to promote intraregional trade in rice among developing countries which are members of the Rice Fund. The Fund possessed a full juridical personality.

In 1978, Amendments were finalized to Article 1 (i) and (iii) of the Agreement decided on by its Board of Directors at its third session, held in Manila in October 1978, to open ARTF membership to all members and associate members of ESCAP, either developing or developed, and simplify procedures for eligible countries to become members.

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[160] For more information on ECAFE Monetary Cooperation Schemes, see The Economic Commission for Asia and Far East Monetary Co-operation Schemes.
[161] E/CN.11/1222, Paragraph 408, Page 3.
[162] E/CN.11/1274, Paragraph 131, Page 17.
[163] E/CN.11/RES/136 (XXIX).
[164] E/CN.11/1101, Paragraph 111, Page 12.
[165] Agreement establishing the Asian Rice Trade Fund.

Despite much assistance from the ESCAP Secretariat, member States, and FAO, the Fund was never operational. The Commission last discussed the Fund during its 38th session, in 1981.

Bureau of Flood Control

The discussion on establishing the Bureau of Flood Control started at ECAFE as soon as it was set up in 1947. The Commission adopted resolutions 14 (II)[166] and 38 (III)[167] on establishing the Bureau during its 2nd and 3rd session, in 1947 and 1948. The Bureau was finally founded in 1949, during the 4th session, by resolution 54 (IV).[168]

The Commission continued to adopt a series of resolutions on flood control from its 5th to 8th sessions, including resolutions 73 (V)[169], 94 (VII)[170] and 109 (VIII).[171]

Later, in 1953, the Bureau was re-designated as the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development.[172] Its main areas of work were concerned with water resources development, flood control measures, problems of water pollution and river basin development. The Bureau also produced a Flood Control Journal Series (1950-1958). In the same year, during its 9th session, the Commission adopted resolution 4 (IX)[173] commending the Bureau for the steps taken and progress made in the promotion of multiple-purpose river basin developments.

In 1963, due to the frequent occurrence of typhoons in the ECAFE region, it was proposed to initiate a joint programme with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to broaden the work of the Bureau to also include typhoons.[174]

From 1964 onwards, the Bureau and its works were not mentioned anymore in the Annual Reports, and preparations for the establishment of the Typhoon Committee were made. It is believed that the works of the Bureau were absorbed by the newly established Typhoon Committee.

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[166] E/CN.11/RES/14 (II).
[167] E/CN.11/RES/38 (III).
[168] E/CN.11/RES/54 (IV).
[169] E/CN.11/RES/73 (V).
[170] E/CN.11/RES/94 (VII).
[171] E/CN.11/RES/109 (VIII).
[172] E/CN.11/372, Paragraph 165, Page 17.
[173] E/CN.11/RES/4 (IX).
[174] E/CN.11/627, Paragraph 357, Page 43.

Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA)

In 1977, during the 33rd session, the Commission adopted resolution 174 (XXXIII),[175] requesting the Executive Secretary to establish the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT). Later in 1982, during the 38th session, the Commission adopted resolution 220 (XXXVIII)[176] containing a statute of the CGPRT.

In 2004, during its 60th session, the Commission adopted resolution 60/5[177] containing the Statute of the Centre. In 2005, during its 61st session, the Commission adopted resolution 61/5[178] requesting the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre.

In May 2010, ESCAP members decided to change the name of the Centre to Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) and revised its goals to promote policies to improve the quality of life of people who live in rural areas, especially people who rely on agricultural crops for their livelihoods, and to promote agricultural research to mitigate poverty in Asia and the Pacific. As an ESCAP subsidiary body, the scope of CAPSA's work was guided by the Commission and the Secretariat to support both the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division (MPDD) at ESCAP and promote inclusive and sustainable development within Asia and the Pacific.

In 2016, during its 72nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 72/1[179] with a revised statute of the Centre.

CAPSA had a Governing Council, which consisted of a representative nominated by the Government of Indonesia, the host country, and nine representatives and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. Moreover, the Council meet at least once per year to scrutinize the financial and administrative status and monitor the CAPSA work programmes. In 2018, during its 74th session, the Commission adopted resolution 74/5 to transition CAPSA into an independent international organization.

[175] E/ESCAP/RES/174 (XXXIII).
[176] E/ESCAP/RES/220 (XXXVIII).
[177] E/ESCAP/RES/60/5.
[178] E/ESCAP/RES/61/5.
[179] E/ESCAP/RES/72/1.

Co-ordinating Body for Offshore Prospecting in Countries Bordering the Indian Ocean (CCOP/IOA)

In 1968, during the 24th Commission session, a proposal was made for the establishment of a Co-ordinating Body for Offshore Prospecting in Countries Bordering the Indian Ocean (CCOP/IOA).[180] In 1969, during the 25th session, the Commission adopted Resolution 96 (XXV)[181] welcoming the proposal of the Third Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation to establish a similar coordinating body for countries bordering the Indian Ocean and requesting the Executive Secretary to continue to support and to mobilize assistance required for the activities of CCOP (for the Western Pacific region) and to extend similar support to the coordinating committee for member countries.

In May 1969, a preparatory meeting for the establishment of CCOP/IOA was held in Bangkok. However, from 1972 to 1975, the establishment of CCOP/IOA was not mentioned due to political conflicts in the region, including the outbreak of the 3rd India-Pakistan War and the Bangladesh Liberation War.

In 1980, during the 37th session, the Commission decided that a meeting of experts from interested countries to consider the feasibility of a CCOP/Indian Ocean was to be held.[182] In 1981, during the 38th session, the Commission called upon the secretariat to convene an early meeting of such experts.[183]

The 1st Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Co-operation Mechanism in the Field of Offshore Exploration and Prospecting for Mineral Resources in the Indian Ocean, consisting of experts appointed in their personal capacity, was held in Bangkok in August 1982. It agreed that the establishment of an appropriate mechanism for the Indian Ocean would be feasible among the participating countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.[184] At its 2nd meeting, held in Bangkok in January 1983, the terms of reference and indicative work programme for the mechanism were drafted. CCOP also offered to provide advisory services towards the development of a mechanism for Indian Ocean exploration.[185]

In 1982, during the 39th session, the Commission noted that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting among Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were being examined by the Governments of those countries.[186] One delegation expressed its concern that the Secretariat might be proceeding to establish or facilitate the

[180] E/CN.11/824, Paragraph 394, Page 86.
[181] E/CN.11/RES/96 (XXV).
[182] E/ESCAP/239, Paragraph 435, Page 50.
[183] E/ESCAP/287, Paragraph 552, Page 68.
[184] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 82, Page 13.
[185] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 82, Page 13.
[186] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 552, Page 72.

establishment of such a committee with limited participation and without consulting other ESCAP littoral States. It expressed the view that any ESCAP-sponsored body concerned with Indian Ocean prospecting should be open to all littoral and other interested members.[187] Another delegation expressed its interest in being associated with the proposed committee. Yet another delegation stated that, as the establishment of such a committee was likely, it offered its cooperation if desired by States of the region. Another delegation expressed its readiness to support the committee's activities in various ways, such as by sending research ships, equipment and experts and by training personnel.[188]

In 1984, during the 40th session, the secretariat forwarded the report and recommendations of the Expert Group with an attached questionnaire to the Governments of Bangladesh, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for their attention and comments. Five Governments indicated that they were examining the proposal while one Government advised that it was not currently interested in participation in the proposed mechanism. It was the intention that the mechanism would engage in activities in the offshore areas of the Indian Ocean similar to those of CCOP in the offshore areas of East Asia.[189]

In 1985, during the 41st session, one delegation reiterated the request to the secretariat to convene a meeting of the countries concerned on exploration and prospecting of mineral resources in the Indian Ocean. Another delegation expressed the view that as no preparatory work was done, no useful purpose would be served in calling such a meeting. As a result, the establishment of this coordinating body was not mentioned again.[190]

Depository Centre for United Nations Human Rights

In 1988, during its 43rd session, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 43/140[191] on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region, which highlighted the collection and dissemination of human-rights-related materials as the main purpose of the depository centre.

Later in the year 1989, during its 45th session, ESCAP adopted Resolution 45/2[192] on Establishment of a Depository Centre for United Nations Human Rights Materials and designated the Social Development Division as a focal point. In 1990, the

[187] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 553, Page 72.
[188] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 553, Page 72.
[189] E/ESCAP/402, Paragraph 90, Page 14.
[190] E/ESCAP/470, Paragraph 602, Page 71.
[191] A/RES/43/140.
[192] E/ESCAP/RES/45/2.

Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1990/71,[193] welcomed the designation of the ESCAP library as such a depository centre.

Later in 1991, during the 47th session, the Executive Secretary reported to the Commission that ESCAP library disseminated bibliographic information on its holdings of human rights documents and other publications, as it did on all subjects, upon request. The Executive Secretary also suggested that additional resources must be provided if the library were to become a disseminating hub.[194] No depository activities have been reported to the Commission since then.

Fertilizer Advisory and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP)

In 1978, during the 34th session, a proposal by the Committee on Agricultural Development of ESCAP for an ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO fertilizer advisory, development and information network for Asia and the Pacific was put forward to the Commission and met with strong support.[195] The Commission adopted Decision 2,[196] which recommended the early establishment of a regional fertilizer advisory, development and information network, in cooperation with FAO and UNIDO. Decision 2 also noted that such a network would give permanent significance to the work on fertilizers already undertaken in the context of the Commission's agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific.

During the same session, the Commission also noted that in view of the considerable efforts that had been made during previous years, the ARSAP work on fertilizers should lead to the establishment of the network, which would give definite and permanent significance to the work undertaken so far. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommended the early establishment of the proposed network and appreciated the cooperative efforts between ESCAP, FAO and UNIDO in that respect. In addition, the Netherlands delegation indicated that its government was considering making some associate experts available and that it had already provided part of the documentation unit. It also noted a proposal to transfer the resources from its Agricultural Requisites Scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP), which began in 1975, to the new network would be completed by mid-1978.[197]

The Fertilizer Advisory and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP), was formally established in 1978 and became operational in 1979, with ten member countries and designated national technical liaison organizations for the Network. Financing was

[193] E/1990/22 or E/CN.4/1990/94: Report on the Forty-Sixth Session of the Commission on Human Rights (See page 147 for Resolution 1990/71)
[194] E/ESCAP/822, Paragraph 581, Page 69.
[195] E/ESCAP/97, Paragraph 7, Page 2.
[196] E/ESCAP/97, Page 85.
[197] E/ESCAP/97, Paragraph 339, Page 38.

provided jointly by ESCAP, FAO and UNIDO.[198] Three staff for the Network took up their assignments during February/March 1979, and another two were expected to join in the first half of 1979.[199]

In 1979, during the 35th session, it was reported to the Commission that the interagency steering and evaluation committee of the Network had still to be established.[200] The Commission noted the concrete support which was being provided to the Network by the Governments of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany.[201]

In 1980, the number of member countries grew to 11. FADINAP started a Regional Consultative Meeting on the Improvement of Lower-level Fertilizer Distribution Capacity in the Developing Countries of the ESCAP Region, which was commended by the Commission as a good example of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC).[202]

In 1981, during the 37th session, several delegations thanked the Government of the Netherlands for its generous contribution to the programme in the past and urged ESCAP to provide increasing regular budget resources to ensure the continuation of the project, with the cooperation of additional donor countries.[203]

In 1982, the total number of FADINAP member countries grew to 13, with growth continuing to 18 countries in 1983.[204] During the 39th session, the Secretariat was urged to increase the number of regular budget posts allocated to FADINAP in view of the usefulness of the programme. It was noted with appreciation that on various occasions participants from member countries had taken part in FADINAP projects at their own expense.[205]

In 1984, during the 40th session, the Secretariat was requested to continue its efforts to secure adequate staffing for FADINAP by making more regular budget posts available so as not to disrupt the ongoing activities widely acclaimed by all countries in the region.[206] In 1986, FADINAP established the Network of Fertilizer Information System.[207] FADINAP activities were commended repeatedly by the Commission in fostering fertilizer sector

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[198] E/ESCAP/142, Paragraph 7, Page 3.
[199] E/ESCAP/142, Paragraph 18, Page 4.
[200] *Ibid*.
[201] E/ESCAP/142, Paragraph 484, Page 56.
[202] E/ESCAP/239, Paragraph 9, Page 3.
[203] E/ESCAP/239, Paragraph 300, Page 36.
[204] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 369, Page 53.
[205] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 372, Page 53.
[206] E/ESCAP/402, Paragraph 417, Page 55.
[207] E/ESCAP/536, Paragraph 290, Page 42.

development through the dissemination of information, multifarious training programmes and advisory services. Those activities contributed greatly to an increase in agricultural production, a reduction in marketing costs, soil fertility maintenance and to the overall development of the fertilizer sector. The Commission commended it as a good example of interagency cooperation.

In the year 1999, 20 years after existence, the website www.fadinap.org was created. Despite many years of work commended by the Commission and member States, partners and donors of FADINAP started to bid farewell.

There has been no report on FADINAP activities to the Commission since the year 2001. As of 2003, the total number of members of FADINAP was 29 countries. The website was the top link in major search engines, linked to major portals of fertilizers and agro-chemicals worldwide, with links to national data and sites. The FADINAP model was repeated in Africa with the establishment of the Africa Agricultural Market Information network (AFAMIN) and the website www.afamin.org.

With FADINAP's inability to secure funds for web maintenance and the fact that partners were slow to adopt modern ICT, www.fadinap.org is no longer operational.

Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries

In 1979, during the 35th session, it was reported to the Commission that a seminar of jute-producing countries on jute and jute products, sponsored by UNCTAD in February 1979 in Kathmandu, recommended that in order to promote cooperation among jute-producing countries in the region and to discuss matters of mutual interest, ESCAP, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies, should organize regular meetings of the jute-producing countries.[208]

The report also stated that such meetings would also greatly facilitate producer-consumer cooperation in implementing an action programme for jute. Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing were crucial, involving the implementation of training programmes, workshops and initiatives to improve production efficiency, quality and innovation. Efforts were also directed towards developing and harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks to encourage investment, support farmers and promote fair trade practices. Research and development were promoted through collaborative initiatives aimed at enhancing jute product quality, developing new applications and improving production techniques, often in partnership with research institutions and universities.[209]

[208] E/ESCAP/142, Paragraph 84, Page 13.

[209] *Ibid*.

In 1980, the Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries held its 1st session in Dacca.[210] In 1984, at its 8th session, the Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries made decisions concerning cooperative activities in the standardization of jute goods, in-process control in selected jute mills, transport and shipping problems of jute and jute goods, trade information for jute and jute goods, and the preparation of the project proposals for the International Jute Organization (IJO).[211] At its 40th session, the Commission welcomed the establishment of the International Jute Organization as an intergovernmental organization in Dhaka in January 1984.[212]

The Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries, at its 9th session, decided that despite the establishment of the International Jute Organization, the Consultation would continue to meet once a year. It also agreed on its work programme for 1985.[213]

However, after its 14th session in May 1993, there has been no further report on the Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries to the Commission.

Intergovernmental Consultative Forum of Developing Tropical Timber Producing Countries (ICFDTT)

The discussion on timber started at ECAFE as early as at the 1st session of the Commission. During the first 25 years, the discussion on timber revolved around increasing the use of timber as good building material. In 1971, during the 27th session, the Commission established the Working Group on Timber and Timber Products of the Asian Standards Advisory Committee and urged the member States to co-operate fully to arrive at regional standard grading rules and specifications for logs, lumber and manufactured products.[214]

In 1973, during the 29th session, the Intergovernmental Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Timber and Timber Products in Asia was held and attended by representatives from 12 countries to discuss the demand for and supply of tropical hardwood logs, sawn wood, veneer and plywood; major problems common to tropical hardwood producers in the region; and possible areas for regional cooperation. Participants agreed that FAO and ECAFE should finalize the study of timber trends and prospects in Asia and the Far East and that countries should cooperate in research on lesser-known wood species, in efforts to improve the actual production process of timber

[210] E/ESCAP/239, Paragraph 28, Page 7.
[211] E/ESCAP/402, Paragraph 171, Page 26.
[212] E/ESCAP/402, Paragraph 545, Pages 71 – 72.
[213] E/ESCAP/470, Paragraph 174, Page 24.
[214] E/CN.11/987, Paragraph 16, Page 2.

products and in securing market intelligence.[215] The meeting also recommended to the Commission that the framework for regional cooperation should initially include only the hardwood log producing countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand) and that intergovernmental consultations among those four countries should be held as early as possible. This was welcomed by the Commission, and it decided to convene an Intergovernmental Consultation on the Establishment of a Timber Community among these four main hardwood-producing countries. In 1974, during the 30th session, the Commission deferred the meeting.[216]

In 1977, the Symposium on Tropical Hardwoods, organized by ESCAP in cooperation with FAO, UNCTAD and ITC to consider supply management, buffer stocks, long-term contracts and other pressing issues relating to tropical hardwoods. It was attended by five producing countries of the region and recommended, inter alia, that an intergovernmental organization of tropical timber-producing countries be set up immediately to accelerate the development of timber and timber products industries, and to promote and strengthen regional cooperation among tropical timber-producing countries in the region. The report and the recommendation of the Symposium were presented as a regional input to the UNCTAD Second Preparatory Meeting on Tropical Timber held in Geneva in October 1977.[217]

In 1979, a similar recommendation was echoed by the Expert Group Meeting on Tropical Hardwoods convened to discuss the cooperative measures to be undertaken by tropical timber producing/exporting countries in the ESCAP region that the establishment of an Asian and Pacific tropical timber community to implement the identified cooperative measures effectively.[218] In this connection, FAO, during the 2nd ESCAP/FAO annual joint review of the programme of work and priorities in food, agriculture and rural development in January 1979, expressed its willingness to work jointly with ESCAP in the mission as well as in the preparation of background papers and in servicing the proposed intergovernmental meeting. In addition, meeting participants agreed that a dialogue between tropical timber producing and consuming countries should be organized by the ESCAP secretariat, as and when appropriate.[219]

In June 1981, the Intergovernmental Meeting of Tropical Timber Producing Countries, held in Bangkok, considered the report and recommendations of the ESCAP/FAO joint mission, held in 1980, to major tropical timber producing/exporting countries in the region. They agreed that subject to the concurrence of the individual Governments, a regional cooperative arrangement among tropical timber producing/exporting countries should be established with the main objectives of achieving price stability at fair and remunerative levels for wood and wood products, optimum utilization and development

[215] E/CN.11/1101, Paragraph 85, Page 9.
[216] *Ibid*.
[217] E/ESCAP/97, Paragraph 22, Page 3.
[218] E/ESCAP/142, Paragraph 82, Page 12.
[219] *Ibid*.

of timber resources and effective marketing arrangements for wood and wood products.[220]

The Intergovernmental Consultative Forum of Developing Tropical Timber Producing Countries (ICFDTT) was established in June 1982. The 1st session of the Forum, hosted by Malaysia, decided that marketing of timber and timber products should be given the highest priority of the Forum's programme.[221]

From 1995 onward, there has been no report on ICFTT to the Commission.

Intra-regional Trade Promotion Talks

The discussion on having trade promotional talks among member States started at ESCAP as early as in October 1956. At that time, the Sub-Committee on Trade under the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, at its 2nd session, held in Tokyo, considered that trade promotion measures, including trade promotion talks among interested member countries might be convened on an intra-regional basis, and that the secretariat should explore the possibility of arranging for intra-regional trade promotion talks to take place during the next session of the Sub-Committee.[222] The Government of Japan made a proposal on this subject to the Committee on Industry and Trade at its 9th session. The Committee decided to submit the proposal to the Commission at its 14th session for a final decision.[223]

During the 14th session, in 1957, the Commission considered the reports of the 1st Committee on Trade,[224] held in January 1958 in Bangkok,[225] with the proposals of the Government of Japan, and successful experience of trade promotional talks from Europe. It consequently adopted resolution 23 (XIV)[226] on Intraregional Trade Promotion Talks to hold such talks on an experimental basis, to foster trade relations and explore new opportunities for trade within the region.

On 11 March 1958, the 1st talk was held in Bangkok, attended by high-ranking officials , including from Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, China, the Federation of Malaya, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet-Nam, Singapore

[220] E/ESCAP/287, Paragraph 181, Page 23.
[221] E/ESCAP/341, Paragraph 161, Page 25.
[222] E/CN.11/454, Paragraph 35, Page 6.
[223] E/CN.11/454, Paragraphs 234 and 235, Pages 31 – 32.
[224] In 1957, during the 13th session, the Commission adopted Resolution 19 (XIII), renaming the Committee on Industry and Trade to the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, and the former Sub-Committee on Trade became the Committee on Trade.
[225] E/CN.11/482, Paragraph 71, Page 9.
[226] E/CN.11/RES/23 (XIV).

and British Borneo. These sessions were conducted on camera to facilitate open and frank discussions.[227]

The outcomes of these talks were significant in enhancing intraregional trade. They provided a platform for participating countries to understand each other's trade practices better and identify specific obstacles to trade. This led to the initiation of appropriate remedial actions. Furthermore, these talks were particularly beneficial for countries lacking adequate trade representatives in the region, supplementing existing trade promotion techniques unaffected by political considerations. The talks also addressed various issues, such as the lack of direct shipping services, high ocean freight rates and the need for standardization, grading and quality control.

Despite these contributions, the latest session of Intraregional Trade Promotions Talks reported to the Commission was the 10th session, held in New Delhi in December 1972. There has been no report on Intraregional Trade Promotions Talks to the Commission since 1973.

Regional Centre for Economic Projections and Programming (RCEPP)

Towards the end of 1960s, many member States of ECAFE were facing slow rates of economic development. In 1965, during the 21st session, the Commission adopted resolution 56 (XXI)[228] to establish the Regional Centre for Economic Projections and Programming (RCEPP), aiming to support member States in economic planning, policy analysis and the development of robust public enterprise management.

In 1970, during the 26th session, the Commission commended the work of RCEPP as very useful contributions to the design of a development strategy and target-setting for the Second Development Decade. RCEPP was integral in conducting comparative studies, providing consultancy services, and implementing training programmes in collaboration with national institutions to enhance development administration across the region.[229]

Since 1973, there has been no report on the work of RCEPP to the Commission.

Regional Centre of Development Administration

In 1970, during the 26th session, the Commission adopted resolution 112 (XXVI)[230] requesting the Executive Secretary to help establish the Regional Centre of Development Administration. In 1971, during the 27th session, the Commission adopted resolution 117

[227] E/CN.11/506, Paragraph 62, Page 7.
[228] E/CN.11/RES/56 (XXI).
[229] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 284, Page 31.
[230] E/CN.11/RES/112 (XXVI).

(XXVII)[231] calling upon the Governments of Ceylon, Iran and Malaysia to take all initiatives for reaching a consensus with the assistance of the Executive Secretary, and requesting the Executive Secretary and member and associate members, and in particular, the three countries offering host facilities to take all the steps required for reaching a speedy decision on the location of the centre and for ensuring its establishment at the earliest possible date.

In 1975, during the 31st session, the Commission adopted resolution 158 (XXXI),[232] taking note of the Overall Review of the Commission's Regional Training Institutions Supported by the United Nations Development Programme and its recommendation and requesting the Executive Secretary to establish a single intergovernmental governing council for the four existing institutions, namely (a) Asian and Pacific Development Institute, (b) Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre, (c) Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific and (d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development.

In 1976, during the 32nd session, the Commission adopted resolution 166 (XXXII)[233] requesting the Executive Secretary, in close consultation with Governments concerned, to take all necessary steps to implement resolution 158 (XXXI).

Later, in 1979, during the 35th session, the Commission adopted resolution 191 (XXXV)[234] to merge all four institutions by 1 July 1980 as one regional institute for conducting policy-oriented research and training for development programmes in the Asia-Pacific region, entitled Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC). In 1980, during the 36th session, the Commission adopted resolution 206 (XXXVI)[235] which includes the Statute of the new institute, APDC, and decided that its office should be in Kuala Lumpur. The first Director of APDC assumed office on 16 September 1980. A small core group of initial Professional staff and administrative support staff began work at the Centre on 1 July 1980.

APDC was dissolved as a legal entity in September 2004. The Economic Planning Unit of the government of Malaysia was mandated by the General Council to act as a temporary secretariat to oversee the closure of APDC.

Regional Computing Centre

It was evident during the 1960 World Population and Housing Census Programmes that data processing facilities and capabilities in the region were uneven. In 1967, the Expert Group on the Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Computing Centre, jointly convened by

[231] E/CN.11/RES/117 (XXVII).
[232] E/CN.11/RES/158 (XXXI).
[233] E/CN.11/RES/166 (XXXII).
[234] E/ESCAP/RES/191 (XXXV).
[235] E/ESCAP/RES/206 (XXXVI).

ECAFE and OTC in Bangkok, in December, recommended that a regional computing centre be established within the ECAFE secretariat.[236] In 1968, the report was submitted to the Commission during its 24th session and met with diverging views from member States. The Commission, thus, recommended that the secretariat carry out further studies.[237]

In 1969, the studies revealed the urgency of establishing such a centre as the ability of regional countries to process various census and other statistical data would otherwise be seriously impaired. As a result, the Commission, during its 25th session, adopted resolution 98 (XXV)[238] requesting the Executive Secretary to appoint a Committee of Experts on the Regional Computing Centre to determine the financial implications and organizational and other factors involved in establishing a regional computing centre. Works continued on the feasibilities of the Centre and further country studies were conducted in October to November 1969. The Committee of Experts recommended that emphasis be placed on training technical personnel in data processing for the region, instead.[239]

In 1970, during its 26th session, the Commission adopted Resolution 110 (XXVI)[240] requesting the Executive Secretary to take steps to initiate training arrangements in the use of computers in the region.

Regional Consultative Group on Silk

In 1981, during the 37th session, it was reported to the Commission that two feasibility studies on regional cooperative arrangements in tapioca and silk had been completed.[241] Later, in 1982, ESCAP's Trade Cooperation Group (TCG) held its 4th session in Bali and completed the study on regional cooperative arrangements in silk.

In December 1982, the 1st session of the Regional Consultative Group on Silk was held in Pattaya, Thailand. In 1984, the Regional Consultative Group on Silk endorsed specific cooperative activities in the exchange of information and training aspects of sericulture, silk processing and marketing. Also, the Asian Silk Fair and Buyers-Sellers Seminar on Export Prospects and Promotion of Silk and Silk Products were held in Hong Kong in August 1984. In December of the same year, the 1st Intergovernmental Meeting on Silk was held in Bangkok, and the Regional Consultative Group on Silk held its 2nd session.

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[236] E/CN.11/824, Paragraph 143, Page 32.
[237] E/CN.11/824, Paragraph 465, Page 99.
[238] E/CN.11/RES/98 (XXV).
[239] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 144, Page 13.
[240] E/CN.11/RES/110 (XXVI).
[241] E/ESCAP/239, Paragraph 38, Page 8.

The last session of the Regional Consultative Group on Silk was its 6th session, held in October 1992 in Manila. No report regarding the group has been issued since then.

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre (RMRDC)

Activities of the ECAFE secretariat to promote geological survey and mineral resources development in the region were reported to the Commission in the 1960s. In 1965, during the 21st session, the Commission adopted resolution 59 (XXI)[242] requesting (a) ECAFE's Working Party of Senior Geologists to consider the full range of appropriate techniques in mineral prospection, including geology, photo-geology, geophysics and geo-chemistry that may be applicable in the countries of the region, (b) the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development to give increasing attention to the full and rational utilization of mineral resources available in countries of the region, and suggest ways and means of accelerating mineral resources development through regional and international co-operation, and (c) the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources to examine the possibilities of establishment and/or expansion of industries based on indigenous mineral raw materials of the region, the relation between the mining sector and other connected sectors for economic development, and the interdependence of natural resources, of which mineral resources form apart, and to consider approaches to rational resources planning.

In 1967, during the 23rd session, the Commission adopted resolution 81 (XXIII)[243] endorsing the proposals made at the nineteenth session of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources to accord high priority to the study and survey of mineral raw materials for the fertilizer industry in the region and to include in the secretariat's work programme a survey of heavy minerals in beach sands and alluvial deposits in Asia and the Far East. In 1969, during its 25th session, the Commission adopted resolution 96 (XXV)[244] welcoming the proposal of the Third Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation to establish a similar coordinating body for countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

In 1970, during the 26th session, it was reported to the Commission that the Government of France assisted in establishing an inventory of mineral resources of the countries of the region on standard data sheets in a form amenable to computerization, which would serve many purposes.[245] The Commission took note that the project, among others in the field of mineral resources development, was contributing towards the building up of a sound infrastructure within the developing ECAFE countries, which would instill confidence and attract outside interest in rational development of their mineral resources in their own best national interests. To assist them, the secretariat should give

[242] E/CN.11/RES/59 (XXI).
[243] E/CN.11/RES/81 (XXIII).
[244] E/CN.11/RES/96 (XXV).
[245] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 342, Page 38.

consideration to the establishment of a regional mineral resources development centre.[246]

In 1979, during the 35th session, the Commission adopted resolution 192 (XXXV)[247] containing the statute of the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre (RMRDC).

Starting in 1983, the Commission discussed the financial shortfall for its regional institutions, including RMRDC. In 1986, during the 42nd session, the Executive Secretary noted that RMRDC (along with APCTT, CGPRT and SIAP) faced serious chronic shortfalls in financing for their operations, explaining that the existence of the institutions would be in grave jeopardy if that shortfall was not met by the end of 1987.[248]

During the 43rd session, the Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Council of RMRDC, made during its meeting in January 1987, on the transfer of the Centre's functions, together with its staff, equipment and financial resources, to the ESCAP secretariat, and on the formulation of a regional mineral resources development project consolidating the main elements of the programmes that had been implemented by RMRDC and decided to close the RMRDC. The office of the Centre in Bandung, Indonesia closed on 1 March 1987.[249]

Regional Population Centre

In December 1962, during its 17th session, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 1838 (XVII)[250] recommending ECAFE to intensify study and research on the interrelationship of population growth and economic and social development and endorsing the view of the Population Commission that the United Nations should encourage and assist developing countries in obtaining basic data and carrying out studies of the demographic aspects of development.

In response, in April 1963, ECOSOC adopted resolution 933 (XXXV)[251] inviting ECAFE to examine the possibilities of intensifying its work in the demographic field within the general framework of the programme recommended by the Population Commission at its 12th session.

In 1964, during its 20th session, the Commission adopted resolution 54 (XX)[252] requesting, among others, the Executive Secretary to organize a collaborative programme of regional, subregional and interregional technical working group meetings designed to provide

[246] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 343, Page 38.
[247] E/ESCAP/RES/192 (XXXV).
[248] E/ESCAP/536, Paragraph 835, Page 95.
[249] E/ESCAP/590, Paragraphs 615 and 616, Page 93.
[250] A/RES/1838 (XVII).
[251] E/RES/933 (XXXV).
[252] E/CN.11/RES/54 (XX).

guidelines for governmental action and international assistance in particular fields of work relating to the population problems of the region.

In response, an Expert Working Group (EGM) on the Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Population Centre, was convened in Bangkok by ECAFE in co-operation with the Population Division of the United Nations and BTAO, in December 1966. The EGM found that the current urgent needs of countries in the region could more readily be met by expanding the resources of the ECAFE secretariat in the population field, recommended that adequate financial support be provided for that purpose, and that the question of establishing a regional population centre be considered after 3 or 4 years of expanded work within ECAFE.

The EGM also requested the secretariat to explore ways and means of extending the existing national training facilities and to initiate work, with the help of the specialized agencies, on multidisciplinary training. It was felt that an inter-agency committee composed of representatives from ECAFE and the regional office of the specialized agencies might plan integrated activities on population.[253]

In December 1966, during its 21st session, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 2211 (XXI)[254] recommending that ECAFE assist, when requested, in further developing national and regional facilities for training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population. During its 23rd session, in 1967, the Commission adopted resolution 74 (XXIII)[255] deciding to establish the Asian Population Conference as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years synchronizing with the decennial population and related censuses, for the consideration of all aspects of population questions and of their impact on economic and social development.

During its 25th session, in 1969, the Commission received an offer from the Government of Pakistan to set up a Regional Population Centre in conjunction with the Government's proposed national population centre in Dacca. It was proposed to explore the establishment of a Regional Population Centre for various aspects of family planning programmes and an ad hoc regional working party to guide the secretariat in formulating its population programme.[256]

However, there has been no report to the Commission on the development of this issue since then.

[253] For the report of the meeting, see E/CN.11/L.173: Report of the Expert Working Group on the Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Population Centre.
[254] A/RES/2211 (XXI).
[255] E/CN.11/RES/74 (XXIII).
[256] E/CN.11/868, Paragraph 579, Page 59.

Ship Users' Cooperation Project (SUCOP)

As early as 1970, the Commission recognized the growing importance of regional and subregional cooperation among Asian countries in the field of shipping particularly in the context of intraregional trade and commerce during the Second development decade. During its 26th session, the Commission adopted resolution 109 (XXVI)[257] urging the countries of the region to take cooperative measures for developing national, subregional and regional shipping services and related facilities.

In March 1971, ECAFE submitted to the Norwegian government a request for support to its shipping activities, including Shippers' councils, survey of regional training maritime facilities leading to the establishment of regional training centre(s), ad hoc expert group on pooling of shipping resources, and Advice on the implementation of a uniform system of economic statistics of shipping.[258] In June 1971, the Norwegian government supported the Shippers' Council Project and granted NOK 350,000.[259] In effect, the project started under the name of Ship Users' Cooperation Project (SUCOP). Further aid was granted in 1974 and during the years 1975-1984.

One of the core components of SUCOP was the focus on labour development, recognizing the urgent need for training maritime personnel. The project included comprehensive training programmes covering containerization, multimodal transport systems and other modern shipping technologies. The project also facilitated the exchange of information among national shippers' and ship owners' organizations, fostering regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing on crucial issues like freight rate increases, port charges and cargo space management.

In addition to training, SUCOP emphasized the importance of creating robust maritime policies and institutions. The project supported establishing a computer-based service to match cargo space availability with cargo demand, enhancing operational efficiency. Moreover, it encouraged the development of national and regional shippers' councils to promote greater collaboration among stakeholders in the shipping industry. These efforts collectively aimed to build a resilient maritime infrastructure in the region, ensuring that developing countries could effectively participate in the global shipping market and benefit from increased trade opportunities.

SUCOP marked a significant collaborative effort aimed at enhancing the maritime capabilities of the ESCAP region. The project received commendation for its role in improving the knowledge and skills of ship users, which was essential for them to navigate the complex economic and technical aspects of the shipping sector. The

[257] E/CN.11/RES/109 (XXVI).
[258] See Page 13 of Report of the Evaluation Team for the Ship Users´ Cooperation Project (SUCOP) under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
[259] *Ibid*.

support from the Government of Norway was particularly instrumental in the project's successful implementation.

In 1984, a report of the Evaluation Team for SUCOP, appointed by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Development Cooperation, recommended discontinuation of the project, with a planned phase-out by 1988 and a view to help make the member countries self-sustained in the area impacted by the project.[260] The project was dissolved in 1988 for lack of further funding.

Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC)

In 1973, during the 29th session, the Commission considered a proposal to establish the Regional Tin Research Centre.[261] In 1974, two special meetings between the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand were held to finalize the draft agreement for the establishment of the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC). It was concluded that the Centre should become a legal entity with its own juridical personality.[262]

On 28 April 1977, the Agreement Establishing SEATRADC[263] was signed by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in Bangkok. The agreement later entered into force on 10 February 1978[264] and SEATRADC was established with an office in Ipoh, Malaysia. The initial financial allocation was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Center liaised with CCOP and CCOP/SOPAC, the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre and the Natural Resources Division of ESCAP.[265]

In 1978, during the 35th session, it was noted that the three founding members of SEATRADC had assumed responsibility for the management of the Centre and commended the Governments on the progress made and thanked UNDP for the assistance provided to the Centre.[266] Support by ESCAP continued until the Centre was dissolved on 1 January 1995.

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[260] For the report of the meeting, see Report of the Evaluation Team for the Ship Users´ Cooperation Project (SUCOP) under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
[261] E/CN.11/1101, Paragraph 6, Page 1.
[262] E/CN.11/1222, Paragraph 433, Page 131.
[263] Agreement establishing the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre. Concluded at Bangkok on 28 April 1977 .
[264] E/ESCAP/97, Paragraph 227, Page 24.
[265] E/ESCAP/97, Paragraph 79, Page 9.
[266] E/ESCAP/142, Paragraph 572, Page 65.

Subregional Centre for Maritime and Port Personnel

In 1970, during the 26th session, in view of the serious shortage of adequately trained maritime and port personnel in the developing countries of the region, the Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Trade that the secretariat develop a plan for establishing one or more regional maritime training centres, taking into account the needs and existing facilities in the region[267]. During the same session, the Commission adopted resolution 108 (XXVI)[268], requesting the Executive Secretary to conduct a comprehensive survey of the current training facilities in the region to ascertain the region's current and future needs, study the economic feasibility of organizing training for ship, shore and port personnel on a regional and subregional basis, take other necessary steps with a view to the early establishment of such regional and/or subregional centres, and report to the Committee on Trade and the Committee on Transport and Communications.

The survey requested was carried out in 1971 by ECAFE Centre for Shipping Information and Advisory Services. The Commission had a lot of discussions on the establishment of regional or subregional training centres for maritime and port personnel, particularly from 1974 to 1975. There has been no report on the issue to the Commission since 1976.

[267] E/CN.11/932, Paragraph 322, Page 35.
[268] E/CN.11/RES/108 (XXVI).



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