

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Eightieth session**

Bangkok, 22–26 April 2024

Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Management issues**Evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document is submitted pursuant to resolution 71/1 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission decided to review the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of each regional institution. The document contains an overview of the independent evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology conducted by an external evaluation consultant and the conclusions and recommendations for enhancing the results-orientation, relevance, sustainability and efficiency of the Centre. It also contains a description of the actions to be taken by the secretariat to address the evaluation recommendations.

The Commission may wish to endorse the recommendations contained in the present document and take note of the full report on the evaluation of the Centre, as contained in information document ESCAP/80/INF/2.

* ESCAP/80/1.

I. Background

1. In its resolution 71/1, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided to review the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of each of its regional institutions every five years. In line with that decision, the secretariat commissioned an independent evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in 2023, five years after the previous evaluation of the Centre in 2018.

2. The evaluation consultant gave a presentation on the outcome of the evaluation to the members of the Governing Council of the Centre at its nineteenth session, held in Tashkent and online on 6 and 7 December 2023. The conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation are excerpted from the full report and included in the present document for the information of the Commission.¹

II. Purpose and method

3. The evaluation was aimed at informing the review by the Commission of the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of the Centre and providing recommendations to the secretariat and the Commission on how to improve the substantive relevance and financial viability of the Centre. As part of the evaluation, the results achieved by and the performance of the Centre were assessed using the standard evaluation criteria. In addition, methods of enhancing the results-orientation of the Centre were determined.

4. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the norms, standards and procedures set out in the monitoring and evaluation policy and guidelines of the Commission² to ensure the evaluation would be independent, objective and of high quality. It was conducted from August to December 2023 by former Secretary (Minister) of Science and Technology of the Philippines, Mr. Filemon Uriarte, Jr.

5. As part of the evaluation, a comprehensive review of relevant documents was carried out. In addition, consultations, interviews and a survey of the Centre's stakeholders were conducted. The evaluation consultant also conducted a mission to New Delhi on 24 and 25 August 2023 and met with staff members of the Centre and senior officials from the Government of India and collaborating partners, including a Joint Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Ministry of Science and Technology; the Head of the Human Resource Development Centre of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; the Director General of the International Solar Alliance; and the Head of the United Nations Environment Programme office in India. Interviews were conducted with members of the Governing Council of the Centre and the national focal points of the Centre. The evaluation consultant also completed a mission to Bangkok on 22 and 23 August 2023, during which he met with staff members of the secretariat of the Commission and senior government officials from Thailand, including the Deputy Governor of the Research and Development Group for Sustainable Development of the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research and the Director of the International Cooperation Strategy Group of

¹ The full report on the evaluation of the Centre is contained in information document ESCAP/80/INF/2.

² See <https://repository.unescap.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12870/6352/ESCAP-2023-MN-Monitoring-Evaluation-Policy-Guidelines.pdf>.

the International Affairs Division of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

6. Through the evaluation, it was determined that the work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology had had a satisfactory impact on the science, technology and innovation ecosystem of some member States. The report on the evaluation contained concrete examples of that impact, including the Centre's contribution to (a) the creation and implementation of the plan of the Philippines on grassroots innovation for inclusive development and (b) the development of a platform that would enable Uzbekistan to gain knowledge from other member States on technologies that could be transferred to and adopted by the country and vice versa.

7. It was also found that the work of the Centre was highly relevant to the needs and aspirations of its member States. The relevance of the work of the Centre was recognized by the Governing Council, the member States of the Centre and other stakeholders. In addition, the strategic plan (2023–2027) had resulted in the Centre being even more relevant, since its priorities had been aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and regional priorities. Furthermore, the Centre had attained some level of financial sustainability owing to a significant increase in contributions from the host Government.

8. On the basis of the findings and conclusions contained in the evaluation report, five recommendations were made, with four addressed to the secretariat and one addressed to the Commission. The secretariat welcomed the recommendations and appreciated the full cooperation accorded to the evaluation consultant by member States, the host Government and other development partners by engaging in constructive interviews and discussions and providing information relevant to addressing the issues.

A. Recommendations addressed to the secretariat

Recommendation 1

Develop novel and creative strategies to secure funding, develop partnerships and prioritize the implementation of the initiatives identified in the strategic plan of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (2023–2027)

9. In line with the objectives of its strategic plan, the Centre has strengthened its efforts to increase its available resources and establish long-lasting substantive partnerships with multiple international organizations. In response to recommendation 1, the Centre will establish long-term partnerships with selected relevant international organizations and donors whose strategic priorities align with the strategic plan of the Centre (2023–2027), including subregional organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The Centre will also seek additional funds through the new partnerships established to implement priority initiatives identified in the strategic plan.

Recommendation 2

Give top priority to developing and implementing online capacity-building courses on technology transfer and commercialization, as well as on selected topics identified in the strategic plan of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (2023–2027)

10. The secretariat agrees with the recommendation that a self-paced course on technology transfer and commercialization would align with the Centre's emphasis on capacity-building across the Asia-Pacific region. To that end, developing self-paced targeted modules in partnership with a reputed university and other regional institutions of the Commission would enable the Centre to deliver on its mandate and strategic priorities. In order to implement the recommendation, the Centre will identify and establish partnerships with key international academic organizations in technology transfer and commercialization. Together with these organizations and other regional institutions of the Commission, the Centre will develop self-paced modules, as well as implementation arrangements to determine appropriate learning management systems and the costs of taking up these courses.

Recommendation 3

Develop and implement a multi-year, donor-funded project that includes a series of knowledge-sharing workshops in each Asia-Pacific subregion on research and development and innovation to address social and technological issues related to energy transition and renewable technologies, climate-resilient infrastructure in cities and digital and fourth industrial revolution technologies

11. With regard to recommendation 3, the Centre will develop a proposal for a multi-year project on knowledge-sharing mechanisms relating to innovative and emerging climate technologies prioritized under the strategic plan of the Centre (2023–2027). The project may include subregional face-to-face and online knowledge-sharing workshops, communities of practice and other forums, as well as knowledge products. The Centre will also explore potential partnerships, as well as funding and in-kind contributions, with donors and interested member States.

Recommendation 4

Exert greater effort and put more emphasis on enhancing the visibility of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

12. With regard to recommendation 4, the secretariat recognizes that enhancing the visibility of the Centre is necessary both to improve awareness of the activities of the Centre and to foster cooperation and the transfer of innovative and emerging technologies in the Asia-Pacific region. To that end, the Centre has already undertaken initiatives by producing promotional materials, including a newsletter, and through the use of digital media. Furthermore, the Centre will develop a comprehensive communications and information strategy and implementation plan to enhance its visibility and demonstrate its regional experience and expertise. It will also continue to produce and disseminate promotional materials on its efforts regularly and establish partnerships with academic institutions, the private sector and industry groups.

B. Recommendation addressed to the Commission

Recommendation 5

Consider deleting the phrase “no fewer than” from the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in order to make Governing Council membership uniform among all regional institutions

13. With regard to recommendation 5, whereas the current statutes of the other regional institutions of the Commission specify that the membership of the Governing Councils should consist of a representative designated by the host country and eight representatives³ of other members and associate members of the Commission elected by the Commission, the statute of the Centre reads “no fewer than eight representatives”.⁴

14. The Commission may wish to consider amending the statute of the Centre by deleting the phrase “no fewer than”, with a view to harmonizing the membership of the Governing Council of the Centre with that of the other regional institutions of the Commission.

15. Alternatively, the Commission may wish to decide to set at eight the number of seats in the Governing Council of the Centre to be filled through elections.

IV. Issues for consideration by the Commission

16. The Commission may wish to endorse the recommendations contained in the present document and take note of the full report on the evaluation of the Centre contained in information document ESCAP/80/INF/2.

³ For the statutes of the regional institutions, see Commission resolutions 61/6, 67/13, 71/11 and 72/2.

⁴ Commission resolution 72/3, annex, para. 9.