



SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

Fourth Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 25 November 2011)

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SPECA PWG ON KBD FOR 2012-2013

The activities to be carried out by the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD) are demand-driven, focused on a limited number of priority topics and matched with available resources.

ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED FOR 2012-2013

1. Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development

Objectives:

To strengthen the national capacity of the SPECA countries to advance knowledge-based development by developing relevant substantive skills, increasing the organizational capacity of the institutions involved and promoting regional cooperation.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from the UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Organization of a regional/subregional capacity-building event on knowledge-based development, possibly in conjunction with annual session of the PWG on KBD (tentatively envisaged for 2013);
- (ii) Participation of experts from SPECA member countries in UNECE policy-oriented meetings and capacity-building events on promoting knowledge-based development for policymakers and practitioners; and

- (iii) Policy advisory services and other events promoting knowledge-based development at the request of Governments of SPECA member countries, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding.

2. Capacity-building on the adoption and application of innovative clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth

Objectives:

To strengthen the national capacity of the SPECA member countries to adopt and apply innovative clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth.

The project aims to strengthen national policymakers' capacity to design effective innovation policy for clean technology take-up and diffusion; to understand the different financial mechanisms to facilitate the financing of specific clean technology projects, including through Public-Private Partnerships; and to mainstream climate change considerations into the policy mix to create an appropriate enabling environment.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from the United Nations Development Account fund.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Preparation of country assessments of participating countries' clean technology needs, climate action and innovation policies, and financing options for take-up and diffusion of clean technologies (tentatively envisaged for 2012);
- (ii) Organization of a regional/subregional project initiation meeting for policymakers of SPECA member countries (tentatively envisaged for 2013); and
- (ii) Organization of national capacity-building seminars on the adoption and application of clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth, covering issues related to innovation policy, climate change policy; and financing (tentatively envisaged for 2013).

3. Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness

Objectives:

To empower senior decision makers with relevant ICT policy knowledge and expertise in promoting innovation-based competitiveness and eCommerce development.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from the UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

Organization of a national/regional capacity-building event on ICT policy and regulatory framework for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and facilitating eCommerce (upon request).

4. Strengthening regional knowledge and capacity of ESCAP Member States in policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development

Objectives:

To build a regional knowledge base for improved disaster risk reduction and increase awareness of policymakers of emerging disaster risks and related socio-economic implications to address gaps and priorities in future disaster risk reduction strategies

Rationale:

The effectiveness of disaster risk management depends greatly on countries knowledge and improved availability of information and analytical capabilities in assessing the benefits of disaster risk reduction and the effects of disasters. With a focus on building a regional knowledge base for improved disaster risk reduction, the project will develop and make available information and knowledge to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and government officials to formulate strategies and policies to reduce the risk of disasters. Implementation will be financed from the ESCAP extrabudgetary funds when available.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Develop the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012 on emerging disaster risks and socio-economic implications as well as best practices and lessons learned in various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management in the Asia-Pacific region.
- (ii) Develop the Asia-Pacific Gateway on Disaster Risk Reduction and Development as a knowledge management platform for disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning.

5. Strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms in ICTs and disaster risk reduction for development

Objectives:

To strengthen regional cooperation for capacity development in support of effective disaster risk reduction and development, with emphasis on extreme weather-related events such as drought and floods.

Rationale:

Though there are advancements in Information, Communication and Space Technologies (ICSTs) and their applications, there exists significant digital divides. Effective access and use of satellite-based resources can enhance response efforts by providing valuable information and services including remote sensing, communication and navigational information. Strengthened regional cooperation can enhance sharing and access to information and capacities to use them for disaster risk reduction and management.

Proposed activities:

Prepare relevant documents and organize capacity development training, seminars and/or workshops to access and utilize the space-based products, information and services available through strengthened regional cooperation and networking for disaster risk management and development.

6. Enhancing National Capacities to Use ICTs for Socio-Economic Development

Objectives:

To enhance the capacities of policymakers, government officials and other relevant stakeholders to utilize ICTs for achieving national development goals

Rationale:

The initiative is in line with the objectives of the SPECA PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. The activities will be funded through the extrabudgetary resources of APCICT and co-funding mobilized through national and subregional partners.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Russian version of two new training Modules developed by APCICT as part of its flagship ICT for development (ICTD) capacity-building programme called the 'Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders' (Academy) will be launched in 2012. These include Module 9 (ICT for Disaster Risk Reduction) and Module 10 (ICT and Climate Change).

- (ii) A subregional Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on Academy Module 9 and Module 10 will be organized in the Russian language for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. The workshop will be organized in partnership with the ESCAP Subregional office for North and Central Asia (SONCA), and is tentatively scheduled in Kazakhstan in May 2012. It will help expand the pool of local resource persons and will be followed by a series of national level workshops in countries such as Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- (iii) Provincial level ICTD training of officials will be conducted in Tajikistan in 2012 utilizing the Tajik language version of the Academy Modules 1-8 already launched in 2011.
- (iv) APCICT will launch two sets of ICTD case studies from the CIS countries. These case studies will be used to customize and complement the Academy training modules so that the trainees can better appreciate the learning in their own contexts.
- (v) APCICT will provide advisory services to the ICT Council in Tajikistan for building and strengthening national institutions in the area of ICT.
- (vi) APCICT will also conduct another subregional TOT for academicians and resource persons from the CIS countries aimed at raising the awareness of students and youth, who comprise the workforce of the future, about the potential of ICTs to promote socio-economic development. This will be part of an APCICT initiative titled 'Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders'. The TOT will utilize the Russian language version of a new learning resource developed by APCICT especially for universities and educational institutions. Ministries of Education and ICT as well as universities from the CIS countries will be engaged in development of national strategies for utilization of the learning resource.

SUMMARY TABLE

Area of Activity	Lead Executive Agency	Timeframe
Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development	UNECE	2012-2013
Capacity-building on the adoption and application of innovative clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth	UNECE	2012-2013
Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness	UNECE	2012-2013
Strengthening regional knowledge and capacity of ESCAP Member States in policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development	ESCAP	2012-2013
Strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms in ICTs and disaster risk reduction for development	ESCAP	2012-2013
Enhancing national capacities to use ICTs for socio-economic development	ESCAP/APCICT	2012-2013
