
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of
the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP
regional institutions**

Programme performance report for the biennium 2010-2011^{*}

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present report provides an account of the programme performance of ESCAP for the biennium 2010-2011 as assessed against the expected accomplishments set out in the strategic framework for each subprogramme for the biennium. The programme performance report consists of (a) highlights of programme achievements and (b) results, by subprogramme, for the biennium 2010-2011.

The present report is central to holding ESCAP accountable to its members and associate members in terms of the efficient use of resources and the delivery of mandated results. The assessment of programme achievements and results is supported by information collected from the end-users of the secretariat's products and services through surveys, interviews and evaluations or other reviews.

The present report will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) at its 341st session, to be held on 29 March 2012. An addendum reflecting the outcome of the review by ACPR will, if necessary, be issued as E/ESCAP/68/INF/3.

The Commission may wish to review the present report and comment on the overall performance of ESCAP and its eight subprogrammes. Based on the lessons learned, the Commission may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on future implementation modalities that would improve the effectiveness of ESCAP.

^{*} This document has been issued without formal editing.

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I. Highlights of programme achievements in the biennium 2010-2011

During the period 2010-2011, ESCAP promoted regional cooperation and collective action to achieve economic and social progress for the people of Asia and the Pacific. For example, ESCAP made progress in transforming its secretariat into a powerful regional centre for rigorous analysis, sharing development policies and practices and innovative solutions, and building regional and subregional consensus, norms and standards on a range of economic, social and environmental issues, based on United Nations values. A highlight of the biennium was the opening of ESCAP's new subregional offices, aimed at strengthening the development pillar of the United Nations by serving as forums for discussing subregional development priorities, expanding partnerships with subregional stakeholders and increased knowledge-sharing. In addition, ESCAP has developed a coordinated voice for the least developed countries of the region, identifying debt, increased government revenues and the effects of food and fuel price shocks on the poor as pressing concerns for their countries. Through the Incheon Declaration the Commission recommitted itself to strengthening efforts towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, enhancing regional cooperation to further address development issues, including recovery from the economic and financial crises, environmental sustainability and the concerns of countries with special needs.

Challenges, Obstacles and Unmet Goals

While ESCAP has accomplished much over the past two years, new priorities and challenges require a continued effort that can only be met by working together with member States to create a new sustainable paradigm for inclusive economic growth within the Asia-Pacific region, matching economic recovery with a renewed emphasis on forward looking, people-centered social and ecological dimensions of development.

II. Results achieved in the biennium 2010-2011*

A. Executive direction and management

Objective of the Organization: To ensure full implementation of legislative mandates and compliance with United Nations policies and procedures with respect to the management of the programme of work and of staff and financial resources of ESCAP

Expected accomplishment 1: Programme of work is effectively managed

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP continued to implement changes for better service to its member States. ESCAP's support in the programme of work is channeled through strengthening strategic planning and programming processes, promoting full implementation of its mandates and effective use of financial resources, improving the monitoring and evaluation systems, enhancing the planning of capacity development programmes, building effective partnerships with development partners and promoting an overall UN system-wide coherence at the regional level. During the biennium 2010-2011, ESCAP opened all of its new subregional offices, which are expected to be fully operational in the next biennium. By 31 December 2011, 99.72 per cent of the final appropriation for Section 18 of the regular budget for the biennium 2010-2011 had been utilized.

Expected accomplishment 2: Timely recruitment and placement of staff

Statement of accomplishments: During the biennium, ESCAP was experiencing the phasing out of Galaxy and the introduction of the new recruitment system, Inspira, which was implemented in phases. As a result, ESCAP's average number of days to recruit staff at the professional and higher levels was 192, which exceeded the target of 150 days. In order to improve performance, ESCAP has robustly engaged with the stakeholders of the staff selection system, including Hiring Managers and Central Review Bodies, in order to assist them in their learning of the new system. In addition, the mandatory Competency-Based Interview workshop continued to be offered to train staff involved in the selection and interview process, and the Central Review Bodies at ESCAP continued the practice of conducting virtual meetings to review cases.

Expected accomplishment 3: Improved geographical representation and gender balance

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP surpassed the 35 per cent target for geographical representation by 25.1 per cent. During the biennium, ESCAP achieved 60.1 per cent of geographic selections from un- and under-represented member States. ESCAP also improved gender equity in professional staff recruitment by increasing the percentage of female staff members to 39.7 per cent, against the target of 40 per cent. The achievement is due in part to ESCAP's systematic approach in its outreach activities to ensure wider distribution of information about career opportunities that exist in ESCAP to attract the widest pool of qualified candidates. Recognizing that an effective step in improving geographical representation is through the

* Outputs mentioned in the present section are listed in the proposed programme budget submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session (A/64/6 (Sect. 18)). The programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/244 of 24 December 2009.

NCRE examination, additional efforts were made in collaboration with ESCAP member States to advertise and distribute information about the 2010 NCRE examination in the respective countries where the examination was being offered.

Expected accomplishment 4: Identification of emerging issues that require attention by member States

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP continued to reinforce itself as the key regional platform for promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific assisting member States to formulate a coordinated voice in global development dialogues. The Commission has provided the regional architecture to track economic and social decisions, and share good practices among the different subregions to ensure growth with equity in the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP will continue to enhance its role as a critical resource and regional hub for innovation for countries and states in Asia and the Pacific seeking to improve the lives of their people.

Expected accomplishment 5: Enhanced policy coherence in the management of the economic and social activities of the United Nations

Statement of accomplishments: The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) made substantial progress in improving coordination and coherence in the UN system at the regional level, including the institutionalization of the RCM. A practical understanding was reached on the respective roles of the RCM and regional undg groupings. The RCM was integrated into the global Chief Executives Board/High-level Committee on Programme (CEB/HLCP) architecture and the outputs of the RCM served as a linkage with the CEB, providing important regional dimensions to issues on the HLCP's agenda. The functioning of the six thematic working groups under the RCM was reviewed and has been strengthened.

Expected accomplishment 6: Mobilization and promotion of public information on the role of ESCAP in the Asia and Pacific region

Statement of accomplishments: During the biennium, media commentators increasingly referred to ESCAP as a leading player in addressing issues of regional concern through the development of policy options, in particular in relation to the economic, food, fuel and climate change crises. The heightened visibility of the organization was indicated by an increasing number of articles published on the work of ESCAP, including 13 opinion articles authored by the Executive Secretary in 132 news articles across the region, and increased interest in information posted on ESCAP's website.

B. Subprogramme 1: Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development

Objective of the Organization: To reduce poverty by promoting a sound macroeconomic policy environment for growth and inclusive development, especially among the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals in the ESCAP region

Expected accomplishment 1: Increased regional cooperation and sharing of experiences and practices in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies to reduce poverty, and achievement of sustainable and inclusive economic and social development

Statement of accomplishments: The subprogramme contributed to fostering a sound macroeconomic policy environment in the face of various challenges, including the continuing effects of the global economic crisis and the resurgence of food and oil prices. In particular, the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific and its year-end update highlighted the need to rebalance growth and narrow development gaps in order to sustain the region's dynamism. In addition to fiscal and monetary policies, policies to enhance the region's connectivity and economic integration and to strengthen the productive capacity of LDCs were explored. These analytical works received extensive coverage by local, regional and international media outlets including the BBC, Reuters, AP, Bloomberg and Xinhua. The key findings of the Survey were further elaborated through policy dialogues in 29 member States, with more than 900 policymakers and representatives of civil society participating.

Expected accomplishment 2: Improved capacity of member States to design and implement medium- to long-term economic development policy options, including in the area of financing for development

Statement of accomplishments: The subprogramme contributed to the longer term development of the region by generating timely discussions on social protection, financial inclusion, and the poverty impacts of higher food prices. Given that sustaining the region's dynamism is vital for development and mobilization of resources, capacity building workshops were organized, including in Cambodia where strategies to enhance competitiveness and attract foreign direct investment were discussed. At the regional level, a policy dialogue organized jointly with the Philippines central bank focused on building resilience against various shocks. Contributions were also made to the 3rd and 4th South Asia Economic Summits, and an exhibition forum highlighted the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in development. Moreover, the subprogramme helped build regional voice and consensus on key development issues, including through high-level consultations on the G20 summits in Seoul and Cannes. These were supported by rigorous analyses, including through policy briefs, working papers and the Asia-Pacific Development Journal.

Expected accomplishment 3: Improved capacity of member States to develop programmes, utilize good practices and formulate strategies for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on regional poverty reduction and gender equality issues

Statement of accomplishments: The subprogramme contributed to the regional implementation of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals, in particular for the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) of the region. The MDG Asia-Pacific Regional Report, jointly prepared with the Asian and Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), helped to take stock of the region's progress and address areas in which it is lagging behind. In particular, the 2010/11 report, launched during the MDG Summit in September 2010 in New York, highlighted the priorities for the Asia-Pacific

region in the remaining years leading to 2015, including in the areas of hunger, health and basic infrastructure. Special attention was given to gender equality issues and to integrating the MDGs into national development strategies, including through a partnership dialogue in Cambodia and advocacy training and sub-regional workshops aimed at accelerating progress in the least developed countries.

Expected accomplishment 4: Progress towards graduation of the least developed countries through mobilization of regional efforts to address poverty reduction and other concerns of countries with special needs

Statement of accomplishments: The subprogramme contributed to meeting the special needs of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS of the region. Several recommendations and resolutions were adopted by the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, the Special Body on Least Developed (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and the 66th and 67th sessions of the Commission. The Commission played a key role in the Fourth UN LDC Conference in Istanbul, by providing regional input followed by a stakeholder meeting, which adopted a regional road map for the next decade. A high-level dialogue on the Mauritius Strategy brought greater attention to the Pacific island countries, while a high-level dialogue on the Almaty Programme of Action for LLDCs addressed key issues of connectivity and trade facilitation. The third development forum in Myanmar shed light on improving rice policies for food security, while the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Economic Forum helped promote peace and economic development in Afghanistan in the context of subregional cooperation.

Expected accomplishment 5: Improved capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement policies and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the sustainable development of secondary crops

Statement of accomplishments: The subprogramme contributed to reducing poverty and hunger through sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Asia-Pacific region still accounts for a majority of the world's poor and has the highest proportion of undernourished people, but agriculture has been input intensive and is now being threatened by climate change and natural hazards. In this regard, a project on forecasting food security under El Nino helped identify the impact of climate change on staple crop production in Indonesia, Viet Nam and Malaysia. Gender dimensions of rural development policies were also explored. The subprogramme's effective capacity building, outreach and policy advice activities were recognized by an EU-Canada funding of a 2.5 million euro project on network for knowledge transfer on sustainable agricultural technologies and improved market linkages in South and Southeast Asia. Major conferences and seminars brought together key stakeholders from the ministries of agriculture and research institutes.

C. Subprogramme 2: Trade and investment

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation and integration in trade, investment, finance and technology transfer in the ESCAP region in support of inclusive and sustainable development

Expected accomplishment 1: Strengthened regional cooperative mechanisms in trade, investment and finance

Statement of accomplishments: The six member States of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) continue to express their appreciation for the technical and logistical support provided by the secretariat, and Mongolia expressed its appreciation for the technical support provided by ESCAP in connection with its accession to the Agreement. Five out of six APTA Participating States ratified both the Framework Agreement on Trade Facilitation and the Framework Agreement on Investment during 2010-2011. All six APTA Participating States have signed the Framework Agreements on Trade in Services, Trade Facilitation and Investment. The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) continues to grow, now with 32 member institutions and spanning a community of about 800 individual researchers. An external evaluation assessed ARTNeT to be a highly successful network that has significantly contributed to capacity building in the region. Collaboration among Global Compact networks in the region kept increasing, with membership in the community of practice expanding. The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forums organized annually are now established as the leading regional mechanism for cooperation and knowledge sharing on trade facilitation and paperless trade issues

Expected accomplishment 2: Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement effective and coherent policies, including those with a gender dimension, on trade and investment, enterprise development and finance policies

Statement of accomplishments: Approximately 83% of participants in ESCAP activities and initiatives during 2010-2011 indicated that they had increased capacity to formulate and implement effective and mutually coherent and consistent trade and investment, enterprise development and finance policies, including those with a gender dimension. In 2010-2011, close to 1,200 people were trained by ESCAP on trade and investment issues, including through the World Trade Organization (WTO)/ESCAP technical assistance programme, the Asia-Pacific Research on Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), and the regional community of practice on corporate social responsibility (CSR) established by ESCAP. About 500 officials and trade facilitation stakeholders also benefited from the various trade facilitation capacity building activities during the biennium, most of them delivered through the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade (UNNExT) launched by ESCAP in 2009.

Expected accomplishment 3: Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through agrotechnology transfer and agro-based enterprise development

Statement of accomplishments: Through December 2011, the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) made significant progress toward achieving the target indicator of 75% of participants being better able to formulate strategies for sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through regional cooperation in aspects of agro-technology and agricultural enterprise development. Around two hundred professionals, policy-makers, agricultural technicians and academicians were exposed to current agro-technology knowledge in the fields of hybrid rice technology and post-harvest loss reduction in rice. An additional 32 agricultural technicians,

policy makers and academicians were made aware of the sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies (SAMS) process. Two country representatives stated they would like to undertake SAMS in 2012.

Expected accomplishment 4: Strengthened capacity to promote national innovative systems and create an enabling environment for technology transfer to address regional development challenges

Statement of accomplishments: In 2009, a total number of 15 member countries (Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam) participated in the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) activities. In 2010, in addition to these countries, Bhutan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic joined the Centre's activities bringing the total to 19. During the first half of 2011 Cambodia also joined and at the end of June 2011, 20 countries were involved. This was mainly due to the Centre's work related to Countries with Special Needs (CSNs) under the National Innovation System (NIS) project funded by the Government of India.

D. Subprogramme 3: Transport

Objective of the Organization: To promote regional cooperation and integration in transport for inclusive and sustainable development in the ESCAP region

Expected accomplishment 1: Enhanced knowledge and increased capacity of member States to develop and implement effective and sustainable transport policies and programmes, including those targeting the Millennium Development Goals

Statement of accomplishments: The secretariat's continuing efforts to enhance the capacity of member States to develop and implement effective transport policies were evidenced by a string of encouraging results, including adoption of a number of ESCAP resolutions to enhance regional connectivity for inclusive and sustainable development. Phase II (2012-2016) of the Regional Action for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific has been reviewed by a regional expert group meeting and will be put forward for consideration and adoption at a ministerial conference in March 2012. Additionally, ESCAP's working draft of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports, which aims to bring about connectivity and integration of Asian Highway and Trans-Asian networks and other transport modes, has been reviewed by regional governments and is expected to be finalized in 2012. Many governments made considerable progress in institutional development, administrative arrangement and financing mechanisms to support public-private partnerships in infrastructure development.

Expected accomplishment 2: Improved capability of member States and international financial institutions to use the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and other ESCAP-promoted initiatives for planning international intermodal transport linkages

Statement of accomplishments: The secretariat worked to enhance capacities of ESCAP member States and international financing institutions to use the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks for planning international intermodal transport linkages. Regional governments have indicated that their development priorities were now increasingly focused on

international transport corridors, as part of national transport development master plans http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/ct2010/English/CTR2_5E_report.pdf, para. 23. In this respect, assistance was extended to member countries in identifying priority investment projects to develop/improve/maintain both networks and intermodal interfaces, for further analysis and funding consideration by international financial institutions and donors. Financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and World Bank have made funds available for developing/upgrading various sections of the networks in a number of countries. The Asian Highway network, which now connects to all landlocked countries, has also been used as reference for subregional cooperation programmes in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and by organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA).

Expected accomplishment 3: Increased capacity among ESCAP member States and regional industries to implement measures to improve the efficiency of international transport operations and logistics as well as road safety

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP's Time-Cost/Distance Methodology continued to receive wide recognition as an important tool to identify/address major bottlenecks impeding efficient cross-border transport. To assist member States to remove non-physical bottlenecks along transport routes/border crossings, a draft Regional Strategic Framework for Facilitation of International Road Transport has been formulated and integrated into the draft Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), for consideration of Ministerial Conference on Transport in 2012. Additionally, the launch of the global Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2011-2020, received strong support from member States through regional/national activities. In line with ESCAP regional goals/indicators/targets, a multitude of road safety initiatives were taken by member States to achieve 50 per cent reduction in fatalities and injuries. ESCAP-promoted initiatives encouraged many railway authorities to collaborate in organizing demonstration runs along Trans-Asian Railway network and new scheduled commercial services are being launched.

E. Subprogramme 4: Environment and development

Objective of the Organization: To improve the environmental sustainability of economic development and effective management of energy and water resources in the ESCAP region in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishment 1: Strengthened consensus among ESCAP member States on an increased number of issues related to environmentally sustainable economic growth

Statement of accomplishments: Consensus was reached on: (a) Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Astana, 2010; (b) Regional Implementation Plan on Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific, 2010-2015, and the (c) Astana Green Bridge Initiative. All three documents are the outcome of the sixth Ministerial

Conference on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific (MCED-6). At the MCED-6, the Pacific Small Island States announced a Green Growth Partnership among them to promote sustainable development in the region. In addition the 66th Commission session addressed the direct contribution to the promotion of sustainable development in the region. Furthermore, the 67th Commission session adopted ESCAP Resolution 67/2 on Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific.

Expected accomplishment 2: Improved awareness and understanding among policymakers in planning, finance and other relevant ministries and stakeholders in the ESCAP region on effective policy and programme options for promoting environmentally sustainable economic growth

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP continued its efforts to raise awareness and understanding of policy and programme options that promote environmentally sustainable economic growth. Through its research, meetings, international fora and on other occasions, ESCAP promoted its work on green growth, energy efficiency and renewable energy, sustainable urban development, as well as water resources management. Utilizing its wide network of stakeholders, including government officials, civil society and the private sector, ESCAP expanded its outreach, achieving high participation rates at meetings and always receiving positive feedback. In particular, the questionnaires received in meetings generally indicated improved awareness and understanding of policies and programme options advocated by ESCAP.

Expected accomplishment 3: Improved capacity of ESCAP member States to develop policy and programme options, including those with a poverty and gender dimension, for promoting environmentally sustainable economic growth

Statement of accomplishments: A core focus of ESCAP's work during the biennium was capacity building for policymakers at all levels, primarily in key ministries, and operational staff of national and local governments, to design and implement policies that promote environmentally sustainable economic growth. In addition to studies and workshops, nine hands-on trainings were organized on solid waste management, green growth leadership and eco-efficient urban infrastructure. The Government of Cambodia adopted a National Green Growth Roadmap, developed by the Inter-ministerial Green Growth Working Group at a Ministerial Roundtable. The President of Kazakhstan established an Interministerial working group, which endorsed a national report on application of Green Growth policy tools. Fiji adopted a new law on Green Growth, Green Productivity and Green Jobs.

Expected accomplishment 4: Increased national capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate effective policies and strategies for the management and use of energy and water resources

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP worked with government policymakers at all levels, including civil society, academia, NGOs, local governments and the private sector, to enhance the effectiveness of energy security, improve management of water resources and design inclusive and sustainable development policies. The energy security agenda was promoted through field projects, which included workshops, expert group meetings and

direct consultations with policymakers. ESCAP organized an expert group meeting and an Asia-Pacific business forum on low carbon development paths, with the participation of more than 20 experts and some 200 participants from member States. These activities were aimed at assisting member governments in identifying different approaches appropriate to the conditions of economic development, especially for the developing countries. To advance eco-efficient water infrastructure and integrated water resources management, ESCAP reached out to partner organizations and organized various regional fora and studies, which were supported by pilot projects and field assessments of water and sanitation infrastructure.

F. Subprogramme 5: Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation for the improved management of disasters and associated socio-economic risks and to promote application of information and communications technology for socio-economic development in the ESCAP region

Expected accomplishment 1: Increased sharing of knowledge among ESCAP member States on policy options, strategies and best practices for information and communication technology (ICT) connectivity and for integrating multi-hazard disaster risk reduction into national development

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP contributed to increased knowledge sharing through analytical studies and policy dialogues that brought together policymakers, experts and practitioners from the region and further afield. The Asia Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development made significant progress in aggregating at the regional level, in a more systematic way, the laws, policies and communities of practice on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning processes. Another significant result in knowledge sharing was the completion of the first regional study on the disaster situation in Asia and the Pacific: “The Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010, Protecting Development Gains”.

Expected accomplishment 2: Strengthened regional cooperative mechanisms in support of ICT connectivity and disaster risk management

Statement of accomplishments: The Mechanism for providing space-based information and services for drought monitoring and early warning was launched under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) in September 2010. It will expand to cover other major disasters beginning with floods. The 14th Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT agreed that ESCAP and ITU/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) should jointly build the regional disaster communications capacities. ESCAP enhanced regional capacity for disaster risk management through the cooperative activities of the ESCAP/World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Typhoon Committee. National training workshops held in Pacific countries and in-depth, follow-up training built the capacity of national key stakeholders and facilitated access to satellite imagery and products for disaster risk management. The ESCAP “Trust Fund” continues to provide its beneficiaries with enhanced capacities in early warning and disaster risk reduction.

Expected accomplishment 3: Improved capabilities of ESCAP member States in the field of multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks

Statement of accomplishments: The Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2010, published by ESCAP jointly with UNISDR¹, informed policy-makers of disaster risks and the impact of disasters in the ESCAP sub-regions. The Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development facilitated information exchange to support mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into socio-economic development. ESCAP promoted subregional networking for effective exchange of information in flood risk reduction taking into consideration extreme weather events in Central Asia, and the sharing of good practices and lessons learned across the region to deal with the challenges posed by large-scale disasters and the effects on development following the disasters in Pakistan, Japan and in Southeast Asia. Member States in the Pacific were trained in the economic assessment of natural disasters at a subregional workshop organized by ESCAP.

Expected accomplishment 4: Improved institutional capacity of ESCAP member States to apply ICT for socio-economic development

Statement of accomplishments: The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) promoted the ICT for development (ICTD) capacity development of policymakers by organizing/supporting a total of 33 workshops, meetings, conferences and other events in partnership with national governments, training institutions, other international organizations, academia and the private sector. These included the roll-out of its flagship 'Academy' programme in seven new countries, two sub-regional and five regional level workshops/train-the-trainer programmes, and a large-scale Regional Forum on ICT human capacity development. Another 52 Academy workshops/events were organized by APCICT's partners utilizing the Academy modules. Moreover, the online distance learning version of the Academy called APCICT Virtual Academy continued to expand. Overall, 8,477 participants were reached through APCICT or its partner organized/supported events, and online training courses, during this period. APCICT also launched a new project on 'Strengthening ICTD Education in Institutions of Higher Learning' to expand the beneficiary group to students and youth.

G. Subprogramme 6: Social development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen cooperation in the ESCAP region in order that member States may build more inclusive societies through social and financial policies and measures that promote social protection and development

Expected accomplishment 1: Effective facilitation of regional reviews to assess progress, address gaps, identify and build consensus on priority areas for action in the implementation of commitments agreed at United Nations intergovernmental processes pertaining to social development, population, ageing, disability, gender equality and health

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP served as a key regional platform to engage governments and key stakeholders in assessing progress,

¹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

identifying gaps and building consensus on the implementation of the international and regional commitments pertaining to social development, in particular, on ageing, disability, HIV, migration, youth and gender equality. The gender dimension has been integrated into the planning and implementation of all ESCAP activities, which contributed to the reflection of gender concerns in the outcome documents. An average of 93% of participants attending ESCAP meetings and events during the biennium indicated that the activities organized by ESCAP to review the implementation of global mandates concerning social development were relevant and useful and that they had gained deeper knowledge about the progress and gaps. This percentage exceeded the target of 75%. They further indicated that the agreed outcomes reflect regional concerns and priorities in the implementation of international commitments.

Expected accomplishment 2: Enhanced awareness of policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection, including those with a focus on poverty reduction

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP produced comprehensive analytical studies to address key regional concerns and priorities in the area of population, ageing, migration, disability, HIV, social protection and gender equality. These analytical studies enhanced member States' awareness of policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection and effective deliberations by member States on key social issues at regional fora. In particular, the theme study entitled "The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific", prepared by the secretariat for the 67th Commission session, contributed to the deliberation of ESCAP member States. ESCAP's analytical work in the field of social development generated high demands, which were reflected in the ESCAP website log statistics and feedback received from readers.

Expected accomplishment 3: Strengthened capacity and increased technical cooperation among ESCAP member States in developing and implementing social policies and financing aimed at building inclusive societies, reducing poverty and promoting gender equality

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP undertook a series of interrelated initiatives to strengthen the capacity of governments for developing policy and programmes to address critical priorities and gaps in building inclusive societies, reducing poverty and promoting gender equality. Gender concerns were addressed from the design and planning stage to implementation of all the key initiatives in various areas of social development. Evaluative feedback from governmental, civil society and other participants in the activities organized by ESCAP to promote regional cooperation indicated consistently high levels of impact in terms of provision of relevant knowledge and policy tools. An average of 91% out of a total of 644 participants in such activities during the biennium indicated through survey responses that the knowledge and policy tools provided were relevant and useful to their roles and work in areas related to disability, HIV, ageing, migration, social protection and gender equality.

H. Subprogramme 7: Statistics

Objective of the Organization: To increase the use of statistics for evidence-based decision-making and foster the development and dissemination of key demographic, social, economic and environmental statistics in the ESCAP region.

Expected accomplishment 1: Increased understanding and capacity to assess key socio-economic trends in the ESCAP region, especially progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, by national official statisticians, decision makers and the public

Statement of accomplishments: Statistical analyses contained in ESCAP flagship publications enhanced the knowledge and understanding among statisticians and policy-makers of key national and regional development trends. Assessments of the progress towards the MDGs and disparities both between and within countries contributed to the increased understanding of what is required for achieving the MDGs, and facilitated resource mobilization for targeted poverty reduction initiatives. Analytical work on the impact of the economic crisis on poverty in the region enabled various audiences to better understand issues related to the availability and quality of statistical information, as well as of the methodological difficulties involved.

Expected accomplishment 2: Increased access by decision makers and the public to comparable data on key demographic, social, economic and environmental indicators for the ESCAP region

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP served as a unique regional platform for leaders of national statistical systems to promote statistics development in Asia and the Pacific through strengthened regional cooperation, and to formulate regional positions on major global statistical issues. The endorsement of four resolutions on statistics at the sixty-seventh Commission session demonstrated member States' commitment to the strategic goals for statistics development set by the Committee on Statistics.

The Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011 was well-received by member States and frequently quoted in national and regional media, an indication that the data and analyses have stimulated reflections on the status of socio-economic developments as well as policy options to address the challenges. Its collaborative production process made it an excellent platform for engaging at the substantive level with experts from partner agencies. Making the best use of statistics available, ESCAP publishes comparable data on key demographic, social, economic and environmental indicators through a free-of-charge online database. Improved quality in contents and addition of interactive tools prompted increased website usage.

Expected accomplishment 3: Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to produce comparable and gender-disaggregated data in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices

Statement of accomplishments: Guided by the strategic goals of the Committee on Statistics and cooperating through the newly established Partnership for Statistics development in Asia-Pacific, ESCAP scaled up its efforts to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems in the production and dissemination of vital statistics, economic statistics and agricultural and rural statistics, and continued to support the improvement of measurements and statistics on disability and informal sector and informal employment. Various initiatives on gender statistics contributed to building a foundation for national partnerships. Work on supporting the achievement of the MDGs contributed to promoting the production of disaggregated statistics and the use of statistics for policy analysis and advocacy to promote development.

Expected accomplishment 4: Strengthened capacity of national statistical offices in the ESCAP region to produce, disseminate and analyse data in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP helped strengthen national statistical capacity through the activities of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, in particular through its statistical training networks. From January 2010 to December 2011, a total of 951 government officials/statisticians developed their skills and improved their knowledge in official statistics, including internationally agreed standards, methods and frameworks in a number of areas. SIAP trainees and senior managers of national statistical offices, upon return to their offices, reported that the skills they acquired from the SIAP training improved their understanding and job performance.

I. Subprogramme 8: Subregional activities for development

Component 1: Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

Objective of the Organization: To promote inclusive and sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on the specific priorities of ESCAP member States in the Pacific

Expected accomplishment 1: Enhanced capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement economic and social development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in the Pacific

Statement of accomplishments: In preparation for Rio+20, Pacific small islands developing states have agreed on a series of positions concerning two themes of Rio+20, and have adopted a “green economy in a blue world” approach to sustainable development to achieve the delicate balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development. The regional midterm review of the Mauritius Strategy revealed that progress has been made in formulating and implementing economic and social development policies and programmes. The review and Ministerial dialogue recommended strategies to spur development in the Pacific, including a call on the international community to honor their commitments, the adoption of green growth policies, the strengthening of implementation mechanisms and adequate budget allocation. Outcomes from the Pacific regional review of progress towards implementing the Mauritius Strategy were considered at the 66th Commission session, as well as by the 18th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. These were brought together during the Secretary-General’s visit to the Pacific in 2011 to create a strong UN Pacific agenda for inclusive and sustainable development and supporting resilience to external shocks.

Expected accomplishment 2: Strengthened partnerships and knowledge sharing among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners to address key priority areas in the Pacific in order to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Statement of accomplishments: Through active participation in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and through partnerships with Pacific sub-

regional agencies, the ESCAP Pacific Office has put a strong emphasis on working closely with others to achieve common goals. The Office has facilitated the establishment of the Green Growth Partnership, the National Sustainable Development Strategy Partnership, and together with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and UN-Habitat, urged the region's political leadership to recognize that the rapid growth of urban populations will continue and must be appropriately addressed. The Mauritius Strategy Implementation (MSI) +5 regional review provided an important opportunity to strengthen partnerships, share knowledge and capture information about challenges in achieving sustainable development and lessons learned. The Pacific Office's website serves as an e-knowledge centre regarding the ESCAP Pacific Office's work on key priority areas. The website was restructured during 2010-11, with the addition of new materials and information to help facilitate knowledge sharing across the region.

Component 2: Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

Objective of the Organization: To promote inclusive and sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on the specific priorities of ESCAP member States in East and North-East Asia

Expected accomplishment 1: Enhanced capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement economic and social development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in East and North-East Asia

Statement of accomplishments: Officially inaugurated in May 2010, the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA) quickly took on the role of enhancing subregional cooperation and integration. A consultation meeting was held in November 2010 where governmental and non-governmental participants identified subregion specific challenges. In 2011, the SRO-ENEA implemented many activities enhancing the capacity of policy-makers in the areas of social participation of older persons, trade facilitation, nature conservation, prevention of dust and sandstorms, and transboundary air pollution among others. SRO-ENEA serves as the secretariat of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, an intergovernmental cooperation mechanism comprising all six member States in the subregion, and facilitated the 16th Senior Officials Meeting where an action plan was drawn for future activities.

Expected accomplishment 2: Strengthened partnerships and knowledge sharing among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners to address key priority areas in East and North-East Asia to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Statement of accomplishments: Taking the outcome from the consultation meeting, the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA) collaborated with member States and other non-governmental stakeholders in formulating its work programmes. SRO-ENEA has identified many subregional development partners and is formalizing and solidifying those partnerships. In 2011, SRO-ENEA, in collaboration with other offices of ESCAP, strengthened subregional contributions towards achieving MDGs through capacity building activities. SRO-ENEA has also produced four issues of newsletter that serve as a knowledge-sharing platform with focuses

on Mongolia, green economy, youth participation, and regional environmental cooperation. In August 2011, 68 youth participants from youth organizations in the subregion attended a SRO-ENEA to exchange best practices in youth participation in policy-making. One of the outcome documents, North-East Asia Youth Statement was submitted to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) secretariat as inputs to the global compilation document.

Component 3: Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

Objective of the Organization: To promote inclusive and sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on the specific priorities of ESCAP member States in North and Central Asia.

Expected accomplishment 1: Enhanced capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement economic and social development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in North and Central Asia

Statement of accomplishments: The ad-hoc intergovernmental meeting on the new ESCAP subregional offices recommended the North and Central Asia office assist member States in the following priority areas: (a) transport and trade facilitation and (b) water, energy and environment. The recommendation was endorsed by the Commission at its 66th session. The Commission at its 67th session further noted the progress achieved towards opening the office, including the recent signing of the host country agreement between the UN and the Government of Kazakhstan, the selection of staff members and the renovation of the office building.

Expected accomplishment 2: Strengthened partnerships and knowledge sharing among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners to address key priority areas in North and Central Asia to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Statement of accomplishments: The 2010 UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Economic Forum "Strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia: a contribution to long-term stability and sustainable development of Afghanistan," was an important milestone in promoting peace and economic development in Afghanistan in the context of subregional cooperation. Meeting participants agreed to explore opportunities for strengthening economic cooperation in Central Asia in three closely interlinked areas: trade and investment, infrastructure development, and joint and mutually beneficial management of shared resources. The 2011 SPECA Economic Forum, "20 Years of Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia: Successes, Challenges and Prospects", offered an opportunity to take stock of the economic and social progress achieved during the past two decades and highlighted possibilities for pragmatic steps to further strengthen the institutional and legal basis for regional economic cooperation and integration.

Component 4: Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

Objective of the Organization: To promote inclusive and sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on the specific priorities of ESCAP member States in South and South-West Asia

Expected accomplishment 1: Enhanced capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement economic and social development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in South and South-West Asia

Statement of accomplishments: At its 66th session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the following priority areas of work for the new South and South-West Asia office: (a) bridging gaps in the Millennium Development Goals (poverty and related areas); (b) infrastructure development with a focus on transport, trade and transport facilitation, including connectivity; (c) disaster risk reduction, including droughts and earthquakes; and (d) energy and food security.

Expected accomplishment 2: Strengthened partnerships and knowledge sharing among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in addressing key priority areas in South and South-West Asia to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Statement of accomplishments: The new South and South-West Asia office facilitated policy dialogues on inclusive and pro-poor macroeconomic policies throughout the subregion. Partnerships and linkages were developed with civil society think-tanks, such as the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies in Kathmandu, the Centre for WTO Studies at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and the Centre for Policy Dialogue in Dhaka. Partnerships have also been established with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Planning Commission in India and with the Ministry of Finance (Economic Relations Department) in Bangladesh. The Office collaborated with different partner institutions to launch the Economic and Social Survey for the Asia and the Pacific. It also worked with a range of institutions in member States to successfully conclude the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Development Challenges facing the Subregion.

Component 5: Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

Objective of the Organization: To promote inclusive and sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on the specific priorities of ESCAP member States in South-East Asia

Expected accomplishment 1: Enhanced capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement economic and social development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in South-East Asia

Statement of accomplishments: ESCAP collaborated with ASEAN in promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) as a viable mechanism to mobilize resources for the development and operation of infrastructure facilities and services in the areas of institutional development, governmental

capacity building, streamlining of administrative processes and financing and approval of new projects. During the biennium, PPP policy frameworks were formulated in Indonesia and the Philippines. ESCAP also supported the ASEAN LDCs — Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar — through its special programmes on Countries with Special Needs, and Private Sector Development in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. The aim is to draw these countries into the ongoing regional integration process and associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region.

Expected accomplishment 2: Strengthened partnerships and knowledge sharing among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in addressing key priority areas in South-East Asia in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Statement of accomplishments: The ESCAP-UNDP-ADB tripartite partnership contributed to the MDG agenda of ASEAN member States. During the biennium, ESCAP organized a sub-regional workshop for LDCs in achieving MDGs as part of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (South-East Asia). In addition, the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) provided the regional architecture for an end-to-end multi-hazard framework, with regional, national and local elements for tsunamis, cyclones and other hazards. ESCAP supported these efforts through the Tsunami Regional Trust Fund, which was established in 2005. Recent RIMES early warning products were used in the Philippines and Myanmar, demonstrating how regional cooperation networking can lead to cost-effective solutions for each participating country.
