

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AND
THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);

Whereas the primary goal of APRU is to bring together universities across the Asia-Pacific region, build international cooperation, foster talent, develop new knowledge on challenges facing the region, and contribute to social and economic advancement. Recognizing the rapid economic integration of and the great diversity within the region, APRU assists its member universities as well as policymakers in communication, cooperation, research, and delivering effective solutions to challenges at regional and global levels;

Whereas the primary objective of ESCAP is to advance regional cooperation for inclusive, equitable and environmentally responsible economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ESCAP promotes rigorous analysis and peer learning in its core areas of work, translates these findings into policy dialogues and recommendations, and provides good development practices, knowledge sharing and technical assistance to member States in the implementation of these recommendations;

II. PURPOSE OF ESCAP-APRU COOPERATION

2. As both APRU and ESCAP have been established with mandates to build and strengthen cooperation among their respective members around the Asia-Pacific region and both have been promoting environmentally-sensitive, sustainable development and social

and economic advancement in Asia-Pacific as a primary goal, APRU and ESCAP plan to work together:

- (a) To support governments, academia, international organizations and business in research, innovation and knowledge exchange on issues challenging the Asia-Pacific region, and enhance regional knowledge of effective development of policy options;
- (b) To mutually reinforce and strengthen the programmes of the respective organizations in supporting members in the overall achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. FOCUS AND PRIORITY AREAS OF ESCAP-APRU COOPERATION

3. APRU and ESCAP shall establish cooperation and conduct joint activities in the areas of common interest and expertise, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Digital economy and emerging technologies;
- (b) Multi-hazards and disaster risk reduction;
- (c) Pacific Ocean;
- (d) Sustainable cities and urban development;
- (e) Population aging;
- (f) Statistical geospatial data management.

4. The list of current/planned activities for ESCAP-APRU Cooperation is attached as an annex to this MOU.

IV. METHODS OF COOPERATION

5. APRU and ESCAP, with respective members, convening power, and partnerships with various organizations and agencies agree, whenever possible, to engage in the following forms of cooperation:

- (a) Expanding and strengthening each party's access to research and to channels through which research can affect policymaking;
- (b) Cooperating to enhance both parties' capacity to access, produce, analyze and disseminate data, and to utilize data for quality research and evidence-based policy recommendations;
- (c) Mutually supporting the dissemination of ideas and credible research insights among academia, business communities, and local and regional governments;
- (d) Jointly initiating, managing and promoting research programmes in the fields of mutual interest and concern;
- (e) Writing and peer reviewing papers for publication in ESCAP journals, including the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal;
- (f) Strengthening dialogues and building platforms for knowledge sharing peer learning, and enhancing participation of members of academia, including APRU members, in those events;
- (g) Cooperating in ocean statistics and account, including data compilation, analysis and capacity building through pilot studies, to produce evidence-based policy recommendation, and
- (h) Cooperating and collaborating through any other channel/ areas as mutually agreed.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

6. ESCAP and APRU recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) provide printed or electronic copies of every publication and all relevant public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and
- (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - programme and project approval documents; and
 - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

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

- (a) reciprocal invitations will be extended as appropriate and possible to the other organization to attend each other's annual meetings; and
- (b) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas will be sent, where appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

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

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

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

- (a) for ESCAP: Director, Trade, Investment and innovation, ESCAP
- (b) for APRU: Director (Policy and Programs), APRU International Secretariat

IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

10. ESCAP and APRU will prepare annually (as an annex to this MOU):

- (a) a list with a brief description of all current and planned cooperation activities for the current and next year; and
- (b) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for the two subsequent years.

11. ESCAP and APRU agree that:

- (a) the respective focal points will prepare a joint report annually on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an assessment of results achieved;
- (b) the Parties will conduct a joint review or evaluation of the ESCAP-APRU cooperation 2 (two) years after signature of this MOU, in consultation with the evaluation offices of the respective organizations; and
- (c) these assessments will be reviewed by ESCAP and APRU in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MOU.

X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

12. ESCAP and APRU recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation;
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage, and
- (c) The manner and context in which the acknowledgement is given, or publicly conducted, shall be subject to prior mutual agreement of both Parties.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

13. The term of this MOU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2023.
14. Any specific activities under this MOU shall be covered by a project document or written agreement.
15. This MOU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
16. This MOU may be terminated by either Party on six months notice in writing.

Signed on 27 May 2019 at UN ESCAP Headquarter, Bangkok, Thailand.

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



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

**For the Association of Pacific
Rim Universities**



Mr. Christopher Tremewan
Secretary-General
APRU International Secretariat

ANNEX

CURRENT / PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR ESCAP-APRU COOPERATION IN
20191. **Digital economy and emerging technologies**

Partnering on ARTNET on STI Policy coordinated by ESCAP Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, APRU and its members (as appropriate) are invited to engage on the steering committee, in expert group meeting, research calls, information dissemination and capacity building to support policymakers in the Asia-Pacific region. More information of the activities under ARTNET on STI Policy are available at <https://artnet.unescap.org/sti>

2. **Pacific Ocean**

ESCAP Environment and Development Division, has partnered with the APRU as part of the Ocean Cities capacity building project in 2018 to support SIDS and Pacific member States. Through the partnership, APRU identified the Victoria University of Wellington New Zealand to develop the major knowledge product from the project - a regional policy guide which aims to develop and document an integrated approach for ocean-focused climate-responsive urban development adapted to island systems and local, national, regional and global development plans. **The Ocean Cities Regional Guide will be launched at the 5th Pacific Urban Forum in the first half of 2019** where it is expected to influence a key thematic area for Pacific urban policy makers and stakeholders in this area of technical cooperation.

3. **Sustainable cities and urban development**

ESCAP Environment and Development Division is developing a major joint publication, *The Future of Asia-Pacific Cities 2019*, which is to be launched at the 7th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum in October 2019 in Penang, Malaysia. In the development of that major Report, APRU is facilitating pro bono contributions from its members to contribute to the Report's introductory framing chapter on the role of cities in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.