
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Governing Council

Seventeenth session

New Delhi and online, 1 and 2 December 2021

**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific
Centre for Transfer of Technology on its seventeenth
session**

**I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to
its attention**

1. The following decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Decision 1

The Council takes note, with appreciation, of the report on the activities of the Centre during the period December 2020 to November 2021. The Council requests the Centre to continue providing demand-driven policy advice and analytical and capacity-building support to strengthen national innovation systems and technology innovations and transfer, and promoting regional technology cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Decision 2

The Council invites its non-contributing members to consider providing voluntary contributions to the Centre. Other members may consider enhancing their level of institutional support to strengthen the Centre's activities and long-term sustainability. The indicative levels of the annual contribution are \$30,000 for developing countries and \$7,000 for least developed countries.

Decision 3

The Council invites members and associate members to strengthen the substantive programmes and activities of the Centre through enhanced collaboration, and financial and in-kind support for technical cooperation projects to support sustainable development.

Decision 4

The Council invites members and associate members to consider financing new technical cooperation projects or to provide in-kind support to the Centre to enhance the level and the coverage of its capacity-building activities.

Decision 5

The Council requests the Centre to work with members and associate members to develop technical cooperation projects of interest to them for submission to international donors.

Decision 6

The Council invites members and associate members to consider contributing national experts in the field of science, technology and innovation policy, technology transfer and related areas to work at the Centre.

Decision 7

The Council recommends the Centre to develop a strategic plan and redesign the work programme to bring it into alignment with the current priorities and needs of the member States for consideration by the Council at its eighteenth session.

Decision 8

The Council requests the Centre to establish and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders including international agencies and technology networks to support technology development, transfer and adoption in the region.

Decision 9

The Council adopts the programme of work of the Centre for 2022 as presented in annex III to the present document.

Decision 10

The Council requests the Centre to include the concrete proposals on the areas of cooperation with the Centre presented by the member States and observers into the present report.

Decision 11

The Council takes note of the main conclusions of the discussions of the International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies for Sustainable Development. The Council requests the secretariat to take into account the recommendations of the Conference when designing future activities.

Decision 12

The Council encourages member States to communicate to the Centre, if they so wish, in writing by the end of January 2022, proposals to host the eighteenth session. If no proposal is received, the eighteenth session will be held in Bangkok.

II. Proceedings

A. Report on the activities of the Centre for the period December 2020 to November 2021 and report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre, including resource mobilization for upcoming projects and/or activities

(Agenda items 2 and 3)

2. The Council had before it the report on the activities of the Centre for the period December 2020 to November 2021 and the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre, including resource mobilization for upcoming projects and/or activities.

3. The Council took note, with appreciation, of the report on the activities of the Centre, and the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre, including resource mobilization for upcoming projects and/or activities, during the period January to October 2021.

4. Several representatives welcomed the Centre's activities on relevant areas of technology cooperation and transfer carried out during the reporting period.

5. The Council expressed appreciation to the Government of India and other member States that provided annual voluntary contributions to the Centre.

B. Proposed programme of work for 2022

(Agenda item 4)

6. The Council had before it the draft programme of work of the Centre for 2022.

7. Representatives of the Council members and observers highlighted their science, technology and innovation priorities and suggested that the following proposals be considered on the basis of the Centre's priorities, subject to conformity with its mandate and the availability of resources.

8. The representative of Bangladesh proposed that the Centre take up activities related to regional cooperation, capacity-building and technology transfer in the areas of nuclear medicine, tissue banking and biomaterial research, non-destructive testing, nanotechnology, biotechnology and oceanographic and marine resources. The representative also requested the Centre to facilitate regional collaboration in the areas of food processing and preservation, pharmaceutical sciences, material science, chemical metrology and biological science, and to support the establishment and/or upgrading of the testing facilities, laboratories and technology incubator in the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

9. The representative of China proposed that the Centre jointly organize events with the Asia-Pacific regional innovation knowledge network for fourth industrial revolution technologies, established by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and Guangzhou University. The representative said that there was great potential for cooperation between the Centre and key institutions in China, namely the Yunnan Academy of Scientific and Technical Information and the China-South Asia Technology Transfer Centre that it hosts, as well as the China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Technology Transfer Centre, hosted by the Department of Science and Technology in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The representative proposed cooperation

in several areas, such as participation in the 2021 South and Southeast Asia Technology Transfer Matchmaking Conference, scheduled for December; the fourth Forum on China-South Asia Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation; the East Asia Summit New Energy Forum 2022; China InnoTour for South and Southeast Asian Young Scientists; the 10th Forum on China-ASEAN Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation; and the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Young Scientists Innovation Forum.

10. The representative of India proposed to host industry-academia-government consultations for various industrial sectors in the Asia-Pacific region, including health care; agriculture, nutrition and biotechnology; ecology and environment; earth and ocean sciences; water; energy (both conventional and non-conventional) and energy devices; aerospace; electronics and instrumentation; civil infrastructure and engineering; mining and minerals; metals and materials; leather; and chemicals and petrochemicals. The representative also proposed that the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology develop joint capacity-building programmes for policymakers and other innovation stakeholders to design effective policies, to facilitate development of technology-based entrepreneurs, innovators, start-ups, and small and medium-sized enterprises in association with the Centre's national innovation network, civil society, academic and research institutions like Indian Institute of Technology, universities, research institutes of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of India. The Government of India was keen to participate, in association with the Centre, in the consultative meetings for transfer, adaptation and diffusion of technologies for societal good, and to support the Centre's endeavours through resource mobilization and knowledge-sharing to create synergistic and mutually beneficial opportunities.

11. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the Centre to facilitate regional cooperation with other members. The Government wished to contribute to initiatives pertaining to technology transfer and the commercialization of knowledge-based products, and to joint projects on technologies related to biofuel, solar cells, fuel cells, biomass energy, wind energy, hydroenergy, renewable energy and recombinant drugs. The representative proposed that the Centre consider training programmes for researchers and university staff, and organize capacity-building events and technical assistance on the following topics: design, production and evaluation of recombinant drugs; purification, characterization and anticancer activities of exopolysaccharide produced by isolated marine microalgae; extraction and characterization of neuroprotective compounds from marine microalgae; improving technology of encapsulated herbal pesticide production and integrated pest management; critical water issues and desalination; and critical energy issues, with special emphasis on renewable energy.

12. The representative of Malaysia proposed that collaboration, capacity-building and technical exchange should be continued, especially in areas such as climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies; renewable energy, for example hydrogen fuel cells; emerging technologies, for example space technology; enhancing resilience in food production through the latest agriculture technologies; research commercialization; and technology transfer. The representative also suggested technical exchange among member States related to vaccine research, and not necessarily limited to vaccines against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

13. The representative of Nepal requested the Centre to consider initiatives aligned with the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, 2019, which included the following priority areas: growth of industrial production and productivity; harnessing agricultural and unutilized land with due care for the

environment; climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; product development along the agricultural value chain; and productivity enhancement through quality, energy and environmental management with a focus on technology development, adaptation and transfer.

14. The representative of Pakistan proposed that the Centre provide support on two projects on the role of information and communications technology in water resource management and on strengthening national capacity to reduce drought impacts and improve food security.

15. The representative of the Philippines proposed that the Centre facilitate regional collaboration for capacity-building on the application of innovative technologies in the response to and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, as well as possible long-term science, technology and innovation solutions for similar pandemics in future. The representative also requested the Centre's support in exploring mechanisms or strategies to maximize technology transfer and intellectual property management in the "new normal", through technological and policy assessments.

16. The representative of the Republic of Korea welcomed the Centre's proposed programme of work for 2022 and mentioned that the programme well reflected the critical issues in the Asia-Pacific region, which were COVID-19, the climate crisis and the adoption of emerging technologies to drive economic and inclusive development. The representative proposed that the Centre consider facilitating regional cooperation and initiatives in the area of green technologies that could help to deal with the climate crisis and environmental pollution. The representative also expressed appreciation for the Centre's proposed project on innovative technologies for city air pollution control, and expressed a desire to explore the possibility of engaging with or contributing to the project.

17. The representative of Sri Lanka proposed priority areas for possible cross-border technology transfer or joint research in areas such as an intelligent device that could selectively pluck tea leaves, with the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, and renewable energy applications. The representative also suggested that the Centre hold a conference on one of the following topics in the coming year: smart agriculture or new renewable energy technologies.

18. The representative of Thailand proposed that the Centre jointly organize a regional conference on energy resilience through decentralized power plant implementation with smart grid systems, together with the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, as part of ASEAN Sustainable Energy Week in September 2022. The representative also suggested an alternative topic for organizing a joint activity, namely technology trends for a resilient post-COVID-19 economy.

19. The representative of Uzbekistan proposed collaboration in several areas: simplifying new technology transfer among member States in the fields of renewable energy and copper mining; organizing and developing training programmes and internships in technology transfer and innovation implementation for sharing experience and knowledge among member States and organizations; offering free weekly international online courses for start-up acceleration and education; and encouraging member States and organizations to facilitate the entry of technologies and innovations into domestic and foreign markets.

20. The representative of Viet Nam proposed that the Centre continue its capacity-building initiatives to strengthen science, technology and innovation and transfer of technology across the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre could

consider fostering regional cooperation by organizing various knowledge-sharing events such as expert talks and providing a networking platform for researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

21. The representative of the Climate Technology Centre and Network also suggested possible areas of collaboration, including activities to promote the development and transfer of climate mitigation and adaptation technology, to develop national capacities in science, technology and innovation within the region (including strengthening national systems for climate technology innovation and research and development), and to enhance access to knowledge products on climate technologies in the Asia-Pacific region. It was also suggested that a side event be jointly organized at the 2022 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Asia-Pacific Climate Week, possibly focused on the role of innovative climate technologies in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and a resilient future.

C. Main conclusions of the discussions of the International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies for Sustainable Development, 30 November 2021

(Agenda item 5)

22. In his summary, the Vice-Chair presented the main conclusions of the discussions of the International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies for Sustainable Development (see annex II).

D. Dates of and venue for the eighteenth session of the Governing Council

(Agenda item 6)

23. The Council considered possible dates of and venues for its eighteenth session, to be held in 2022.

E. Other matters

(Agenda item 7)

24. The Head of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology informed the Council that the report of its seventeenth session would be presented to Commission at its seventy-eighth session, to be held in Bangkok in May 2022. The report would be presented by the Chair under the relevant agenda item at that time. Commission resolution 77/1 on building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, adopted at the seventy-seventh session, in April 2021, provided valuable guidance for aligning the focus of the Centre's work programme.

25. The Head of the Centre informed the Council that the Centre had installed a solar power plant of 48 kilowatts. During its 25-year service life, the plant would generate 1,455 megawatt-hours of solar energy and reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 29.76 tons every year. The electricity generated would meet the energy requirements of the Centre. The plant represented a significant achievement in the Centre's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Centre had partially returned to in-person operations, as the COVID-19 situation was largely under control. The Centre sought more proactive engagement with focal points in member States and planned to regularly hold meetings and interact with focal points to strengthen cooperation in that regard.

F. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its seventeenth session

(Agenda item 8)

26. The Council adopted the present report on 2 December 2021.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

27. The Council held its seventeenth session, in New Delhi and online, on 1 and 2 December 2021. The Head of the Centre delivered welcome remarks and Mr. Shekhar C. Mande, Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Ministry of Science and Technology of India delivered a welcome address. The Chair of the previous session of the Governing Council, Mr. Linhao Chen, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, delivered remarks on behalf of the Governing Council. The Executive Secretary delivered special remarks and Mr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, India, delivered a keynote address at the opening session.

28. The Head of the Centre welcomed the representatives to the seventeenth session of the Council. She said that rapid diffusion and adoption of new and emerging technologies would help Governments to realize opportunities and meet their social and environmental goals in an efficient manner. As Governments continued their efforts to fight the pandemic, they would need to adopt innovative, affordable and emerging technologies in various spheres of economic activity. She stressed the need for strengthening regional cooperation and underscored the vital role that the Centre could play in assisting member States to strengthen their capabilities to develop, access, adopt and utilize technologies for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic and for achieving sustainable development.

29. The Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Ministry of Science and Technology of India mentioned his Government had been a leading partner in the Centre's programmes and activities which were aimed at strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in the member States in order to promote and foster research and development, innovation and technology transfer. As the host country, India looked to the Centre to grow and play the role of a dynamic multilateral United Nations platform to engage with member States by sharing resources, expertise and best practices in the sphere of science, technology and innovation.

30. The Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China delivered remarks on behalf of the Governing Council. He said that the Centre's role in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of member States remained a vital priority task for the region. As a regional institute of ESCAP, the Centre had a key role to play in assisting member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

31. The Executive Secretary said that the COVID-19 pandemic had underscored the pressing need to prioritize science, technology and innovation in policymaking, resource allocation and international cooperation. The

overarching goal of Governments should be to make sure that the development benefits of science, technology and innovation translated directly into tangible benefits for people in their daily lives. Proactive and enabling policy interventions, mainstreaming science, technology and innovation in the national development agenda, streamlining the science, technology and innovation governance systems, and international cooperation would be needed to effectively harness the advances in science, technology and innovation for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

32. The Minister of State (Independent Charge), Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, India, said that his Government aimed to bring innovation, technology, enterprise and efficient management together at the core of policy formulation and the success of key initiatives, such as AatmaNirbharBharat, Digital India, Start-up India, Make in India, Invest India and Smart Cities Mission. He also said that the Digital India government programme envisaged to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. In the Strategy for New India @ 75, the Prime Minister of India had emphasized the idea that development must become a mass movement, in which every citizen experienced tangible benefits in the form of greater ease of living. The Minister of State reiterated that greater emphasis should be placed on promoting traditional knowledge systems, developing technologies based on local wisdom and encouraging grassroots innovation as a driver of technology cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region for a better world. The Centre, as a regional institute of ESCAP, could facilitate regional technology cooperation that was mutually beneficial for the member States. The Government of India continued to support the Centre to assist member States in strengthening their science, technology and innovation capacities.

B. Attendance

33. The session was attended by the representatives of all 11 members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Nepal; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Uzbekistan. In addition, the representatives of Malaysia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and the Climate Technology Centre and Network attended as observers.

C. Election of officers

34. The Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Shekhar C. Mande (India)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Olimjon Alijonovich Tuychiev (Uzbekistan)

D. Agenda

35. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on the activities of the Centre for the period December 2020 to November 2021.

3. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre, including resource mobilization for upcoming projects and/or activities.
4. Proposed programme of work for 2022.
5. Main conclusions of the discussions of the International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies for Sustainable Development, 30 November 2021.
6. Dates of and venue for the eighteenth session of the Governing Council.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its seventeenth session.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
	Report on the activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the period December 2020 to November 2021	2
	Report on the administrative and financial status of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	3
	Draft programme of work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for 2022	4
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/APCTT/GC/2021/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
<i>Information available online</i>		
www.apctt.org	Information for participants	
www.apctt.org	Tentative programme	

Annex II

Chair's summary*

Main conclusions and recommendations of the International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies for Sustainable Development, 30 November 2021, New Delhi

A. General recommendations

1. The International Conference brought together about 150 participants from the Centre's Governing Council member States and other member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), including government officials, science, technology and innovation professionals, international experts, and representatives from the private sector.
2. The main discussions during the International Conference were: fourth industrial revolution technologies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals – opportunities and challenges; fourth industrial revolution technologies to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and strengthen health-care systems; fourth industrial revolution technologies for climate change mitigation and clean energy; harnessing fourth industrial revolution technology for sustainable production and resilient economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and a panel discussion to deliberate on strategies for regional cooperation on fourth industrial revolution technologies to promote sustainable development.
3. To make progress towards achieving the associated Sustainable Development Goals, member States integrated science, technology and innovation policies, and innovative digital solutions.
4. The Conference highlighted the need to create enabling environment to support fourth industrial revolution technologies through collaboration among government, industry and academia for successful development and commercialization of technologies.
5. The Conference underscored the role of government-funded incubation centres and necessity of connecting innovators to the market for enhanced uptake and upscaling of fourth industrial revolution technologies.
6. It was recommended that the countries from the Asia-Pacific region need to enhance awareness and strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders in key areas such as health care, climate change, clean energy, intelligent manufacturing, precision agriculture, digital economy and inclusive digitization, among others.
7. The Conference discussed the need to reorient education and develop skills in the area of fourth industrial revolution technologies. The countries need to redesign their human resources development policies in order to bridge the gap in education and skills linking formal education, vocational education and non-formal education.
8. The Conference emphasized that digital inclusion is an essential pathway to economic recovery as well as societal inclusion, especially in the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. With growing demands of digital networks and services, including digital finance, it is essential to ensure that no one is left

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

behind. National strategies on digital inclusion are critical in ensuring equitable and inclusive growth.

9. New models of intellectual property management and policies can help in enhancing the accessibility of fourth industrial revolution technologies in developing countries.

10. The fourth industrial revolution technologies are the cornerstone of urban digital twins which are a virtual representation and exact replica of a physical city. They are digitally accurate, high resolution, and contain useful data of the whole city. Urban digital twins for smart cities using fourth industrial revolution technologies can support participatory and collaborative processes for urban planners, urban designers and communities as a collaboration and communication tool and for decision support.

11. Clean energy such as solar energy innovations and applications can be accelerated through investments in fourth industrial revolution technologies. These technology solutions could help overcome technical hurdles while also reducing cost to consumers. Some applications include augmented reality and virtual reality for strengthening capacity-building and big data for use in renewable energy grid integration.

12. Digitalization is revolutionizing the health-care system, particularly introducing new methods of treatment, monitoring, providing access to health care and in the management of health-care system by the government. The fourth industrial revolution technologies are improving the proximity between patient and service providers and shifting the focus from disease to prevention.

13. Knowledge-sharing among countries on fourth industrial revolution technologies is critical for the region to jointly and effectively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. There is a need to develop and strengthen networks and platforms for bringing together countries to share experiences, best practices and strategies on the development, transfer and adoption of emerging technologies. Appropriate regional networks need to be developed, such as the Asia-Pacific regional innovation knowledge network for fourth industrial revolution technologies which is a direct outcome of an earlier initiative of the Centre and is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

14. Multilateral organizations can create environment where innovations can flourish across the region, through initiatives to support the innovation chain; disseminate knowledge in a systematic manner among countries; connect innovation incubators; and facilitate the linkages between governments and catalyse the development of guidelines and standards.

15. The Conference highlighted the importance of global linkages for collaborative research and development that can accelerate innovation and transfer of fourth industrial revolution technologies.

B. Recommendations for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

16. The Centre may facilitate cooperation between countries to transfer the knowledge and technologies and technology deployment. The Centre may create a collaborative platform for innovation, transfer and diffusion of fourth industrial revolution technologies. The Centre may consider taking the proactive initiative to encourage innovators and incubators to share their technologies through technology transfer platforms of the Centre.

17. The Centre may also develop a reliable database of technologies to help technology transfer and the commercialization of fourth industrial revolution technologies.

18. The Centre may create awareness of fourth industrial revolution technologies and potential benefits through capacity-building activities, regional workshops and other outreach activities.

19. The Centre may facilitate regional technology cooperation programmes for human resource development and strengthening human capital on topics related to fourth industrial revolution technologies. The Centre may also consider facilitating exchange programmes and study tours to share knowledge on fourth industrial revolution technologies.

Annex III

Proposed programme of work for 2022*

Introduction

1. The programme of work for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology is aligned with the work programme of subprogramme 2 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on trade, investment and innovation. The following projects are proposed for implementation in 2022.

A. Assist member States through strengthening their capabilities to develop national innovation systems, technology transfer and commercialization

2. The capacity-building activities will be funded by the annual contributions received from the Governing Council member States during the year 2022.

3. The objectives will be to increase the capacity of science, technology and innovation policymakers and key stakeholders in ESCAP member States in the following areas: enhancing skills and capabilities in science, technology and innovation policymaking and strategy development, innovation, technology transfer and intellectual property management; encouraging technology-based entrepreneurship; promoting cross-border technology transfer; improving access to knowledge and information on new technological innovations and good practices; and promoting regional cooperation. The focus will be on climate change and sustainable recovery in the post-coronavirus-disease (COVID-19) era and promoting the adoption and use of new and emerging technologies for sustainable development.

4. The Centre will conduct demand-driven capacity-building activities based on the needs of the member States expressed during the Governing Council session. The capacity-building activities will be implemented jointly with the Centre's national focal points and key nodal institutions in the member States. For the year 2022, member States may propose concrete activities including capacity-building, analytical, development of knowledge products and regional cooperation for discussion at the seventeenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre.

5. The funds will also support the development and dissemination of the Centre's online quarterly periodical, the *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor*, and thematic publications and knowledge products on topics such as clean energy climate resilient technologies and air pollution. The Centre is in the process of restructuring the periodical *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor* in terms of content, style and design, and the new layout will be rolled out in 2022.

B. Enhanced capabilities to adopt innovative technologies for city air pollution control in select countries of the Asia-Pacific region (*proposed*)

6. The project is proposed for funding under the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. It will be jointly implemented with the Environment and Development Division, the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia and the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia of ESCAP during the period January 2022 to December 2023.

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7. The project aims to assist ESCAP member States to strengthen policies and city-level action plans to facilitate the adoption of innovative technologies for controlling air pollution in Asia and the Pacific. The project will improve the availability of technical knowledge regarding innovative technologies and good practices, and better understanding of technology needs and gaps for air pollution control in two selected cities in South Asia. It will increase the awareness and capacity of city officials and stakeholders to strengthen action plans for the adoption of innovative technologies to control air pollution. Through assessments and multi-stakeholder consultations, the project would facilitate the development of recommendations to strengthen city-level action plans for the adoption of innovative technologies. The project targets policymakers, pollution control authorities/departments, city municipal authorities and the private sector. The experience and outcomes of the project would be shared with stakeholders from other member States of the Asia-Pacific region for wider dissemination and adoption.

8. The project will complement the Centre's analytical and capacity-building activities to assist policymakers and other stakeholders of member States.

C. Developing a strategic plan for the Centre

9. The Centre would be developing the strategy for the work programme and realign its activities in line with the current priorities and needs of the region and member States. The focus would be on policy support, technology cooperation and transfer, capacity-building, regional cooperation with a focus on emerging technologies, technologies to address climate change (mitigation and adaptation), and pandemic related recovery. The proposed and redesigned programme of work of the Centre will be shared with the members of the Governing Council for consideration in due course.
