

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.

The revised Statutes 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.

India being the host country provides an institutional support of US\$ 200,000 equivalent in Indian Rupees to the APCTT for meeting both the host facilities and local costs. DSIR has extended a programme support towards APCTT Regional Programme on National Innovation Systems (NIS). 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.

2. ACTIVITIES OF APCTT

In 2007, 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. 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 to promote cross-border business cooperation and improve the competitiveness of SMEs.

Two online regional portals www.technology4sme.net and www.business-asia.net were developed for technology transfer and for sharing technology information and delivering business support information with a focus on SMEs. To promote these twin websites, APCTT organized a series of programmes in 2007. 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

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. In 2007, efforts were made to make the network (see www.apctt-tm.net) which links 14 countries in the region a viable and productive network. The 4th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 23 and 24 July 2007 hosted by the Ministry of Health of Malaysia. Representatives from China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the meeting, which reviewed the status of APTMNET website development in member countries with emphasis on the difficulties faced in content development.

National Innovation Systems

To build capacity among countries of the Asia-Pacific region in the field of managing

innovations and to share good practices in national policy formulation for national innovation systems (NIS), the Centre has established an NIS online resource centre.

In 2007, the Centre implemented a project funded by the Government of India to develop capacity in member countries to scout, document and disseminate green grass-roots innovations and traditional knowledge. Activities were organized with the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI), an NGO in India that has established the well-known honeybee network, as a knowledge partner. These included a regional workshop to discuss conceptual issues in scouting documentation, database development and dissemination of green grass-roots innovations, a workshop for partner institutions and three national workshops in Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. During the workshops discussions were held on methodologies to scout and document grassroots innovations so that a foundation could be laid to utilize such innovations to foster social entrepreneurship. It is hoped that based on the outcome of this project, new initiatives could be developed in member countries to facilitate worldwide commercialization of grassroots innovation. An Asia-Pacific Grass-roots Innovation website is envisaged that will present the experience gathered and existing literature on grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge.

Technology Transfer Services

APCTT provides seekers and providers of technologies with a technology trade platform and renders technology exchange and transfer services to promote technology cooperation and trade among organizations and enterprises of the Asian and Pacific region. APCTT receives offers of technology from research institutions, universities and companies, including large-scale companies and

intermediaries, especially for SMEs. APCTT is exploring the feasibility of designing an Asian and Pacific technology search engine with the idea of connecting various technology databases available in the public domain so that potential seekers and sellers can search these through the APCTT website.

APCTT's periodicals continue to play an essential role in the dissemination and promotion of technology information and utilization. Copies of the Centre's 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 60 countries. The web versions of the Centre's technology-oriented periodicals are available at www.techmonitor.net.

In 2007, the Centre made concerted efforts to strengthen cooperation with the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries through the provision of advisory services and organization of programmes of interest and relevance to these countries.

To foster cooperation between its members, ESCAP undertakes a combination of normative, analytical and technical cooperation work to review the socio-economic performance in the region, to identify trends, highlight good practices and foster regional cooperation. In this regard, APCTT has given priority to normative and analytical work and focused on issues such as barriers to technology transfer in SMEs and MSMEs and initiatives needed for their mitigation; impact of technology transfer activities on social development; best practices of the utilization of R&D results by SMEs and the private sector; and a

comparative study of technology transfer laws and regulations in the Asian and Pacific region.

APCTT Technical Committee & General Council

The third meeting of the Technical Committee was held on 26 and 27 November 2007 in Bali, Indonesia and was attended by 24 experts from 13 countries namely Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The third session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) was held on 28 November 2007 in Bali, Indonesia.

In 2007, the Centre received contributions from China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand in varying amounts ranging from US\$ 2,400 to US\$ 35,000. During that period, a total US\$ 202,199.78 was received from the Government of India for institutional support of the Centre.

3. FOREIGN DEPUTATIONS FROM DSIR

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

- APCTT. 3rd Meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) and the 3rd Session of the Governing Council (GC), of the Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and two-days' APCTT-LIPI-IBWA Workshop on Women Entrepreneurship Development (WED), during 26-30 November 2007 in Bali, Indonesia

- APCTT. Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Grassroots Innovation for Senior Policy-Makers Building Capacity for Scouting, Documentation, Database Development and Dissemination of Grassroots Innovation 04-05 June 2007, Nanjing, China.
- APCTT. Strengthening IT-powered SME-Oriented Technology Transfer Mechanisms: www.technology4sme.net & www.business-asia.net, 4-6 June 2007, Nanjing, China, and 23-25 April 2007, Bangkok.
- Asia Pacific Information Network (APIN), 3rd Meeting, Co-Organized by UNESCO Bangkok & The National Library of Malaysia, 26-28 February 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Board of Administrators of the Demonstration Centre set up by NRDC, 1st Meeting, 17th -18th May 2007, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. INDIA FAIR, Melbourne, Australia, 29 March – 1 April, 2007.
- International Conference of Technology, 16th Meet, Florida, 13-17 May 2007.