

II-E. International Cooperation

1. PREAMBLE

The DSIR maintains effective coordination and co-operation with various international organizations such as UNCTAD, WIPO, UNIDO, UNESCAP, and UNESCO at different levels and in association with other concerned Ministries on various issues related to Technology Development and Technology Transfer. Matters pertaining to the APCTT under UNESCAP are dealt with the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Ministry of External Affairs. DSIR also plays an active role in APCTT's functioning, particularly relating to its programmes and policies.

India being the host country, provided institutional support of US\$ 200,000 equivalent in Indian Rupees to the APCTT for meeting both the host facilities and local costs. In addition to that India covered several indirect costs related to building repairs and municipal taxes. DSIR has extended a programme support towards APCTT Regional Programme on National Innovation Systems (NIS) Phase I. Another program support is on the Capacity development of skills for scouting and documentation of green grassroots innovations in Asia and the Pacific. This Grassroots Innovations (GRI) project is a DSIR-APCTT-SRISTI Initiative. DSIR has also initiated to support APCTT Regional Programme on National Innovation Systems (NIS) Phase II.

The revised Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session in May 2005, through its resolution 61/4, stipulates, among other things, that the Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical

Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the operations of APCTT and the Centre shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of India and no fewer than eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election.

2. ACTIVITIES OF APCTT

In 2008, the Centre endeavored to assist the countries of the region in responding to the challenges of integrating rapidly into the global economy by focusing on technology transfer support services for small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), promotion of national innovation systems and green grass-roots innovations, and the provision of information, networking and the sharing of experiences relating to technology transfer. Under these thrust areas, the Centre undertook a range of programmes of immediate relevance to the region.

Network for Technology Transfer

A major activity was the establishment of networks of technology transfer intermediaries in the region to promote cross-border business cooperation among SMEs. Under the project "Promotion of the technology transfer network for SMEs in the Asian and Pacific region" funded by the Government of Germany, technology transfer institutions in the region were

linked. Two online regional portals www.business-asia.net and www.technology4sme.net were developed for technology transfer and for the sharing of technology information and the delivery of business support information with a focus on SMEs. The Search engine, APTITUDE (Asia-Pacific Technology Information Tracking and Unified Data Extraction) developed under this project enables buyers and sellers of Technology to reach the APCTT technology database and other related databases from member countries that are in the public domain. The websites and the search engine were promoted at various fora to create awareness of their usefulness for web-based technology transfer. To promote these twin websites, APCTT organized a series of programmes during the period 2005-2008. Over 250 experts from government agencies, intermediary institutions involved in technology transfer, and representatives of SMEs in selected member countries in the Asia and Pacific region participated in these training programmes.

Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network

In view of the interest and importance of technologies for herbal medicine, APCTT and its member countries had established the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network (APTMNET) to develop and promote industrial/technical cooperation on traditional medicine as well as to disseminate information. The network links 14 countries in the region.

National Innovation Systems

Recognizing the importance of Innovations in a knowledge economy, APCTT is committed in building capacity among countries of the Asia-Pacific region in the field of managing innovations. A successful programme to promote national innovation System (NIS), APCTT has set up a web-based resource centre to share good practices in national policy formulation for an effective NIS and to provide information on trends in NIS and good practices. The resource centre is accessible on the APCTT website. The project was funded by the Government of India. DSIR has initiated to

implement the National Innovation System Phase II.

APCTT implemented a project funded by the Government of India to promote the scouting, documentation and dissemination (SDD) of grassroots innovations (GRI) in the Asia-Pacific Region. The “knowledge Partner” was the society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI), an NGO in India. Under this project, APCTT organized workshop to provide guidelines on how to initiate SDD of GRI in countries. China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka volunteered to initiate an SDD programme and experts from these countries were specially trained. National workshops were held in the four partner countries. The last national workshop was held in China during March 21-22, 2008. At the conclusion of the project, about 380 experts and senior officials, of whom about 140 were women, from various government departments and ministries, R&D institutions and technology transfer intermediaries were trained on scouting, documentation and dissemination (SDD) of grassroots innovations.

Value Added Information Services

APCTT’s periodicals continue to play an essential role in the dissemination and periodicals, the Asia Pacific Tech Monitor and the Value Added Technology Information Services (VATIS) in the areas of Ozone Layer Protection, Waste Technology, Biotechnology, Food Processing and Non Conventional Energy are distributed in the Pacific region. The web versions of the Centre’s technology-oriented periodicals are available at www.techmonitor.net.

Human Resource Development Programme

APCTT helped the human Resource Development Centre of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to design and deliver a three-day residential training programme for its senior R&D managers and representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand on the topic of Valorization of R&D as part of the overall effort to increase the level of commercialization of R&D in laboratories. A similar three-day programme was conducted in

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Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for researchers and research managers from Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS).

Renewable Energy Security

In response to resolution of 64th ESCAP's annual meeting on promoting renewable for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Commission requested to ESCAP to establish an institutional cooperation mechanism with the active engagement of APCTT and expert research institutions in the region, APCTT has prepared a comprehensive project and drawn up a programme of cooperation by identifying activities on development, demonstration and capacity-building pertaining to various renewable energy technologies. APCTT is also working with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Government of India and other related ministries for the implementation of this resolution.

APCTT Technical Committee & Governing Council

The fourth meeting of the Technical Committee was held on 24 and 25 November

2008 in Bangkok, Thailand and was attended by 30 experts from 14 countries namely Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan,

Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The fourth session of the Governing Council (GC) of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) was held on 26 November 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

In 2008, the Centre received contributions from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Macao (China), Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand in varying amounts ranging from US\$ 1,400 to US\$ 35,000 total US\$ 145,973.83 excluding the support received from Government of India. During that period, a total US\$ 200,000 was received from the Government of India for institutional support of the Centre.

3. FOREIGN DEPUTATION FROM DSIR

Senior Officers of DSIR were deputed as Resource Persons/Participants to various events as below:

APCTT. 4th Meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) and the 4th Session of the Governing Council (GC), of the Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) during 24-26 November 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.