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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Information and Communications Technology,  
Science, Technology and Innovation

**First session**

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Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Policy issues for science, technology and innovation:  
facilitating knowledge-sharing between subregional science,  
technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms in Asia  
and the Pacific**

**Report on subregional science, technology and innovation  
cooperation mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

There is a dynamic, vibrant and pioneering science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the region which includes many subregional cooperation mechanisms on these topics.

However, these mechanisms are disparate and unconnected and, thus, do not fully harness the region's vast knowledge and potential. They also exclude many member States in the region. Therefore there is an opportunity to improve cooperation among these subregional cooperation mechanisms and to increase their benefits for the region as a whole. Promoting more, and deeper, collaboration within the entire Asia-Pacific region on science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development should be a priority for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The purpose of the present note is to provide an overview of the subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms and of proposed modalities for ways that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific could facilitate more inclusive knowledge-sharing, cooperation and collective action on these topics.

The proposed outcome of this agenda item is consensus on the modalities to ensure the region as a whole is informed on subregional science, technology and innovation activity and to support cooperation on these topics.

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\* E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/L.1.

## **I. Introduction**

1. At its seventy-second session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted resolution 72/12 on harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. In the resolution, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to raise awareness among member States on the science, technology and innovation dialogues taking place at various forums and international, regional and subregional organizations, by acting as a bridge to facilitate cooperation and joint action when necessary.

2. As a result, ESCAP has been tasked with playing an active role in supporting member States in harnessing science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. These efforts will be realized through a variety of activities, including research and analysis, capacity-building and technical assistance. ESCAP will also act as a liaison for other United Nations efforts, such as the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. One of the Commission's key roles will be to ensure that the progress and achievements of the subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms are highlighted not just to each other, but to the member States who currently do not participate in any of those mechanisms so as to promote deeper knowledge-sharing and collaboration within the entire Asia-Pacific region and to promote science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development. It will allow more rapid advancement by reducing redundancies and improving opportunities to leap-frog.

3. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation presents a unique opportunity to create an inclusive platform for science, technology and innovation that facilitates knowledge-sharing and cooperation across the region as a whole, given its broad membership across Asia and the Pacific.

4. The present note provides an overview of the vision, mission and strategic areas of focus of science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms in the following subregional cooperation organizations: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat. The present note also presents proposed modalities that ESCAP could implement to facilitate more inclusive science, technology and innovation knowledge-sharing, cooperation and collective action.

5. The annex lists the members of each of the subregional organizations mentioned in the present document.

## **II. Subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms and their mandates**

6. The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation of APEC was established in 2012. Its vision is to have achieved, by 2025, through its efforts, innovative economic growth. Its mission is to support the development of science and technology cooperation as well as effective science, technology and innovation policy recommendations in APEC through collaboration among governments, academia, the private sector and

other APEC forums. The Partnership aims to intensify cooperation among governments, the private sector and academia and prioritizes its objectives in three subgroups: (a) building science capacity, (b) promoting an enabling environment for innovation and (c) enhancing regional science and technology connectivity.

7. The ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology was established in 1978. The Committee's vision is a science, technology and innovation-enabled ASEAN, which is also innovative, competitive, vibrant, sustainable and economically integrated. The ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation 2015-2020 was developed to (a) economically integrate ASEAN through active collaboration between the public and private sectors and talent mobility, (b) deepen awareness of science, technology and innovation and its beneficial impacts, (c) leverage an innovation-driven economy with information and communications technology and a strong engagement of youth in science, technology and innovation, (d) bridge ASEAN innovation to the global market, (e) utilize ASEAN innovation to address the grand challenges of the new millennium and (f) establish active research and development collaboration, technology commercialization, entrepreneurship and network of centers of excellence.

8. The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation was established by the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization in 2011 as a specialized agency for the promotion of science and technology with the goal of economic development, the creation of a reservoir of highly skilled scientific and technical human resources, and strengthening the scientific and research institutions in its member States. The Science Foundation is mandated to promote scientific and technological research collaboration and other relevant activities among its member States and to promote science and technology innovation at all levels. In addition, the Science Foundation emphasizes cooperation with international organizations and United Nations agencies for collaboration that promotes synergies and complementarities.

9. The Eurasian Economic Commission Industrial Policy Department was established in 2015 with the purpose of accelerating and improving the sustainability of industrial development and the competitiveness of its member States. Through the implementation of effective cooperation, it aims to increase innovation activities in the industrial sector. States members of the Eurasian Economic Commission agreed on the main direction of industrial cooperation in 2015: to exercise effective and mutually beneficial cooperation between its member States in order to accelerate sustainable industrial development and ensure that it enhances the competitiveness and innovative activity of the industrial sectors.

10. SAARC cooperation in science and technology is pursued through its Technical Committee on Science and Technology. SAARC has recognized the importance of science, technology and higher education in addressing twenty-first century challenges and has prioritized regional cooperation in these areas to derive benefits from the synergy of collective, well-planned and focused initiatives undertaken by its member States. An action plan for science and technology was developed with four primary focuses: (a) cooperation in the field of science and technology, (b) standardization and laboratory testing, (c) themes for cooperation and (d) project development.

11. As part of its mission, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community works for the well-being of Pacific people through the effective and innovative application of science and knowledge, guided by a deep understanding of Pacific island contexts and cultures.

12. The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat is an international organization that promotes peace and shared prosperity among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat consists of four departments: Political Affairs, Economic Affairs, Sociocultural Affairs, and Management and Coordination. Science and technology is a subdivision under Economic Affairs. The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat believes that scientific progress and innovation have underpinned economic development. It has held trilateral dialogues on science and technology in an effort to establish a future-oriented trilateral science and technology cooperation system as a tool to find solutions to common regional issues and make contributions to Asia and the world through such cooperation.

### **III. Modalities for knowledge-sharing and cooperation among subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms**

13. There is a rich body of science, technology and innovation knowledge and practice residing in the above-mentioned cooperation mechanisms. The region as a whole could benefit enormously from this expertise and experience in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. To ensure that the region is fully informed, several ESCAP activities are proposed.

14. **A standing agenda item on subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms at the sessions of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation.** Appropriate representatives from subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms would be invited to attend the Committee session and discuss its standing agenda item in order to present information on activities and stimulate deeper cooperation, if appropriate.

15. **ESCAP observer status at subregional science, technology and innovation meetings.** An appropriate representative from ESCAP would observe subregional science, technology and innovation meetings and attend appropriate forums to facilitate knowledge-sharing with States members of ESCAP.

16. **Annual or biennial report on subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation activities.** An annual or biennial report would be produced to ensure that the region is informed about the issues, opportunities and challenges that these mechanisms address.

17. **Online web presence to catalogue science, technology and innovation cooperation activities.** A web page would be created to provide an overview of subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation activities.

### **IV. Outcome of the agenda item**

18. The Committee seeks consensus on the above-mentioned modalities to ensure the region as a whole is informed on subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation activity and to support deeper cooperation on this topic.

## Annex

### Members of subregional cooperation organizations

#### Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Australia	Papua New Guinea
Brunei Darussalam	Peru
Canada	Philippines
Chile	Republic of Korea
China	Russian Federation
Hong Kong, China	Singapore
Indonesia	Taiwan Province of China
Japan	Thailand
Malaysia	United States of America
Mexico	Viet Nam
New Zealand	

#### Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Brunei Darussalam	Myanmar
Cambodia	Philippines
Indonesia	Singapore
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Thailand
Malaysia	Viet Nam

#### Economic Cooperation Organization

Afghanistan	Pakistan
Azerbaijan	Tajikistan
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Turkey
Kazakhstan	Turkmenistan
Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan

#### Eurasian Economic Commission

Armenia	Kyrgyzstan
Belarus	Russian Federation
Kazakhstan	

**Secretariat of the Pacific Community**

American Samoa	Niue
Australia	Northern Mariana Islands
Cook Islands	Palau
Fiji	Papua New Guinea
France	Pitcairn
French Polynesia	Samoa
Guam	Solomon Islands
Kiribati	Tokelau
Marshall Islands	Tonga
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Tuvalu
Nauru	United States of America
New Caledonia	Vanuatu
New Zealand	Wallis and Futuna

**South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

Afghanistan	Maldives
Bangladesh	Nepal
Bhutan	Pakistan
India	Sri Lanka

**Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat**

China	Republic of Korea
Japan	

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