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EYE ON ESCAP



Volume 2

A media file on coverage of economic, environment and social issues

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Published by the United Nations Information Services (UNIS)
Bangkok, Thailand
October 2001

ESCAP/UNIS/EYE2/2001

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A BIG 'THANK YOU' TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE MEDIA

This fourth issue of Eye on ESCAP (October 2000 – September 2001) is even larger than last year for the simple reason is that our information net is being cast wider, and interest in UN ESCAP and its activities is clearly growing. We have made new media friends and reconfirmed our ties with old friends. This publication however only tells half the story. Our outreach work with the a/v media has also been growing at a steady pace. With the assistance of the many UN Information Centres around the world, including our very own Bangkok-based UN Information Services (UNIS), I have personally given numerous interviews and briefings to journalists outside our home base from Copenhagen to Sydney, from Manila to New Delhi.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been very helpful to us in publicizing the social and economic issues that UN ESCAP is committed to.

The year ahead will provide our friends in the media with much more to write about so that their audiences may make the right decisions about their future. And be aware that there is much to be done to improve the lives of the underprivileged.

Mr Kim Hak-Su
Executive Secretary
UN ESCAP

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EYE ON ESCAP

A MEDIA FILE ON COVERAGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

VOLUME TWO

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1. Regional Cooperation

1.1 General

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Finance - News **International**

Wednesday, October 4 6:22 PM SGT

Mekong Area Business Leaders Launch Business Forum

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)--Business leaders from the Greater Mekong subregion launched Wednesday a business forum aimed at attracting investments and promoting networking among chambers of commerce and industry in the region.

The forum was created at the end of a two-day meeting jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, or ESCAP, and the Asian Development Bank in collaboration with business associations of the region.

The Greater Mekong Subregion comprises Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Yunan province of China.

Besides networking, the aim of the forum is to enhance public and private sector partnerships by providing a direct and regular channel for the private sector to communicate with governments, an ESCAP statement said.

It said the forum also seeks to increase awareness of business and investment opportunities in the region.

"Such a public-private approach is more important than ever after the crisis of 1997, whose aftershocks are still with us today," said Christine Wallich, a director at the Asian Development Bank, in her opening remarks to the meeting.

"There is now a growing acceptance that the private sector has a key role to play in economic development and in reducing the level of poverty in our countries," she said.

She said 89% of those escaping poverty found jobs in private sector.

The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry was appointed as the first chairman of the GMS Business Forum. The chair will be rotated among participating countries business organizations in alphabetical order every three

10/04/2000 07:28:50

Greater Mekong Sub-region Business Forum Set Up in Bangkok

BANGKOK (Oct. 4) XINHUA - The Greater Mekong Sub-region Business Forum has been formally set up at a meeting in the United Nations Conference Center here Wednesday.

The meeting, under the co-sponsorship of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (**ESCAP**) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was attended by representatives from chambers of commerce and business sector in the sub-region, which includes Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and China's Yunnan Province.

ESCAP chief Kim Hak-su said at the meeting that since the economic development in the sub-region can not be achieved only by governments, business organizations and enterprises can play a very important role in sustaining economic growth, especially in those places which are in the process of transition to market economy.

He said the forum, an **ESCAP**-ADB joint initiative, is intended to promote networking among business associations and enterprises in the sub-region as well as to enhance the public and private sector partnership.

It is also seeking to increase awareness of business and investment opportunities in the region, according to him.

The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry was elected at the meeting as the first chairman of the forum. The chair will be rotated among participating countries' business organizations.

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Page(s): 2

ECONOMY

Mekong subregion forum to promote business networking

Government, private sectors can meet

Achara Ashayagachat

A business forum of six member countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) was launched this week, after five years of preparation, to work as a network for government, domestic and foreign private sector bodies.

The Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum is a joint initiative between the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The subregional forum would allow chambers of commerce and industry to promote networking among businesses in the subregion, said Chanpheng Bounnaphol, president of the Laotian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The forum would also promote entrepreneurship among private sector associations and firms in Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan province of China, said Mr Chanpheng, who will chair the body for the next three years.

Through the forum, the views and suggestions of the private sector could be discussed with the governments of the six GMS member countries, he said.

The GMS's first initiative is to work with an ADB team to simplify trade and customs procedures to reduce business costs, particularly for smaller and medium-sized enterprises.

Cristine Wallich, director of the ADB's infrastructure, energy and financial sectors department, said that the link between the public and private sectors was crucial to speed regional economic recovery.

The subregion had yet to solve problems identified by foreign investors.

These included tax regulations, corruption, a lack of an independent judiciary, crime and poor development of capital markets in the region, she said.

Toru Tatara, head of the ADB's GMS unit, said the ADB was preparing to set aside US$250 million as a separate fund to finance cross-border investment in the subregion and, in the longer term, donor countries could also contribute to the schemes.

Itochu (Thailand) president Motonori Toyota said there was little understanding of and interest in the subregion from developed countries.

Mr Toyota, also the chairman Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Thailand, said he was trying to attract international attention to the subregion.

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Technology

Saturday, October 7 5:08 PM SGT

ICC to hold Asia business conference in Bangladesh next month

DHAKA, Oct 7 (AFP) -

The Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is to hold a business conference in Bangladesh next month to explore trade and investment opportunities in Asia, organisers said here Saturday.

"The two-day conference is intended not only to create scope for interaction ... but also to devise an appropriate approach towards the futuristic outlook of the region, particularly in the backdrop of present global economic scenario," Mahbubur Rahman, president of the ICC in Bangladesh, told reporters.

He said oil and gas, information technology and telecoms, foreign direct investment, transportation, e-commerce, and arbitration and dispute settlements would be among the issues to be discussed at the conference.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed is expected to inaugurate the "ICC Asia Conference" on November 10, which was themed as "Investment in Developing Countries: Increasing Opportunities."

Some 150 business leaders, high level professionals and executives of multinational companies from Asia as well as Europe are expected to attend the conference, the second since 1995, when a similar even was hosted by India.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi, who is also the Director General-designate of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Tadao Chino and Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), were among the guests expected to attend, Rahman said.

The Daily Star
Prepared by Onirban

Business Page

Volume 3 Number 397 Sun. October 08, 2000

Onirban

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- Make IJO survive crisis, PM appeals to members
- ICCB to hold its Asia Confce in Dhaka November 10
- Artha Rin Adalat quick in giving decrees, but execution falters
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ICCB to hold its Asia Confce in Dhaka November 10

Star Business Report

The International Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Bangladesh (ICCB) has announced the hosting of its two-day Asia Conference on November 10-11 in Dhaka.

Being organised by ICC headquarters in Paris, the conference takes aim at devising an appropriate approach towards the futuristic outlook of the region.

The two-day conference, the first of its kind, will be participated by policymakers, business chiefs, economists, investors, lawyers and professionals from different countries all over Asia and beyond, said ICC President Mahabubur Rahman at a press conference in the city yesterday.

"It is intended not only to create an interaction between the business leaders and discuss various priority issues of development in the region, but also to devise an appropriate approach towards the region's futuristic outlook, particularly in the backdrop of the present-day global economic scenario," the ICC president said.

The theme of the conference is 'Investment in developing countries: Increasing opportunities'. The inaugural session of the conference will be held at 10 am at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend it as chief guest.

Six business sessions will be held on the following day - two in the morning and four in the afternoon. Topics including oil and gas, IT and telecom, FDI in the manufacturing sector, transportation, Asian recovery, e-commerce, WTO, trade liberalisation and concerns of the developing word, arbitration and dispute resolution will be discussed in the sessions.

Around 75 to 100 foreign delegates including high-profile dignitaries from different Asian and European countries are expected to attend the conference.

"We have received official confirmation of participation from Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Commerce and Director General designate of the WTO, Tadao Chino, President, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, ESCAP.

"We are awaiting final confirmation from two more ministers from the region," the ICC president said. "We are expecting about 150 business leaders, high-level professionals and executives from multinational companies as participants," he added.

The delegates will start arriving in Dhaka from November 9. "We have already arranged necessary logistics for ensuring a successful event. ICC - Bangladesh is supported by all its member institutions and organisations including FBCCI, DCCI, MCCI and FICCI. Bangladesh National Committee of International Association for the Students of Economics and Commerce (AIESEC) and students of North South University (NSU) will work as volunteers.

Established in 1919, ICC and has networks in 137 countries with about 100 members.

Dhaka to hold meet of Asian business leaders next month

DHAKA: Top business leaders of Asia will gather in Dhaka next month for a two-day conference to explore possibilities of trade and investment.

The conference has been organized by the International Chamber of Commerce(ICC). Mahbubur Rahman, president of the ICC in Bangladesh, told reporters that the conference intended to provide a platform for interaction among business leaders, who would discuss oil and gas, information technology (IT) and telecom, foreign direct investment, transportation, e-commerce and dispute settlements.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed is expected to inaugurate the conference on November 10, the theme of which is 'Investment in Developing Countries: Increasing Opportunities'.

Around 150 business leaders, professionals and executives of multinational companies from Asia and the Pacific are expected to attend the conference.

Besides, leaders of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will also attend the conference.

"We hope that the conference will come up with some positive results regarding promotion of business and enhancing foreign investment," Rahmansaid.*(IANS)*

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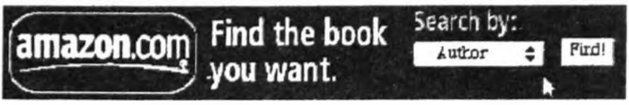
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BUSINESS RECORDER









Trade & Investments

Bangladesh to hold Asian business leaders moot next month

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Business
Bangkok Post
www.bangkokpost.com
October 9, 2000

Bangkok Post Economic Review 2000 MID YEAR EDITION

Travel Monitor

Asia's last frontier opens

IMTIAZ MUQBIL

Two high-level meetings last week have further spurred the process of economic growth and development in the Greater Mekong Subregion, with travel and tourism set to become a major beneficiary.

On Oct 4, senior representatives of the chambers of commerce from Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand and Vietnam met to form the GMS Business Forum Plus 2000, designed to strengthen the capabilities of the private sector and provide a unified channel of communication with GMS governments on various issues.

On Oct 6, tourism ministers of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Burma signed a co-operation agreement, pledging to encourage improvement of air, road and river linkages between the countries, while relaxing visa and frontier formalities to make travel links more accessible and usable.



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Both meetings were intended to get governments to unshackle the opportunities for the private sector to become the engine of growth.

As Bangkok-based lawyer David Lyman of Tilleke and Gibbins said: "Like flowers that can bloom in the desert, business, generically, can function in almost any environment provided certain conditions exist."

Both the business and tourism endeavours are complementary. Higher economic growth and investment are precursors of business travel, which in turn needs to be facilitated by availability of hotels, relaxation of visa formalities and additional air linkages, which in turn leads to more travel and tourism. It also means more trade shows, conventions and exhibition business.

The tourism industry likes to describe the GMS as "the last frontier" of tourism in Asia. The cultural and heritage spots, including Angkor Wat, Pagan, Mandalay, Luang Prabang and many more, are unique attractions that can more than hold their own on the highly competitive stage of global tourism.

Thailand, which is now becoming a mature destination in global terms, badly needs to open up access to these fresh, new destinations in order to give visitors more of a reason to come to the region and use Bangkok as a hub. In order to do that, Thailand needs to see progress on construction of regional highway networks, development of appropriate hotel and tour-operating infrastructure, and relaxation of visa formalities. All these issues have been on several different agendas, including those of the GMS and Asean.

This time, however, the Tourism Authority of Thailand concluded the ministerial meeting not just with another blanket statement of bland "agreements", but actually set up a timetable and monitoring mechanism by which to ensure their gradual implementation.

Hence, while the tourism ministers committed themselves to working together to "further encourage" transport links as well as relaxation of visa and customs formalities, the first-time establishment of a technical implementation group, with the TAT as its secretariat, means that progress, or the lack of it, will be monitored and reported back to

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Past Issues

Calendar Page

ministers at biannual meetings.

Detailed background work done by the TAT before the meeting shows clearly the investment opportunities awaiting.

For investors, the background data both identifies the current state of the industry in the GMS as well as the areas of shortfall. That, in turn, opens up an opportunity for tourism industry executives to work with the GMS Business Forum leaders to press for action that will clear up the bottlenecks and allow travel and tourism to play its rightful role in economic development, job creation and generation of much-needed foreign exchange.

The TAT undertook to help Laos, Cambodia and Burma distribute their tourism promotion and marketing material through its 16 international offices. It also offered to help with training, researching the prospects of future tourism products as well as organising investment promotion missions.

Increasingly, it appears that the main bottleneck for this entire momentum of tourism development will be Burma. The country has just opened a new airport at Mandalay but there is no indication that any airlines are interested in operating there, one reason being that it is not backed up by easier visa facilities.

In the tourism ministerial meeting, the Burmese diluted the language of the clause on relaxing visa formalities by inserting the words "in principle", to make it read: "The four parties agreed in principle that visa and customs regulations could be eased by minimising visa fees, speedily and conveniently processing visa applications ..."

This works very much in favour of the Cambodians, who now have perhaps the region's most liberal visa and aviation access policies, and cannot conceal their glee at picking up huge amounts of spin-off business from Thailand.

While the TAT would like to see its western neighbour also get its rightful share of visitors, it is quite content to let the Burmese military decide the pace of liberalisation and facilitation. Given Thailand's geographic advantage, it will remain the main beneficiary.

Bangkok Post Archives by Samart

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Press/Media: BUSINESS DAY (THAILAND)
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Date: 11 October 2000



Chanpheng Bounnaph President of Laos Cha ber of Commerce and dustry (Lao NCCI) re cently presided at the forum titled "Greater Mekong Sub-region Ec nomic Cooperation Pr gram", organized by L NCCI, in conjunction with Asian Developme Bank (ADB), United N tions ESCAP, and Inte national Chamber of Commerce. From left Pramol Sutivong, chai man of International Chamber of Commerc (Thailand), Chanpheng Sansern Wongcha - U Secretary General of O fice of the National Ec nomic and Social Dev opment Board, Dr. Ki Hak- Su, Executive Se retary of United Nati ESCAP, Christine W lich, ADB Director.

Food fair attracts gourmets

YANTAI: The second International Symposium and Exhibition of Fruit/Vegetable Processing Technology and Industrialization opened here yesterday.

The seven-day event is sponsored by two organizations under the United Nations, the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Shandong provincial government.

The State Council has agreed to hold the fair yearly in the city. The fair is designed to boost co-operation and the exchange of advanced agricultural technologies and promote China's fruit and agriculture industrialization level.

The fair includes a fruit and vegetable exhibition, scientific and technological symposiums and trade talks.

Numerous fruit and vegetable products, and production and processing equipment are on display in 910 exhibit booths. Overseas exhibits make up 140 of the booths at the fair. The show has attracted participants from more than 50 countries and regions, including 65 foreign delegations.

More than 200 Chinese and foreign agricultural experts and entrepreneurs are attending the fair to discuss modernizing fruit and vegetable processing. The fair is expected to attract 50,000 people.

Kayoko Mizuta, deputy executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, said it is significant to hold the event in a developing country, which will eventually motivate local fruit and vegetable production and industrialization.

Date: 10/20/2000
Author: CHUAN JIANG and CHUAN JIAO, China Daily staff
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Housing on the minds of many

HANGZHOU: Significant progress has been made by the Chinese Government to better housing conditions, a top official told an international housing conference yesterday.

Speaking at the Istanbul Plus Five Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific, Yu Zhengsheng, the Minister of Construction, said people in developing countries should enjoy a universal improvement in housing conditions.

While international co-operation is necessary, countries should try to solve their own problems in accordance with their own circumstances and traditions, Yu said.

The meeting aims to provide an opportunity for Asian and Pacific countries to comprehensively appraise progress made on the Habitat Agenda passed in the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Turkey's Istanbul in 1996.

More than 150 officials and experts from 30 countries or organizations took part in the five-day meeting to discuss issues related to a special United Nations Conference on human settlements, scheduled for next June.

In China, nearly 1 billion square metres of housing have been constructed each year since 1996. More than 146 billion yuan (US$18 billion) of commercial housing was sold in the first nine months of this year.

These improvements were brought about by the Chinese Government's considerable reforms in housing policy, said Yu.

The meeting was held in Zhejiang Province's Hangzhou, a city widely known for its picturesque landscape and comfortable environment.

Jan Meeuwissen, senior adviser of the UN's Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) praised Hangzhou's long history of urbanization, calling it the perfect setting for the meeting.

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, executive director of the UNCHS, said international co-operation was important to improve people's living conditions.

The UNCHS has launched two campaigns, one to ensure equality in housing allocation, and another to allow residents' voices to be heard. Kayoko Mizuta, deputy executive secretary of the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, called for more local government initiatives to improve living conditions.

During the meeting, a large exhibition of Hangzhou's urban environment and real estate was held.

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Author: By JIA HEPENG, China Daily staff
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ESCAP to Focus on Bridging "Digital Divide"

Through new programmes such as "e-poverty alleviation," "e-wireless" and "e-smart village," the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is helping countries of the region to bridge the digital divide, its Executive Secretary told a press conference on 16 October.

Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su said that in addition to helping Asian and Pacific countries to benefit from the information technology revolution, ESCAP is working to assist them in managing the process of globalization. "There are many developing countries that don't know how to deal with global organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD [the UN Conference on Trade and Development], and they need to be helped in terms of trade negotiation skills and tactics," he noted.

The ESCAP chief also highlighted the environmental challenges facing the region, stating that Asia had 14 of the world's 15 dirtiest cities. Rapid urbanization would magnify challenges in the future, he said. "ESCAP is taking the lead role in making cities better and cleaner." He said the Commission had adopted a regional programme of action which asked ESCAP's 52 member countries to work to improve their urban environments. Among its future activities in this area, ESCAP was organizing a high-level meeting on energy and sustainable development planned for Indonesia next month, he added. ■

REUTERS

11/01/2000 00:11:02

Cambodian PM seeks funding for Mekong River region

PHNOM PENH, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen called on Wednesday for financial support from donor countries and international financial institutions to develop the Greater Mekong Subregion.

``Development projects cover many sectors and sub-sectors and require large-scale investment to an extent that outstrips the capacity of the countries in the region,'' Hun Sen told delegates at a conference in Phnom Penh.

``Given these colossal needs, the major challenge to promote development of the (Greater Mekong Subregion) countries is to identify investment sources,'' he said.

``This challenge can be met through the strengthening of partnerships among and between regional countries and donors, especially international and regional financial institutions.''

Hun Sen delivered the keynote address at the second annual Greater Mekong Subregion-ASEAN Conference on Development and Governance. The two-day meeting ends on Thursday.

Hun Sen also proposed creating a working group to draw up a masterplan for the development of the region -- which includes Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and southern China -- over the next 20 to 25 years.

``We need a realistic development plan, which focuses on concrete projects, well-determined priorities, resource mobilisation measures and investment programmes,'' he said.

The group would consist of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries, China, Japan, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) and other donors, the prime minister said.

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11/09/2000 13:38:38

BC-ASIA-PACIFIC-MILLENIUM, sked,0258 Asia Pacific Millennium Trade Fair to Be Held in India, XINHUA

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Asia Pacific Millennium Trade Fair to Be Held in India, XINHUA

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NEW DELHI, November 9 (Xinhua)--The Asia Pacific Millennium Trade Fair (ASPAT) 2000 will open here on November 14 along with the annual India International Trade Fair (IITF), the Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) announced here on Thursday.

The theme of the ASPAT-2000, jointly organized by United Nations-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region (**ESCAP**) and the ITPO, is ``Technology--Key to Development''

with focus on agro-tech, information technology and health care, said an ITPO statement.

About 24 countries, along with a number of companies, would participate in both trade fairs, while a series of seminars would also be organized during the fairs, said the statement.

The IITF-2000, which focuses on Indian products, would showcase entertainment electronics, consumer durables and white goods and technology goods besides handicrafts and tourist destinations of various Indian states, it noted.

Overseas business delegations from Indonesia, Tunisia, Russia, Iran, Fiji, Nigeria, Palestine and South Africa have confirmed their visit to IITF-2000, it added.

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PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

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ICC's Asia Confce begins today

Star Report

The first Asia Conference of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) will start in the city today with a hope to attracting foreign investors to the region and eliminating disparity in the flow of global investment.

An investment guide to Bangladesh prepared by ICC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will also be released at the close of the conference.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a message to the conference has mentioned the joint role of the UN and the ICC in promoting free and fair trade as one of the ways to overcome poverty and promote investment in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

See page 11 col 3



Dr S Panitchpakdi

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, will take over from Mike Moore as Director General of the World Trade Organisation in October 2002. He will continue in the post till



Tadao Chino

Tadao Chino, formerly Chairman of the Board of Counselors of Nomura Research Institute Ltd, took over as the President of ADB on 16 January, 1999 after being unanimously elected by the Board of



Kim Hak-Su

Kim Hak-Su of the Republic of Korea assumed the post of Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 1 July 2000.

Prior to his appoint-



Maria L Cattaui

Maria Livanos Cattaui assumed office of the Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) the World Business Organisation, recently. The new chief executive was elected by unanimous

Profiles continued on page 11 col 7

ICC confce

From Page 1

He also laid emphasis on the role of the global companies, saying, " With good corporate citizenship, globalisation can come to benefit all people. But without it we may see the backlash against globalisation grow even stronger."

Over 220 participants from 23 countries of Asia and Europe have already confirmed their participation in the ICC Asia Conference.

A number of internationally famed personalities including the next World Trade Organisation (WTO) chief Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, ICC, Paris Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattaui, ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su and Asian Development Bank Chief Tadao Chino will attend the two-day conference.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference at 9.30 a.m. It will then have six sessions on the following day on oil and gas, IT, commercial dispute settlement, trade liberalisation, Asian recovery and multi-modal transport.

"This is the first time that regional businessmen, policymakers and economists are putting heads together to chart a futuristic outlook for the region in the context of globalisation," said Mahbubur Rahman, President of ICC-Bangladesh, explaining the reasons for holding the conference.

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Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi



ADB President Tadao Chino



ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su



ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman

He said that despite a lot of discussions, nothing fruitful came from regional forums like SAARC. "Now we have new forums like BIMSTEC, D-8 and other bodies. These issues should be addressed immediately and the benefits reaped through respective forums.

He said that the conference is an effort where developing countries will put their forces together to identify the weaknesses and turn the same into strengths.

The ICC Asia Conference has been split into different business sessions which will cover investment outlook for the region, natural resources and in particularly oil and gas, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, trade liberalisation and the concerns of developing countries, electronic commerce and multimodal transport in the region.

The conference will put accent on the need for free flow of FDI into developing countries in Asia. Representatives from Asian countries and multilateral funding agencies will hold in-depth discussions on the issues to find a solution.

"FDI is not flowing to certain LDCs to a satisfactory level due to weak infrastructure," said Rahman. "We feel that FDI can, in fact, play some vital role in those weak areas as well."

However, Rahman cautioned that one such conference will not radically change the situation in Asia.

"But this will help them understand that they should take stock of their individual situation and act promptly and prudently. It is already late for them, and further delay would widen the gap between them and the rest of the world with disastrous impact.

"We strongly feel that these countries need to have pragmatic policy packages and their implementation to get FDI. Mere declaration of intent will not serve any purpose unless things are changed with right earnest," said Rahman.

ICC Asia Confce begins in city on Nov 10

by Staff Reporter

The two-day ICC Asia Conference', organised by the Bangladesh chapter of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the world business organisation having its headquarters in Paris, will begin in Dhaka on November 10. The conference would be attended by policy makers, business leaders, economists, investors, lawyers and professionals from different countries of Asia and beyond, said ICC-Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Afta ul Islam, President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), former DCCI President Rashed Maksud Khan and ICC Secretary Mohiuddin Babar were present at the press conference held at the DCCI Bhaban.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference, first of its kind in the country and second in the world, at Sonargaon Hotel at 10 am. Earlier such a conference was held in New Delhi in 1995, Mahbubur Rahman said.

The theme of this year's conference is Investment in Developing countries : Increasing Opportunities.'

Mahbubur Rahman said, in order to make the event meaningful, high profile dignitaries from different countries of Asia and Europe had been invited and confirmation of participation had been received so far from Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and Director General Designate of the WTO; Tadoa Chino, President of Asian Development Bank (ADB); and Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP. Confirmation from more ministers of the region were being expected, he added.

Eighteen speakers from Japan, France, Geneva, the UK, Turkey, Switzerland, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong would deliver lectures in different business sessions of the conference, the ICC President said.

He added that participants from Belgium, France, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and host Bangladesh had already started making registration.

The estimated expenditure of the conference was Tk 75 lakh.

Associated Press

11/10/2000 08:25:19

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Turkish delegation's unpleasant experience at ZIA: International conference on investment begins today, THE INDEPENDENT
Faruque Ahmed
ASIA WorldSources, Inc. 209 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, S.E., 2nd Floor

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An international conference on ``Investment in Developing Countries'' opens this morning in the city.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the two-day conference at Sonargaon Hotel with more than 200 delegates it from home and abroad attending it.

The inaugural function will be attended by cabinet ministers, Parliament members, senior government officials, academics, researchers, diplomats and representatives of multilateral agencies.

Most delegates reached Dhaka yesterday and some of them reportedly encountered problems at the airport immigration counter.

A Turkish delegation was stranded for about two hours due to minor problem, disclosed a conference source.

Another source said more than 100 delegates, mainly business leaders and representatives of investment houses from 24 countries and organizations, were expected to attend the conference.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh is organising the event, the first of its kind under the aegis of a chamber body drawing so many participants from Asia and other parts of the world.

Prominent participants in the conference include Thai Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panichpakdi, who is also Secretary General-designate of the World Trade Organization, **ESCAP** Executive Secretary Kim Hak Su, ICC Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattaui, ADB President Tado Chino, Lord Justice (rtd) of England's Court of Appeal Sir Christopher Staughton and President of ICC Thailand Pramon Sulivong.

Explaining the objective of the conference the president of the ICC, Bangladesh, Mahbubur Rahman, told The Independent yesterday that it would focus mainly the issues affecting the developing and the least developed countries (LDCs) in the context of world economic globalisation. The conference would also seek closer cooperation among the Asian developing countries and the LDCs.

He said the conference would try to devise a ``more practical, appropriate and common futuristic strategy for development in a world of fierce competition.''

He added: ``unless we can establish ourselves in the mainstream of the world economy and stop being side-stepped from the process, it would be difficult for us to survive.''

He said despite the increasing flow of foreign direct investment (DFI)to the developing countries, its flow to the Asian developing nations and particularly to its LDCs was on the decline.

The conference would try to assess the strength and weakness of the developing nations and the LDCs to work out a strategy to improve their position in order to attract more FDI for development. `` The meeting will also focus on creating appropriate conditions for integration of these countries into the world economy,'' hoped.

A conference source said an eight-member Turkish delegation was stranded yesterday at the airport for about two hours due to minor issues.

They were allowed entry only when the conference managers intervened to free them from the airport after a long journey.

The source said that the delegates had their visas and other clearance. But the airport immigration officials raised objection to the entry of one of its member saying that the computer was not showing his name.

They argued it was not their fault. They had come here on invitation to attend a high profile international event. But it did not work to sort out the things.

The source said that the Board of Investment (BOI) has special immigration arrangements at the airport to welcome investors to Bangladesh.

There is a BOI notice board hanging over an immigration clearance desk at the airport drawing attention of the guests, he said wondering whether this kind of arrangements has any significance for guests.

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Saturday, November 11, 2000, updated at 21:34(GMT+8)

Life

China Green Food Expo 2000 Opens in Kunming

China Green Food 2000 Exposition opened Saturday in Kunming, capital city of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Over 500 exhibitors from around the country displayed over 1, 000 varieties of green food products at the expo, which included cereal, edible oil, fruit, vegetables, live-stock, aquatics, diary products and beverages.

Sources with the organizing committee of the expo said that the expo demonstrates the achievement of China's green food industry over the decade.

China has developed some 1,360 varieties of green food products. The output of green cereal, fruits and vegetable products weighed 10 million tons and was worth 49.4 billion yuan (US$5.9 billion) last year. The industry revenue in 1999 was 30.2 billion yuan (US$3.6 billion).

China's green food project has been recognized by international organizations, such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, as one of the 20 most successful development modes for global sustainable agriculture.

The four-day exposition which was co-sponsored by China Green Food Development Center, China Association of Green Food and the Yunnan Provincial Agricultural Department, has been participated by officials and business people from France, Germany, Japan, the United States, Belgium, Indonesia, India, Cambodia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The ESCAP will put on a symposium on green food in the Asia Pacific region and information systems on sustainable agriculture during the show.

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`ASPAT 2000' from November 14

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the India Trade Promotion Organisation are jointly organising the week long Asia Pacific millennium fair `ASPAT 2000' in the Capital's Pragati Maidan starting November 14. The foues of the fair would be on technology as a key to development with the thrust on three product areas including agrotech, IT and health care such as medical and lab equipment, drugs and pharma.

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Hasina calls for greater investment in Bangladesh

By Ershadul Huq

DHAKA: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed has appealed for greater international investment in the country, saying that investors and business houses could take advantage of her government's open door policy in several sectors.

Inaugurating a two-day meeting sponsored by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Asia here Friday, Hasina said: "The investors and business houses might specially explore the areas for investment in Bangladesh like power generation, oil and gas exploration, IT, telecommunications, textile, agro-based industries."

More than 220 business leaders, policy makers, economists, and lawyers from 23 Asian and European countries are also attending the meeting to devise a strategy to solve common problems faced by the developing world.

In the last four years, 6,232 projects worth $13.39 billion of foreign direct investment have been registered with the Bangladesh Board of Investment (BBI), Hasina said, adding that her government was committed towards attracting greater foreign investment.

"We at the government are trying to make the foreign

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investors feel more at home and comfortable in this country," she said, while announcing a spate of incentives for overseas investors, including plans for developing more export processing zones.

Speaking on the objectives of the conference, ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman said despite liberal incentive packages, the developingcountries were failing to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). "The meeting will take note of these and suggest steps for survival of the developing nations in the liberalization regime," Rahman said.

On the opening day, participants said the inadequacy of current national and international transport links by road, rail, water and air and resolved to ensure that Asia's markets remain within everybody's reach.

They also spoke of continuing economic ties with nations, even where there were political differences, saying that economic ties remained even when there was no diplomatic recognition between countries. The opening day of the conference also stressed on the role of information technology as a

driving force for social and economic development.

United Nations (UN) Secretary General Kofi Annan, in a message read out at the conference, emphasized the joint role of the UN and the ICC in promoting free and fair trade, as means to overcome poverty and promote investment in the Less Developed Countries (LDCs).

"With good corporate citizenship, globalization can come to benefit all people. But without it we may see the backlash against globalization grow even stronger," Annan said.

An impartial analysis of Bangladesh as a destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) will be a highlight of the conference. The conference has drawn a number of leading personalities, including the next World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Supachai Panitehpakdi, ICC Paris secretary general Maria Livanos Cattaui, ESCAP Executive secretary Kim Hak-su and Asian Development Bank chief Tadao Chino.*(India Abroad News Service)*

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PM opens ICC Asia conference in city: Foreign entrepreneurs urged to explore investment possibilities in Bangladesh

by Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed concern over the declining trend of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the developing countries and called upon the international leaders of trade, industry and commerce to come forward in support of the poor, helpless people by ensuring steady and increasing flow of direct investment to reverse the trend.

"The FDI into the developing countries is slowing down and being diverted to the more developed regions. If this trend continues unabated, the sufferings of the people of this region will further aggravate," she said inaugurating the two-day ICC Asia Conference at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Many delegates to the conference, however, opined that most of the developing countries were lagging behind in yielding the benefits of the WTO regime in the absence of adequate policy reforms and any proper investment climate.

Organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh, the conference, the first of its kind in the country, is being attended by representatives from 25 countries of Asia, Australia and Europe. The theme of the conference is "Investment in Developing Countries : Increasing Opportunities".

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and Director General Designate of the WTO; Md Abdul Jalil, Minister for Commerce (Bangladesh); Tadao Chino, President of Asian Development Bank (ADB); Matia Livanos Cattaui, Secretary General of the ICC based in Paris; also addressed the inaugural function. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UN-ESCAP, read out a message of United Nations Secretary General Kofi A Annan. Mahbubur Rahman, President of ICC Bangladesh, delivered the welcome address.

Christopher Patten, Commissioner for External Relations of the Commission of

the European Communities, sent a message on the occasion.

Referring to the investment climate in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said the country was poised to become a regional hub for the prospective investors, with investment-friendly politics pursued by the present government.

Terming FDI an emerging phenomenon in Bangladesh, she said the country's need for investment in infrastructure count not be met from the government and domestic savings alone.

Sheikh Hasina made a clarion call to the foreign business leaders saying : "I request you all to explore possibilities of investment in Bangladesh. I hope you would find Bangladesh a most worthwhile new destination for profitable investment business."

She said that investors and business houses might explore areas for investment like power generation; oil, gas and mineral exploration; computer software and software application, data entry and processing and other ITs; telecommunications; textiles; agro-based industries with preference to poultry and dairy farming; tourism development; air transportation; private EPZ (export processing zone); and gems cutting and polishing here.

The Prime Minister said the incentives and facilities provided by her government to foreign investors include : tax holiday for five to seven years to the industries depending on their location; repatriation of invested capital, profit and dividends; working capital loans from local banks for foreign investors; tax exemption on royalties, technical know-how and technical assistance fees; exemption from income tax for upto three years for foreign technicians employed in registered industries; tax exemption on income of the private sector power generation company for 15 years; remittance of upto 50 per cent of salary of foreign technicians; and no duty on imported machinery for 100 per cent export-oriented industries.

Sheikh Hasina said her government was trying to make the prospective foreign investors feel more at home and comfortable in this country. For providing more facilities to the investors, the government has decided to develop more EPZs other than the existing two in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Foreign investment in Bangladesh is secure against nationalisation and expropriation, the Prime Minister said adding "adequate protection is available for intellectual property rights such as partners, trade marks, designs and copyrights."

She said that 6,232 projects with an estimated investment of 13.291 billion US dollars had been registered with the Board of Investment (BOI) in the last four years. Of these, 574 projects involving 8.539 billion dollars were proposed with foreign investment. The investing countries include the USA, the UK, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, India, China, Taiwan, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy and Sri Lanka.

Hasina said she was happy over the success of her government in achieving a low inflation and moderate to high growth economy. "Following our massive programmes, the number of people below the poverty line has came down to 44

per cent in 1999 from 47 in 1996. During our tenure in office, the growth rate has averaged 5.5 per cent," she said giving a picture of the national economy.

[UNB adds: Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, who holds the commerce portfolio, said he would give special attention to trade liberalisation and concerns of developing nations after taking office of the World Trade Organisation.

"It's our obligation to address the concerns of developing economies irrespective of our capacity and nations... We need to do more."

The would-be chief of the global trade body noted the collapse of Seattle meeting was a wake-up call for the least developed and developing countries. "I hope to see an effective WTO which would serve all its members so that a better balance of interests can be achieved."]

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil said international trading opportunities for many developing and least developed countries had not opened up at all. These countries face the problems of market access with their inherent weakness such as undiversified export base, supply-side constraints, limited capital inflow, lack of adequate technology, limited domestic saving and investment making them isolated in the globalisation process.

ADB President Tadao Chino recognised the private sector as the engine for sustainable economic growth. A vibrant private sector could contribute significantly to job creation and increased reserve earnings.

"However, a strong private sector does not always emerge by itself, specially in developing countries," he said and added the ADB had developed a new private sector development strategy.

Referring to globalisation, he said many developing countries had largely benefited from opening up their trade and investment regimes.

"However, globalisation also poses the risk that needs to be managed. Rapid globalisation and increased competition can adversely affect countries when the policy environment is weak and industrial capacity is lacking," said the ADB President.

He praised the government and people of Bangladesh for facing the recent floods in south and south-western region and said the ADB was making utmost effort in preparing necessary assistance for the victims.

ICC Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattaui said the investment policy in Bangladesh was the best to attract foreign investors. But information gap and image problem were the impediments, she observed and assured that the ICC would try to convince the world community to come to Bangladesh.

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Title: Indian Government: Commerce Secretary underlines need for deve expertise in external trade matters; Regional meeting on research a in international trade in Asia-Pacific countries inaugurated

Summary: Shri Prabir Sengupta, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Minis and Industry, has said that there was an imperative need for buildin level of analytical expertise in the area of external trade relations, a countries had an inadequate understanding of the GATT/WTO syst they were often unable to work out the implications of the commitr them which had already resulted in a large gap between initial expe actual results in the post-Uruguay Round period. While inauguratin Meeting on Research and Training Needs in International Trade in Countries, here today, Shri Sengupta emphasised that the WTO me not be looked into in isolation from the overall development strate developing and the least developed countries had embarked upon a it was necessary that domestic capability in terms of formulating ap policies and export promotion strategies gets developed in these co necessary is an appropriate strategy that promotes both trade and de said. The 3-day (November 13-15) meeting is being organised by tl of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNDP an

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Indian Government: Commerce Secretary underlines need for developing analytical expertise in external trade matters; Regional meeting on research and training needs in international trade in Asia-Pacific countries inaugurated

Story Filed: Monday, November 13, 2000 8:55 AM EST

NOV 13, 2000, M2 Communications - Shri Prabir Sengupta, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has said that there was an imperative need for building up the required level of analytical expertise in the area of external trade relations, as the developing countries had an inadequate understanding of the GATT/WTO system functions and they were often unable to work out the implications of the commitments made by them which had

already resulted in a large gap between initial expectations and actual results in the post-Uruguay Round period. While inaugurating the Regional Meeting on Research and Training Needs in International Trade in Asia-Pacific Countries, here today, Shri Sengupta emphasised that the WTO mechanism could not be looked into in isolation from the overall development strategies that the developing and the least developed countries had embarked upon and in this context, it was necessary that domestic capability in terms of formulating appropriate trade policies and export promotion strategies gets developed in these countries. "What is necessary is an appropriate strategy that promotes both trade and development", he said. The 3-day (November 13-15) meeting is being organised by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNDP and **ESCAP**.

Shri K. Dharmarajan, DG/IIFT; Prof. B. Bhattacharyya, Dean/IIFT; and Shri Ravi Sawhney, Director, International Trade and Industry Division, UN-**ESCAP** were also present on the occasion.

Further underlining the importance of having a well oiled machinery for analysis, Shri Sengupta referred to the mandated negotiations that had already begun in the WTO in the agriculture and services sectors and emphasised that the developing countries must get themselves duly prepared, both with respect to the formulation of their country positions as well as in carrying out an in-depth analysis of what the proposals of the major trading nations imply for their economies.

Stating that many lessons could be drawn from the recent economic experiences such as the crisis in East Asia, Shri Sengupta said that a proper analysis for such experiences would surely facilitate development of appropriate policy responses with a view to avoiding recurrence of similar situations.

Quoting from the Trade & Development Report 2000, the Secretary said that while policy makers had rightly rejected a retreat into protectionism, it would be just as wrong to allow global market forces to dictate future growth and development. The Report, he said, also reiterates that thrust in market forces and monitory policy alone would not carry the day in an increasingly inter-dependent global financial and trading system, and that increased international cooperation and dialogue would be needed if the full potential of new technologies to bridge the growing gap between the rich and the poor was to be realised.

Shri Sengupta reiterated India's stand on the need for the operationalisation of the special & differential treatment provisions of the WTO agreements without which, he said, inequities in the international systems could not be addressed. The underlying principle of the Uruguay Round agreement was not merely free trade for its own sake but was also to create a fair and equitable multilateral trading system leading to development and increasing incomes, he said. "It should be the goal of the international community that we set up systems that will enable the under-privileged of the world to significantly raise their standards of living within the shortest possible time", he added. He also referred to the Agreement on Textiles & Clothing where he said, the expected market access benefits for developing countries and least developed countries had not materialised. Similarly, he said, anti-dumping and safeguard activities in some developed countries had aimed at blunting of comparative advantages of developing countries in certain sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Dharmarajan informed the gathering that IIFT had recently entered into a MOU with UNCTAD under which the Institute would serve as the Regional Training Centre for Asia on multilateral investment treaties. The Institute had also entered into a MOU with the Centre for International Development, Harvard University for conducting joint studies for export development strategy for India, he said. In the context of this programme, he said, it may be noted that the institute had earlier set up a Centre for WTO Studies with financial

contribution from the government. In his address, Shri Bhattacharyya said that the regional meeting had two distinct components with the first two days deliberations being devoted to an evaluation of the current status of the global trade and investment flows, developing a framework for mainstreaming the developing countries; and the third day of the programme being devoted to the specific problems being faced by the least developed countries in the Region with respect to formulating trade policies and strategies in the context of institutional capacity building in trade-related training institutions.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE

Press/Media: THE DAILY STAR

Page(s): 6 (*Business*)

Date: 14 November 2000

ESCAP executive secy meets Kibria

The visiting Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) Kim Hak Su called on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at his office yesterday and exchanged views on regional cooperation, says UNB.

The finance minister laid emphasis on stronger support of ESCAP for regional, sub-regional and also interest based cooperation among the countries.

He said ESCAP has been playing an important role for the development of the region.

The ESCAP Executive Secretary informed the minister about different steps undertaken by them and also new ideas for stronger cooperation.

The finance minister appreciated new ideas of ESCAP for strengthening its activity.

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Title: More Transport, Communication Access for Developing Countries

Summary: Developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region should be given n transport and communication, which is a prerequisite for their econ senior United Nations official told a regional meeting here Wednes

Source: Xinhua News Agency
Date: 11/15/2000 04:55
Price: Free
Document Size: Very Short (294 words)
Document ID: FA20001115710000050
Subject(s): XIN; Asia; Communications; Executive; Market; Policy; Proc Thailand

More Transport, Communication Access for Developing Countries: ESCAP Chief

Story Filed: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 4:55 AM EST

BANGKOK (Nov. 15) XINHUA - Developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region should be given more access to transport and communication, which is a prerequisite for their economic growth, a senior United Nations official told a regional meeting here Wednesday.

"Presently, a range of infrastructure and institutional barriers such as less access to transport and communication, still inhibit the competitiveness of the Asia-Pacific economies, especially developing countries, in the global market, " said Kim Hak-Su, executive-secretary of the Bangkok-based Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in his keynote speech at the opening of the third session of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure, an ESCAP sub-committee.

"So to build truly and effective transport, communications linkages in the region must be our priority in economic development, " he told over 100 participants from 25 members and associate members of the sub-committee, as well as from other U.N. bodies.

During his speech, Thai transport and communications minister Suthep Thaugsuban said that transport has played a central role in facilitating the integration of Asia-Pacific economies into a multilateral trading system.

"In Thailand, policy attention has been given to accelerate development of air, land and sea transport routes and networks. By upgrading maritime transport and port facilities, we are helping our products remain competitive in the global markets," he said.

During the three-day meeting, participants will discuss changes that are taking place in liner shipping and ports sector that are making it increasingly difficult for developing countries in the region to keep pace. They will also consider issues related to transport and logistics and the barriers which are still need to be overcome to develop the region's transport and communication.

Inbrief

Tourism talks

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will open a conference on sustainable tourism at the Asian Institute of Technology on Nov 27.

The international conference is to address the environmental, social and cultural impact of having hundreds of thousands of tourists passing through Asian cities at any given time.

The event is organised by the Canadian Universities Consortium Urban Environmental Management Project, Asia Pacific Economic Corp, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Escap, Unep, Unesco and Thailand Environment Institute.

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From: tarek_ali@my-deja.com (tarek_ali@my-deja.com) Search Result 5
Subject: Re: The Governor, World's Poorest Central Bank [view thread]
Newsgroups: soc.culture.bangladesh
Date: 2000-12-03 15:10:06 PST

Hasina's Investment paradise - Shams Kibria's booby trap

Bangladesh-miles to go to be an investor's destination

An Economist

In her wanderlust, Prime Minister Sk Hasina in the "merry round" is preparing for the next tour to Italy, Germany a from December 6, and it is said that the main thrust of h during the visit would be to woo foreign investment for B

In her frequent trips abroad, Bangladesh is referred to a paradise by her, given the incentive packages plus 'the f enabling climate' now prevailing in the country, and inte investors can consider investing in Bangladesh to access market, low cost production facilities or abundant natura

Therefore, in the fitness of things, it will be quite per reflect on the real situation now obtaining and also pers country.

Bangladesh with its confused political environment and un is always being a difficult choice for foreign investors. in the present era of globalisation, things are becoming for the government to be part of a new global economic co Before pointing out the factors that are creating hindran

investment in Bangladesh, let's briefly look at the econo
of the country.

Bangladesh's economic performance during the outgoing fis
be evaluated against a backdrop of the developments taken
economic scene during the mid 1990s. The macro-economic p
the period has been marked by declining real growth, stag
tax-to-GDP ratio, which caused persistently large fiscal
stagnant exports leading to unsustainable current account
doubledigit inflation, declining public sector investment
growth potential, deterioration in physical infrastructur
of social sector and institutional weaknesses resulting i
governance.

There is a clear and perceptible evidence that growth per
Bangladesh's economy has deteriorated over the period. Re
slowed to an average of 4 percent. While agriculture main
average growth rate of slightly above 4 percent during th
It is the large-scale manufacturing and services which co
the deceleration of growth. Fixed investment as percent o
declined significantly in the said period. Thus with the
the open market competition and Bangladesh's status as a
have forced the government to move ahead but with negativ
it has moved backward.

Absence of a strong rebound of exports also indicated the
signs in the national economy. Like exports, imports have
up. Nothing suggests that economic revival appears to be
There are too many external payment obligations. Banglade
exchange reserves remain unstable at around $1,2 billion
yank it up (with low BOP position) except IMF bailout. Th
the exchange rate unstable. Total investment (outlay) and
investment rates (as percentage of GDP) faced hiccups and
around 9 percent and 8 percent respectively, in 1999-2000

Among the weak areas which are affecting the investment e
first and foremost is the issue of fiscal deficit. Improv
composition and effectiveness of budgetary expenditure co
way in reducing fiscal deficit in orderly and qualitative

Yet another area requiring immediate action is arresting
trends in poverty. Sustainable economic growth accompanie
stability is ultimately the most powerful means of reduci
over the medium term. Sustained pro-poor growth based on
activity and investment should be the key element of the
reduction strategy. Macro policies should be integrated w

objective to ensure that plans are mutually supportive an with a comnon set of objectives to spur growth and reduce Likewise, strong infrastructures are important factors fo foreign investments.

Political incertitude in the country with lawlessness pus investors two steps back. The weak democratic institution authoritarian rule under the facade of democracy are neve appreciated globally or regionally. Bangladesh has the po the paradise of foreign investment and it could be benefi the government sensibly follows stability in the socio-po economic milieu with other developments, stated above, wh restore the confidence of the trading class who are the r of contemporary times.

In this connection, it will be relevant to note that rece Asia and UNCTAD jointly held a conference in the city on At the conclusion, they released an independent evaluativ encapsulating both strong points for and impediments to f investments in Bangladesh. It is common knowledge that bu tape, poor physical infrastructure, total absence of law including grossly erratic power supply, have been our maj as far as investment-both domestic and foreign-goes. But factors are added as dampers: intransparent administratio implementation of policies that were adopted precisely wi bolstering investment but going unimplemented as an obvio contradiction. Yet we are showcasing some of them, as if real!

The ICC-Asia guests were 'captives' at the airport pendin clearance of road safety. Then they failed to reach the v local hotel for the conference in time, because of, besid notorious traffic, an anarchy and mindless rampage on the north to south of the city by ruling party youth fronts w agitating on the murder of their leader, also a terrorist the vivid impression of police impotence in the face of l situation and of the gunmen's connection with the top aff administration. But in the conference there was the usual rhetoric by our government leaders about the "excellent" climate they claimed to maintain in the country. Pompous intended investment (only registered with BOI) were quote pathetic attempt to hide the real picture of investment m

Some international chamber leaders did not mince their wo real change of climate that was needed in practice, not o to facilitate investment. If rule of law is not respected seeking by the bureaucracy as well as by the political ma contained, investment will remain a distant roar. It was

visitors how, apart from socio-political compromises of t and destabilising conflicts, the convoluted ideas of grow requirements amongst our social elite are hampering growt discouraging investment.

Dr Kim Hak Su, Executive Secretary of the **ESCAP** said thre the preliminary meeting: 1) There is too much traffic jam cars in Bangladesh in comparison to average income level, take Bangladesh 25 years to graduate from the LDC to the developing country with the present growth rate; and, 3) current trends, poverty in Bangladesh cannot be reduced i years. With about 4 percent real annual growth, Banglades consistent double-digit economic growth to cross the benc in near future; it should now pursue productivity-driven of investment-incentive input-driven growth.

However, by default, therefore, our 'weaknesses' are outw 'strong' points. Our social homogeneity, democratic (so-c credentials, low-cost and easily trainable workforce, and regime on FDI can only work to our advantage if we implem strategic decisions centred on administrative and financi and steadying the power supply to entrepreneurs. Otherwis a long, long way for Bangladesh to be investor's destinat paradise, whatever way you say as our leaders are saying

(New Nation)

12/06/2000 03:46:49

Regional Meeting to Promote Asian Cruise-Shipping Industry

BANGKOK (Dec. 6) XINHUA - Some one hundred representatives from public and private sectors related to water transport in Asian countries kicked off a meeting here Wednesday to promote the cruise-shipping industry in the region, which is seen as a promising market for the business.

"It is clear that there is considerable potential for expansion of the cruise-shipping industry in the region which boasts a wide range of tourist destinations, and an exciting and diverse mixture of culture, scenic beauty and various cuisine, " said Kim Hak-Su, chief of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), the Bangkok-based United Nations' arm which sponsored the Conference. The forum, titled as Seminar on the Development of Cruise- Shipping and Tourism in Asia, held here between December 6 and 8, is attended by officials from transportation authorities, travel agents as well as cruise-shipping operators from 16 countries in the region.

Although the Asian cruise-shipping market will certainly attract more holiday-makers from all over the world, Kim said, "it should make sure that it can provide safe and well-appointed ships, convenient landing facilities, simple immigration procedures and good connections to and from the tourist sites by bus and other land transport."

To be successful in attracting the wealthy but highly demanding tourists to Asian cruise market, he urged closer coordination between the public and private sectors.

The cruise shipping business, which has been growing fast during past 40 years since it first appeared in the Caribbean Seas and continues to show great expansion potential, begins to attract Asian countries' attention.

"Chances look good for countries in the region, since tourists who used to cruise in the America and Europe are seeking new destinations," said Shingo Narumi, a Japanese shipping industry expert.

"Asian cruise-shipping business began in 1990s and now still appears small compared with America and Europe. However, it also means we have bigger space left to expand," he said.

During the three-day meeting, participants will focus on topics related to the region's cruise-shipping market such as development potential, infrastructure requirements, inland waterway cruise, tourism perspectives, strategic planning, among others.

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Emerging Markets Datafile, THE INDEPENDENT, January 15, 2001

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Emerging Markets Datafile
THE INDEPENDENT

January 15, 2001, Monday

LENGTH: 353 words

HEADLINE: New rail link, THE INDEPENDENT

BODY:
Canarail of Canada has undertaken a feasibility study and financial survey for construction of proposed Dohazari-Cox's Bazar and Ramu-Gundum rail lines. The 126.22 kilometer-long railway extension would require financial and engineering study involving traffic survey, soil test, cost estimation and planning for railway truck-laying, bridges, culverts, stations and signaling system. The project concept paper for the proposed extension of the railway line that will connect Chittagong with Cox's Bazar and Gondum right up to Myanmar border has been prepared last July. En route the two directions of the extension lines, there would be sixteen stations. It is intended to be implemented with the Bangladesh Railways' own funds by 2004 at an estimated cost of Taka 698 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 160.28 crore. The Dohazari-Cox's Bazar and Ramu-Gundum railway extension will open up the opportunity for direct eastern connection of our railroad system through Myanmar to China and ASEAN countries under an **ESCAP** master plan for Trans-Asian Railway network. Domestically too, the proposed extension may help internal and external tourism a lot by way of regular railway communication between the sea-resort belt of Cox's Bazar and the port city of Chittagong. For our development strategy in the twenty-first century, opening up to the east for trade and tourism is vitally important to link up with the fast-growing economies of Asia. Our internal economic growth and leisure industry may also be largely benefited by this comparatively small investment in railway extension. The project is therefore eminently well-conceived and timely. On the west side, after the construction of the Jamuna multipurpose bridge project, we are already set to be linked with Trans-Asian highway and railways network. The completion of Chittagong-Gundum railway linkage upto the Myanmar border will open doors for heavy traffic eastward as well. In the Asian century in-the-making, to survive in global competition we do need to open up as many doors and in as many directions as possible.

COUNTRY: BANGLADESH MYANMAR (86%); BANGLADESH (54%); CHINA (53%);

LOAD-DATE: January 15, 2001

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BERNAMA THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY January 30, 2001

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January 30, 2001

LENGTH: 390 words

HEADLINE: M'SIA FAST BECOMING REGIONAL HUB FOR INNOVATIVE URBAN GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

BODY:

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is now fast becoming a regional hub for new and innovative urban governance practices and many local governments in other countries are adopting some of its ideas, said a United Nations expert on urban development.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Senior Regional Advisor Datuk Dr Anwar Fazal said Malaysia had, in fact, incubated a number of home-grown initiatives within cities in the country.

Among the initiatives that had been developed are the Kuching Healthy Cities Project, Asian Development Bank Benchmarking Project in Kuantan and the Sustainable Penang Initiative (SPI), he said in an interview.

Anwar was here to present a working paper entitled "The Future of Cities" in conjunction with the "First Symposium on City Governance" organised by the Kota Kinabalu City Hall, here, today.

He also said Malaysia had developed five principle steps in urban planning that were holistic in approach which had helped many of its cities become "liveable places".

The five principles are for the cities to be socially just, ecologically sustainable, politically participatory, economically productive and culturally vibrant, said Anwar.

Citing the example of the SPI project as embodying the five principles, he said the project was a huge success that it became the basis for strategic planning by the Penang state government for the next 10 years.

The SPI, a long-term project, conducted by the Socio-Economic and Environmental Research Institute of Penang (Seri) was launched in November 1997.

The project is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida) and the UNDP as well as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**Escap**).

Those involved in the SPI project formed groups that focused on issues involving providing better facilities for the disabled, systematic transport system and conservation of water in Penang.

"The success of the five principles is now part of the thinking of major international organizations dealing with urban planning," said Anwar.

Despite being in the forefront in urban management, he cautioned that Malaysia still needs to focus on implementing a systematic public transportation system as Kuala Lumpur was going through a very rapid modernization process.

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Usenet Message 39 from the thread "**Myanmar Times : Low profile, but BI**

From: U Tun Lin (utunlin@my-deja.com) Search Result 39
Subject: Myanmar Times : Low profile, but BIMST-EC could be best for Myanmar [view thread]
Newsgroups: soc.culture.burma, soc.culture.asean
Date: 2001-02-06 06:41:24 PST

The Myanmar Times
February 5-11, Volume 3, No.49
Myanmar's first international weekly Journal
Volume 3, No.49

Low profile, but BIMST-EC could be best for Myanmar

WHEN people in this part of the world talk about trade bl tend to focus on one name: ASEAN. It may not be so well k obviously powerful, but BIMST-EC is far less stricken by politicking than its eastern cousin and, at least insofar is concerned, membership of the three-year-old, five-memb offers some interesting prospects.That consideration will in the minds of local participants at the BIMST-EC trade forum to be held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on Februar 15.The meeting will be the third of senior trade and econ officials from the bloc's member nations, and the second countries' trade and economic ministers.

The Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Ec Cooperation group delegates will discuss six specific are investment, technology, transportation and communication, tourism, and fisheries.Regional banking issues would also canvassed, said director general of Myanmar's Directorate Investment and Company Administration, U Maung Maung Yi.N attend the meeting as an observer, and officials from the Development Bank and Economic and Social Commission for A Pacific (**ESCAP**) will also participate. The BIMST-EC group Myanmar with a key role, one which holds vast export earn for this country, as the leader of the forum's dialogue o issues.Other core sectors likewise are delegated to those

which specialise in them, or are seeking to: Bangladesh i investment; India in technology and transportation commun Lanka in tourism and Thailand in fisheries.Each 'lead' co spearheads collaboration between members and the developm policies and work programs.

It is a development-oriented model which sets a very diff to that of ASEAN and, indeed, other trade blocs around th globe.Myanmar plays another unique role in the group as t geo-strategic link between the South Asian BIMST-EC natio South East Asian ASEAN countries.And with BIMST-EC natura toward greater cooperation with its big cousin in the fut role will become increasingly significant."Given regional trends towards closer trade relations, regardless of whet is developed or developing, Myanmar is in a dual position its business relations to other countries in the two bodi Maung Maung Yi.At the forum's last ministerial meeting, i last year, the Inter-Governmental Group was formed to pur trade agreements, at governmental level, between member s

"How fast the process is to be pushed forward depends on economic credibility but also the willingness of each mem said U Maung Maung Yi."Compared to the maturity of 30-yea the 3-year old BIMST-EC has much more to be done, like se permanent secretariat."Its mechanisms are not fully organ said.That is, of course, only to be expected at such an e the bloc's life.But with Myanmar-Indian relations at thei point in more than 10 years, and with most, if not all of countries desperate for easily accessible power sources, grouping could prove a wise engagement indeed for resourc Myanmar.

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Terms: **economic and social commission for asia** (Edit Search)

BBC Worldwide Monitoring, February 7, 2001, Wednesday

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BBC Monitoring Central **Asia** Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

February 7, 2001, Wednesday

LENGTH: 300 words

HEADLINE: Tajik first deputy premier leaves for Kazakhstan for regional **economic** meeting

SOURCE: **Asia**-Plus news agency, Dushanbe, in Russian 1216 gmt 06 Feb 01

BODY:

Text of report by the Tajik news agency **Asia**-Plus on 6 February

The Tajik first deputy prime minister, Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, left for Almaty in southern Kazakhstan today. Here on 8 February he will attend the first session of the regional consultative committee, which is a management body of the UN special programme for the economy of the Central Asian states (SPECA), **Asia**-Plus news agency learnt at the first deputy prime minister's office.

The meeting is scheduled to discuss progress in implementing the SPECA in Central Asian countries, particularly the activities of the project working groups that have been set up within the programme in order to develop transport infrastructure and simplify border crossings, and also to use the energy and water resources of Central **Asia** rationally and effectively.

In addition, the meeting will touch on issues concerning preparations for the international **economic** conference on Tajikistan in the regional context of Central **Asia,** planned for the end of the year, and also the drawing up of a joint strategy for regional development and attracting foreign investment.

Asia-Plus news agency learnt at the Tajik Foreign Ministry's department for CIS countries that the session should give an impetus to the process of implementing the SPECA in the region and mobilizing outside and domestic resources in order to solve priority issues for all member-countries.

The SPECA was drawn up in 1998 with the support of the UN European **Economic Commission** (EEC) and the UN **Economic and Social Commission** for **Asia** and Pacific Ocean (ESCAPO) to help Central Asian countries deepen mutual cooperation and stimulate their **economic** development. The national coordinator for the SPECA in Tajikistan is Prime Minister Oqil Oqilov.

LOAD-DATE: February 8, 2001

Source: All Sources : News : **News Group File, All**
Terms: **economic and social commission for asia** (Edit Search)
Mandatory Terms: **date from 08/15/2000**
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XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE February 8, 2001, Thursday

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February 8, 2001, Thursday

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; POLITICAL

LENGTH: 150 words

HEADLINE: U.N. Conference on C. Asian Economies Held in Kazakhstan

DATELINE: ALMA ATA, February 8

BODY:
A regional consultative **commission** charged with supervising the implementation of a U.N. program for Central Asian economies held its first meeting here on Thursday.

Participants reviewed the implementation of projects under the program. These included developing transport infrastructure, making good and rational use of energy and water resources in the region, making preparations for an international **economic** conference in Tajikistan, and formulating a unified strategy for drawing foreign investment in the interest of regional development.

The program, which was worked out in 1998 under the auspices of the U.N. **Economic Commission** for Europe, U.N. **Economic and Social Commission** for **Asia** and the Pacific, and the presidents of the five Central Asian nations, aims to promote cooperation among the Central Asian countries and boost their **economic** development.

LOAD-DATE: February 9, 2001

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BANGKOK POST February 10, 2001

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BANGKOK POST

February 10, 2001

LENGTH: 89 words

HEADLINE: Inbrief : Tourism impact

BODY:

Delegates from several Asia-Pacific countries will meet at the **Escap** headquarters in Bangkok from Feb 21-24 to discuss ways of setting up a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA).

The TSA is a more accurate means of calculating the full impact of travel and tourism on a nation's economy.

In reporting their national accounts, governments group travel and tourism under "services", which analysts say does not reflect the industry's indirect contributions to other sectors such as construction, agriculture and telecommunications.

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MALAYSIAN NEWS : FEATURES

Febuary 12 , 2001 12:52PM

■ 'IRON SILK ROAD' BECOMING REALITY

By Hwang Seok-joo

SEOUL, Feb 12 (Oana-Yonhap) -- The idea of travelling and transporting goods by train from Pusan to Moscow, then on to Berlin or London no longer seems like just an impossible dream.

Rather, which railway will be adopted for such travel and transport in the not-too-distant future has become the more relevant question.

The sudden change in the situation has been brought about by dramatic developments on the Korean Peninsula in recent months.

Since the historic summit talks between the two Koreas last June, inter-Korean exchanges have consistently escalated and the relationship between North and South Korea has become increasingly peaceful and conciliatory.

Of the many agreements reached by the two countries in the months since the summit, one of the most valuable has been the decision to reopen the severed Kyongui Railway, which runs from Seoul to the city of Sinuiju on the North's border with China.

The railway is slated to be reconnected in

September, about 50 years after it was severed during the Korean War (1950-53), allowing people here to dream of the day when they can travel by train from their hometowns to great European cities, such as Moscow, Istanbul, Paris, Berlin and London.

When the two Koreas announced that they would begin work to reopen the Kyongui Railway, there was a flurry of activity in Russia, China, Mongolia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

In reality, ESCAP first considered the possibility of constructing a Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) in the 1960's.

At that time, however, the TAR project was simply conceived as a way to link Singapore and Istanbul with possible connections to Europe and Africa.

During the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, however, a number of political and economic problems in the region caused the TAR idea to lie nearly moribund.

But the development project was given a new impetus in the late 1980's and 1990's, as some Asian countries stabilized and normalized diplomatic relations, causing a great expansion in the movements of people and goods across the continent. In addition, the globalization of the economy and rapid development of telecommunications technology in the 1990s sparked a trade boom between countries and continents.

In 1992, ESCAP finally endorsed the integrated Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project, comprised of the TAR and other transport and

communications projects in Asia and the Pacific.

Under the ALTID's framework, the original Singapore-Istanbul link was extended into a 40,000-kilometer global network covering the entire Asian continent with links to the pan-European rail network.

In view of different standards of railways and levels of technical development between Asian countries, ESCAP later divided the TAR network into four components.

Among the components is the "Northern Corridor," connecting the rail networks of China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia and, theoretically until now, the Korean Peninsula.

The conceived route is to connect the Trans-Korean Railway (TKR), the Trans-Chinese Railway (TCR) and the Trans-Siberian Railway (TSR), creating a route that would begin in Pusan and pass the North's Sinuiju and China's Dandong, Shenyang, Beijing and Urumqi. From there, the route would go to Kazakhstan's Aktogai, on to Moscow and, finally, to Berlin.

The 12,091-kilometer Northern Corridor plan is the result of an ESCAP feasibility study conducted in 1995.

Incumbent ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-soo, who is ironically the first Korean to take up the post, said recently that ESCAP will kick off a project to operate container trains in the Northern Corridor on a trial basis in October.

For its part, the Korean Peninsula has three other alternatives to reach Europe by train.

The first is to link the TKR with the TSR. The route would link Pusan to Berlin by way of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and Russia's Nahodka, Habarovsk, Cita and Moscow.

The second would be to link the TKR, the Trans-Manchurian Railway (TMR) and the TSR. The route would go through Pusan, the North's Namyang, China's Tumen and Manzhouli, Moscow and Berlin.

And the third is to connect the TKR, the TCR, the Trans-Mongolian Railway (TMGR) and the TSR. This route would run through Pusan, Pyongyang, Shenyang, Tianjin, Ulan Bator, Moscow and Berlin.

The third choice is the shortest route, connecting Korea to Europe over just 11,231 kilometers of track. The first route is 13,054-kilometers long and the second is 11,608 kilometers.

Considering the economic gains a fully-functioning Northern Corridor would bring Russia in the form of transit charges, it isn't surprising that Moscow is pushing for a direct link between the TKR and the TSR.

Actually, Russia is pursuing the project more aggressively than any of the other parties involved.

It has already expressed its intention to directly invest in the North's outdated railway if the TSR is linked directly with the TKR.

But for that plan to work, another long-severed inter-Korean railway line, the Seoul-Wonsan Line, would need to be restored.

Nonetheless, Russian President Vladimir Putin

reportedly proposed the TKR-TSR connection to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il during his trip to Pyongyang last July.

During Putin's upcoming trip to Seoul at the end of this month, the TKR-TSR railway connection issue is sure to be one of the top items on his agenda when he meets with President Kim Dae-jung.

Meanwhile, Mongolia is also actively trying to persuade Korea to adopt the TKR-TCR-TMGR-TSR formula.

If adopted, the route would not only provide Mongolia with economic gains, but it would also give it greater access to advanced cultures and technologies.

For its part, China wants to see the TKR, the TMR and the TSR hooked up because the route could be used as a channel for the export of natural resources from its three northeastern provinces.

Apparently bearing that in mind, China adopted a railway exchange and cooperation agreement with South Korea in November 1998, even though their borders are not adjacent.

However, the most important factor in realizing any of the possible formulas is the attitude of North Korea, which has so far been passive regarding the issue while citing security concerns.

Fortunately, North Korea has recently been engaging the international community more actively than it ever has before.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il recently visited Shanghai and enthusiastically

applauded the city's capitalistic development. And if the TKR is linked with other international railways, the project would bring a great deal of profits to the cash-strapped North.

ESCAP's goal is to have the Northern Corridor open for business by 1995.

It is estimated that by then, the North would be able to make US$150 million in annual revenues just for allowing trains headed to the South to pass through its borders.

In the end, a time will come when the North will have no choice but to join the opening of the "Iron Silk Road," a move that will surely bring peace and prosperity to Northeast Asia.

-- OANA-YONHAP

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THE KOREA HERALD: Opening of 'Iron Silk Road' becoming reality

Korea Herald; Seoul; Feb 13, 2001;

Start Page: 1

Personal Names: Hak, Kim

Abstract:

The conceived route is to connect the Trans-Korean Railway (TKR), the Trans-Chinese Railway (TCR) and the Trans-Siberian Railway (TSR), creating a route that would begin in Pusan and pass the North's Sinuiju and China's Dandong, Shenyang, Beijing and Urumqi. From there, the route would go to Kazakhstan's Aktogai, on to Moscow and, finally, to Berlin.

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Full Text:

Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Feb 13, 2001

By Hwang Seok-joo The idea of transporting goods by train from Pusan to Moscow, then on to Berlin or London, no longer seems like a dream.

The important question now is which railway will be adopted for such travel and transport in the not-too-distant future. The sudden change in the situation has been brought about by dramatic developments on the Korean Peninsula in recent months.

Since the historic summit talks between the two Koreas last June, inter-Korean exchanges have consistently escalated and the relationship

between North and South Korea has become increasingly peaceful and conciliatory.

Of the many agreements reached by the two countries in the months since the summit, one of the most valuable has been the decision to reopen the severed Kyongui Railway, which runs from Seoul to the city of Sinuiju on the North's border with China.

The railway is slated to be reconnected in September, about 50 years after it was severed during the Korean War (1950-53), potentially allowing people here to travel by train from their hometowns to European cities, such as Moscow, Istanbul, Paris, Berlin and London.

When the two Koreas announced that they would begin work to reopen the Kyongui Railway, there was a flurry of activity in Russia, China, Mongolia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

In reality, ESCAP first considered the possibility of constructing a Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) in the 1960's.

At that time, however, the TAR project was simply conceived as a way to link Singapore and Istanbul with possible connections to Europe and Africa.

During the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, however, a number of political and economic problems in the region caused the TAR idea to lie untouched.

But the development project was given a new impetus in the late 1980's and 1990's, as some Asian countries stabilized and normalized diplomatic relations, causing a great expansion in the movements of people and goods across the continent. In addition, the globalization of the economy and rapid development of telecommunications technology in the 1990s sparked a trade boom between countries and continents.

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Among the components is the "Northern Corridor," connecting the rail networks of China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia and, theoretically until now, the Korean Peninsula.

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The first is to link the TKR with the TSR. The route would link Pusan to Berlin by way of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and Russia's Nahodka, Habarovsk, Cita and Moscow.

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Apparently bearing that in mind, China adopted a railway exchange and cooperation agreement with South Korea in November 1998, even though their borders are not adjacent.

However, the most important factor in realizing any of the possible formulas is the attitude of North Korea, which has so far been passive regarding the issue while citing security concerns.

Fortunately, North Korea has recently been engaging the international community more actively than it ever has before.

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Usenet Message 37 from the thread "**Information Sheet No.B-1714 (I)**"

From: Okkar66126 (okkar66126@aol.com) Search Result 37
Subject: Information Sheet No.B-1714 (I) [view thread]
Newsgroups: soc.culture.asean
Date: 2001-02-16 00:04:07 PST

MYANMAR INFORMATION COMMITTEE

YANGON

Information She
No.B-1714 (I) 16t

(1) Â Â Â Senior General Receives Indian Minister of Ext

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of th Senior General Than Shwe received the Minister of Externa Jaswant Singh of India and party in Yangon on 15 February

(2) Â Â Â Secretary-1 Receives Foreign Guests

On behalf of Chairman of the State Peace and Development of Myanmar, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Developmen Nyunt received Minister of Commerce of the Peopleâ€™s Rep Mr. Md Abdul Jalil, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Co the Republic of India Mr. SS Kapur, Minister of Internal Commerce, Shipping Development and Muslim Religious Affai Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Rauff Hakeem, Permanent Secreta Commerce of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr. Krirk-Krai Jirapa Mr. Kasu Sakai of ADB and Director of International Trade of **ESCAP** Mr. Ravi Saw Hney, who are attending the Third B Ministerial Meeting Yangon, at the Ministry of Defence on The Secretary-1 also received the Minister of External Af party on the same day.

(3) Â Â Â Progress Achieved in Laying Down Foundations f Cooperation Â Â AmongÂ Member Countries

A ceremony to open the Third BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Mini

hosted for the first time in Myanmar, was held at the Sed
15 February, with an address by Chairman of the BIMST-EC
Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt

The Secretary-1 highlighted the fact that this is the fir
is hosting the BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministerial Meetin
in an era of rapid technological advances and globalizati
process has brought with it new opportunities as well as
particularly to the developing nations. World of increasi
growing economic competition and widening digital divide.
nation can stay aloof and in isolation. To overcome these
developing nations must learn to cooperate with each othe
effective and efficient way possible. In this context, th
to work together to thrive and to progress. The formation
is of great significance not only for its Member states b
as a whole. BIMST-EC is a crucial link between the nation
Southeast Asia. Although BIMST-EC had emerged only three
notable progress has been achieved in laying down the fou
economic cooperation among the Member countries. Able to
areas for cooperation and add two new areas, agriculture
management, for future cooperation. The level of cooperat
can be to a large extent a source of satisfaction for all
confidence in the economic strength of BIMST-EC and its M
combined population of over 1.2 billion people and abunda
resources, our organization shall surely be able to bring
prosperity to the region. In this regard, it is of vital
countries to implement the various sectorial action plans
early as possible.

Attention is being devoted for establishing the shared vi
Arrangement in the BIMST-EC region. The complexities and
and working together in the spirit of goodwill and accomm
produce a blueprint in our march towards a Free Trade are
forward to make a meaningful contribution for the progres
the BIMST-EC region. Despite the negative impacts caused
crisis that hit the region in 1997, economy was able to g
adoption of correct and timely policies and their vigorou
the end of March this year, will be completing the 1996-9
Term Five Year Plan. Against a Plan target of 6 per cent,
an average annual growth of 7.2 per cent in the first fou
In this last year of the Plan, GDP growth is projected to
cent.

Despite the progress made, circles holding negative views
the country continue to make all sorts of remarks and com
Myanmar economy. Actually, in recent years there had been
infrastructure buildup, greater income, higher standards
quality of life of the entire people as well as the narro

cities and countryside. The truth of the matter is that o
production is increasing, the industrial sector is growin
sector improving. The economic achievements that you are
being attained by our own efforts and without any assista

At the same time, Myanmar look forward to cooperating wit
for mutual benefit. Agriculture, forest, mining, livestoc
energy and services sectors including tourism, offer vast
business in Myanmar as well as for cooperation with Asian
economic potential will contribute towards regional prosp
joined BIMST-EC in 1997. Full conviction of the goals, ai
organization and to reiterate our commitment to BIMST-EC.
found lacking in its obligations and will forge ahead wit
promote cooperation with BIMST-EC Members. The Agenda bef
BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministerial Meeting is both wide-
significance for the Member States and their peoples.

(4) Â Â Â Malaysian Delegation Paid Courtesy Call

The visiting ASEAN Fisheries Federation of Malaysia deleg
Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Malaysia Dato Seri Haji
Omar and party paid the courtesy call on Secretary-1 of t
Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt and Secretary-2 of
Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Oo at their office separat

(5) Â Â Â Third BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministers Meet P

A Press Conference on the Third BIMST-EC Trade/Economic M
held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 15 February.

Minister Brig-Gen Abel pointed out the fact that the thir
Trade/Commerce Ministersâ€™ Meeting and BIMST-EC Trade/Co
Officersâ€™ Meeting have been held successfully in Yangon
will be held in alphabetical order of the names of member
Myanmar is concerned, it has held the meetings successful

Brig-Gen Abel also said that BIMST-EC came into existence
years ago. Protection of BIMST-EC is necessary in the pro
The member nations have to have a part in the globalizati
cooperation in the region will help member nations in a v
be players in the globalization. Globalization cannot be
challenges as well as benefits in the process of globaliz
nations can play the game according to the multilateral r
cooperate regionwise and globalwise, and there are a lot
that although there are all sorts of negative remarks and
economic growth of Myanmar, only what responsible officia
figures which they give are to be regarded as authentic.

In replying to a question of how the prospect of investme of BEMST-EC can be evaluated, the permanent secretary of Commerce of Thailand said that there are persons from Tha with telecommunication services in certain parts of India investment in hotel management, hotel construction and de Myanmar. There are also some types of investment in Sri L flow can be further strengthened and enhanced.

The Indian minister said that BEMST-EC is a very young or necessary to conclude bilateral investment protection agr countries of BEMST-EC. The fundamental structural framewo protection exists among all the member nations when inves invest in other countries. They will have this sort of sa to a question concerning balance of trade between Myanmar minister said that India had a trade deficit with Myanmar to India. In 1999-2000, Myanmarâ€™s export to India was U its import from India was US $ 75.36 million. India is My export market according to the figures.

(6) Â Â Â Appointment of Ambassador Agreed

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the Jinjun as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar in succession t Liang Dong.

(7) Â Â Â Myanmar-India Friendship Centre for Remote Sen Processing Inaugurated

A ceremony to inaugurate Myanmar-India Friendship Centre Data Processing was held at the Technical and Vocational in Bahan Township, Yangon on 15 February. Minister for Sc of Myanmar and Minister of External Affairs of India Mr. formally opened the Centre.

Minister Shri Jaswant Singh and party left Yangon for hom the same day.

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Usenet Message 36 from the thread **"The Independent (Bangladesh) - BIM**

From: TIN KYI (tinkyi@tkf.att.ne.jp) Search Result 36
Subject: The Independent (Bangladesh) - BIMSTEC confce begins in Yangon [view thread]
Newsgroups: soc.culture.asean, soc.culture.burma
Date: 2001-02-16 08:12:11 PST

The Independent (Bangladesh)
BIMSTEC confce begins in Yangon

YANGON, Feb 15: Bangladesh today said it wants to see the effective forum for boosting regional cooperation as the meeting of regional grouping began here today, reports BS

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil who is leading a delegation told the meeting that BIMSTEC should be turned platform to voice the issues of common concern of the mem suggest measures to world bodies, specially WTO.

"It is unfortunate that trade amongst the BIMSTEC region accounting for around 2.5 per cent of the region's total Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil told the inaugural session conference.He added: "But a strengthened network of coope facilitating services in areas of common concern will no avenues for growth of intra-region trade and investment.

He emphasised the need for implementation of the proposal two meetings to survive in the competitive world trade, a message received here.

The commerce and trade ministers of Bangladesh, India, My and Thailand, the nations, which groups the BIMSTEC, join opened by Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, First Secretary military government.

Nepal is taking part as an observer along with representa **ESCAP**.

The grouping was established in 1997, to facilitate trade among the nations linked by the Andaman Sea.Opening the c Khin expressed hope that with a combined population of ov people and abundant natural and human resources, BIMSTEC able to bring about greater prosperity to the region.

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Usenet Message 12 from the thread "**The New Light of Myanmar (Friday,**

From: Okkar66126 (okkar66126@aol.com) Search Result 12
Subject: The New Light of Myanmar (Friday, 16 February, 2001) (1/2) [view thread]
Newsgroups: soc.culture.burma
Date: 2001-02-16 00:22:05 PST

The New Light of Myanmar (Friday, 16 February, 2001) (1/
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1. Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe receives Iandian Minister of External Affair
2. - Secretary-1 hosts dinner in honour of ministers and delegates of BIMST-EC Meeting
   - Secretary-1 receives BIMST-EC Ministers
   - Secretary-1 receives Indian External Affairs Ministe
3. - Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt receives Deputy Minist of Malaysia
   - Secretary-2 receives Malaysian delegation
4. - BIMST-EC is crucial link between nations of South As and South East Asia Progress achieved in laying down foundations for greater economic cooperation among member countries
5. - BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministerial Meeting issues joint Press statement Ministers accentuate important role of SMEs and SMIs in Region's development
6. - The third BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministers' Meeting
   - Third BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministers meet Press
7. - Myanmar-India Friendship Centre for Remote Sensing and Data Processing inaugurated
8. - Appointment of Ambassador agreed
   - Minister attends MRTV Ceremony
   - Minister of External Affairs of India concludes goodwill visit
   - Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung meets official of Win Thuzar shops
9. - Vientiane Mayor tours Yangon
   - Opium seized in Pinlaung

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(1) Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Com
Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe receives Iandia
Affairs

Yangon, 15 Feb- Chairman of the State Peace and Developme
Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services S
Shwe received Minister of External Affairs Shri Jaswant S
party at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road at 11 a

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State
Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Com
General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Dev
Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Minister fo
Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-G
Htet of the Protocol Department. The Indian External Affa
were accompanied by Ambassador of India Mr Shyam Saran.

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(2) Secretary-1 hosts dinner in honour of ministers and
Meeting

Yangon, 15 Feb- Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Develo
Khin Nyunt hosted a dinner at Karaweik Palace in honour o
delegates who attended the Third BIMST-EC Trade/Economic
this evening. Present on the occasion were the ministers,
diplomats, departmental heads and observer the Minister o
Nepal and party. Before the dinner, variety dances were p
dance troupe.

Secretary-1 receives BIMST-EC Ministers

Yangon, 15 Feb- On behalf of Chairman of the State Peace
Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Def
General Than Shwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Dev
Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt received Minister of Commerce of the Pe
Bangladesh Mr Md Abdul Jalil, Joint Secretary of the Mini
Industry of the Republic of India Mr SS Kapur, Minister o
International Trade Commerce, Shipping Development and Mu
of Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Rauff Hakeem, Per
the Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Kr
Programme Manager Mr Kasu Sakai of ADB and Director of In
Industry Division of **ESCAP** Mr Ravi Saw Hney, who are atte
BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministerial Meeting here, at the
Ministry of Defence at 8 am today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Industry-1 U A for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister at the State Pea Council Chairman's Office Brig-Gen Abel, Minister for For Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Wi Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and Observer Trade/Economic Ministers' Meeting Minister of Foreign Aff Chakra Prasad Bastola.

Secretary-1 receives Indian External Affairs Minister

Yangon, 15 Feb- Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Develo Khin Nyunt received Minister of External Affairs Shri Jas and party at the Dagon Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U W Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Au Protocol Department and officials. The guests were accomp India Mr Shyam Saran.

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(3) Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt receives Deputy Minis

Yangon, 15 Feb - Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Devel Khin Nyunt received Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Mal Mohd Shariff Bin Haji Omar and party at the Guest House o Defence at 4 pm today. Also present together with Secreta were Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-G Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials. The guests we Ambassador of Malaysia Dato Mohammad Bin Noh. The Malaysi presented US $ 2,000 donated by fisheries entrepreneurs o Federation of Malaysia to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt f Committee.

Secretary-2 receives Malaysian delegation

Yangon, 15 Feb - Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Devel Tin Oo received ASEAN Fisheries Federation of Malaysia de Minister of Agriculture of Malaysia Dato Seri Haji Mohd S at his office at 8 am today. Also present together with S Oo were Minister for National Planning and Economic Devel Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Lun Maung, Deputy Mi and Fisheries U Aung Thein and heads of department. The M minister was accompanied by Ambassador of Malaysia Dato M

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(4)BIMST-EC is crucial link between nations of South As

Progress achieved in laying down foundations for greater among member countries

Yangon, 15 Feb- A ceremony to open the Third BIMST-EC Tra Ministerial Meeting, hosted for the first time in Myanmar Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning, with an addre BIMST-EC Steering Committee and Secretary-1 of the State Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion w Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the Central Organizing Comm BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministerial Meeting Minister at t Development Council Chairman's Office Brig-Gen Abel and m member deputy ministers, Minister of Commerce of the Peop Bangladesh Mr MD Abdul Jalil, Joint Secretary of the Mini Industry of the Republic of India Mr SS Kapur, Deputy Min Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan of Myanmar, Minister of Internal & Int Commerce, Shipping Development and Muslim Religious Affai Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Rauff Hakeem, Permanent Secretar Commerce of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Krirk-Krai Jirapae respective countries, observer Minister of Foreign Affair Bastola and members of Nepal, diplomats of the embassies countries, representatives of ADB and **ESCAP**, officials of Development Council Office, departmental officials, local journalists and guests.

Assistant Manager Daw San Yu Yu Ohn of International Busi Ministry of Forestry, who acted as master of ceremonies, agenda. Then, Chairman of the BIMST-EC Steering Committee the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt address.

He said: This is the first time that Myanmar is hosting t Trade/Economic Ministerial Meeting and I am greatly delig opportunity to give this opening address. As Chairman of Committee of the Union of Myanmar, I would also like to e welcome to our BIMST-EC Ministers and Delegates as well a representatives from ADB and **ESCAP**. Although your stay in too brief, it is our hope that you will be able to have a Land of Golden Pagodas "a country rich in beauty and cult peaceful, stable and economically vibrant, with people co the twenty-first century and the third millennium.

We are living in an era of rapid technological advances a globalization process has brought with it new opportuniti challenges, particularly to the developing nations. We li increasing interdependence, growing economic competition divide. In these times, no nation can stay aloof and in i these challenges, the developing nations must learn to co other in the most effective and efficient way possible. I

Asian nations need to work together to thrive and to prog

The formation of BIMST-EC in 1997 is of great significanc
Member states but also for the region as a whole. It is o
BIMST-EC is a crucial link between the nations of South A
Asia. Although BIMST-EC had emerged only three and half y
said that notable progress has been achieved in laying do
greater economic cooperation among the Member countries.
identify six main areas for cooperation. In New Delhi, we
new areas, agriculture and disaster management, for futur
should not be discouraged if the pace of cooperation in s
fast as we would like. If we all devote special attention
areas where progress is to accelerate, we shall surely b
the whole, I believe that the level of cooperation so far
large extent a source of satisfaction for al of us. At th
to say that we in Myanmar have confidence in the economic
and its Members.

With a combined population of over 1.2 billion people and
human resources, our organization shall surely be able to
prosperity to the region. In this regard, it is vital imp
countries to implement the various sectoral action plans
early as possible. I am also heartened to learn that atte
for establishing the shared vision for a Free Trade Arran
region. We fully appreciate the complexities and sensitiv

However, I remain confident that working together in the
and accommodation we shall be able to produce a blueprint
a Free Trade Area. Myanmar looks forward to making a mean
progress and prosperity of the BIMST-EC region. Despite t
caused by the financial crisis that hit the region in 199
able to grow due to the adoption of correct and timely po
vigorous implementation. At the end of March this year, w
the 1996-97 to 2000-2001 Short Term Five Year Plan. Again
per cent, we were able to achieve an average annual growt
the first four years of the Plan. In this last year of th
projected to be at least 8 per cent. Despite the progress
negative views inside and outside the country continue to
remarks and comments regarding our economy.

Actually, in recent years there had been tremendous infra
greater income, higher standards of living and better qua
entire people as well as the narrowing of gap between cit
We are therefore very glad that Your Excellencies will ha
at first hand the true conditions of our economy. The tru
that our agricultural production is increasing, the indus
growing and the services sector improving. Moreover, the
that you witnessing today are being attained by our own e

assistance from abroad. At the same time, we look forward the friendly nations for mutual benefit.

] Our agriculture, forest, mining, livestock breeding, in services sectors including tourism, offer vast prospects Myanmar as well as for cooperation with our Asian partner Myanmar's economic potential will contribute towards regi Myanmar joined BIMST-EC in 1997. We did so with full conv aims and purposes of the organization. I wish to reiterat BIMST-EC. Myanmar will not be found lacking in its obliga ahead with our efforts to promote cooperation with BIMST- before this Third BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministerial Mee wide-ranging and of great significance for the Member Sta

I am confident that the Ministers with their wisdom and v be able to guide the Meeting to fruitful and beneficial r May I wish all of you success in your deliberations and a Myanmar. Thank you all for your kind attention. Next, the documentary photo taken together with Minister Brig-Gen A Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Chakra Prasad Bastola of N Commerce of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr MD Abd Internal & International Trade and Commerce, Shipping Dev Religious Affairs of Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce of the Ki Krirk-Krai Jirapaet, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of C the Republic of India MR SS Kapur and Deputy Minister for Kyaw Hsan of Myanmar. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 delegation members of respective BIMST-EC member countrie

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(5) BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministerial Meeting issues

Ministers accentuate important role of SMEs and SMIs in R

Yangon, 15 Feb- The following is a Joint Press Statement Trade/Economic Ministerial Meeting held at Sedona Hotel i

1. The Third BIMST-EC Trade / Economic Ministers' Meeting Myanmar on 15th February 2001. It was preceded by the Sec Trade/Economic Officials' Meeting on 14th February, 2001. Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Lt-Gen Khin Nyu BIMST-EC Steering Committee of Myanmar and Secretary-1 of Development Council.

Opening Speech

2. In his opening speech, HE Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt highlighte globalisation has brought new opportunities and challenge developing nations. To overcome these challenges, the dev learn to cooperate with each other. In this context, BIMS between the nations of South and Southeast Asia. Myanmar economic strength of BIMST-EC. H.E. is also heartened to is being devoted for establishing the shared vision for a Arrangement in the BIMST-EC region. H.E. explains Myanmar how some quarters are expressing all sorts of negative re it. Finally, he explained that Myanmar joined BIMST-EC wi the goals, aims and purposes of the organisation.

3. The Meeting was attended by Trade/Economic Ministers o their Senior Trade/Economic Officials. Nepal attended as Programme Manager of the Asian Development Bank and the D International Trade and Industry Division of Economic and Asia and the Pacific were specially invited. His Excellen Abel, Myanmar's BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Minister and Mini Office, State Peace and Development Council, presided ove Chairmans Statement

4. Chairman, Brig-Gen Abel said that in this age of globa still is to fall back. The Minister commended the Inter-G their efforts to find a possible free trade arrangement. Countries to first trade amongst themselves in accordance trading system, and then amongst Asians. Intra-regional t will remain a vital force, and the Chair emphasized the n substantive outcomes in trade liberalization, to be suppo facilitation measures. The Minister highlighted the signi and medium enterprises/industries in the BIMST-EC region' that Governments must act as facilitators.

Overview 5. The Ministers exchanged views on the internat environment. With rapidly increasing globalization,

global competition for markets and investments. The strat beyond economic recovery and towards economic resurgence integration. The Ministers agreed that member countries m in sending the message of commitment to integration in in

Trade

6. The Ministers noted the importance of trading within t amongst Asian nations in accordance with the rules of the system. The Ministers felt a need for exploring the possi arrangement. They commended the Inter-Governmental Group Paper. The Ministers agreed to set up an experts group co academia, and private sector to study approach and modali

recommendations to the next Trade/Economic Ministerial Me

7. The Ministers shared the view that BIMST-EC should hav position to the possible extent and form a common positio trade related fora, such as the World Trade Organisation countries should be proactive and formulate initiatives, reactive to proposals put forward by developed countries. need for a balanced agenda and for the interests of devel taken into account in future WTO negotiations. The commit the integation of LDCs in the global trading system shoul adequately.

Trade Facilitation

8. The Ministers noted that trade liberalisation efforts with trade facilitation measures. To begin with, the Mini short-term deliverables such as customs matters, standard establishment of Customs Experts Group. They also agreed made by STEOM on these trade facilitation measures.

9. The Ministers also noted the need for developing a lon The Ministers discussed measures for facilitation of tran the banking arrangements, IPRs, mobility of business peop of the trade database which is part of the e-BIMST-EC. Si to the STEOM recommendation on these matters.

10. The Ministers stressed the importance of e-commerce. there is a need to harmonise standards and regulations. T of the on-going activities and discussions at internation utilised and applied in the BIMST-EC context.

Small and Medium Enterprises/Industries

11. The Ministers accentuated the important role of SMEs Region's development and realised that each government ac The Ministers agreed to prioritise the promotion of SMEs Region's collaborative efforts. As an initial step, they and potentials of these small scale entities and discusse mitigate the problems and enhance the potentials.

Other Matters

12. The Ministers took note of the following issues: (a) Kingdom of Nepal for membership to BIMST-EC; and (b) sett BIMST-EC Secretariat. Next Meeting 13. The Fourth BIMST-E Ministerial Meeting will be held in Colombo, the Democrat of Sri Lanka, in February 2002.

02/16/2001 04:41:15

Southeast and South Asian ministers emphasise cooperation

YANGON, Feb 16 (AFP) - Trade and economic ministers of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand emphasised the importance of cooperation in the face of globalisation at a meeting here of their BIMST-EC grouping.

In a communique released Friday, a day after the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand-Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) talks wrapped up, Myanmar minister Brigadier-General Abel urged members to first trade among themselves, and then with other Asian nations.

The first secretary of Myanmar's junta, Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, told delegates the four-year-old grouping was a "crucial link" between the nations of South and Southeast Asia.

"In these times no nation can stay aloof and in isolation ... developing nations must learn to cooperate with each other in the most effective and efficient way possible," he said.

Nyunt said that with a combined population of more than 1.2 billion people and abundant natural and human resources, "our organisation should surely be able to bring about greater prosperity to the region."

The ministers were joined in Yangon by representatives from the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations' **ESCAP** (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).

The meeting, hosted by Myanmar for the first time, was attended by delegates from the five member countries as well as Nepal, which is seeking membership and was represented for the first time as an observer.

The ministers agreed the fourth BIMST-EC meeting would be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo in February 2002.

The group was formed in Thailand in June 1997 by four Asian countries -- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand -- bordering the Bay of Bengal, with a view to bolstering economic cooperation.

Its membership was extended to Myanmar in August that year.
kmt-sls/mtp

Business
Bangkok Post
www.bangkokpost.com
February 19, 2001



Travel Monitor

TAT supports bureau concept

To cost B220m, cabinet and private sector to review new conventions body

IMTIAZ MUQBIL

After some initial hesitation and, indeed, suspicion, the Thai travel and tourism industry is warming to the setting up of a convention and exhibition bureau solely to market the country's growing range of opportunities in this lucrative sector of the travel business.

However, backers of the bureau still need to

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convince the cabinet to cough up an estimated 220 million baht, while the private sector is waiting to see how the body will be structured and managed.

Last week, the Tourism Authority of Thailand's deputy governor for administration, Juthamas Siriwan, briefed the industry on the bureau and sought feedback on its plans, operations and structure.

The bureau's primary purpose will be to bring more meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (Mice) to Thailand. Mice delegates are a much sought-after segment of the travel business because most are on company accounts and hence spend more money than regular leisure visitors. Many later return on private holidays with their families.

In addition to the many hotels with extensive space for Mice events, Thailand recently has seen the emergence of convention and exhibition centres such as the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Bitec), Impact at Muang Thong Thani, and Peach-the Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Hall. This has meant plenty of surplus space to sell.

The country's recovering economy plus its increasing trade and infrastructure links with neighbouring countries of the Greater Mekong subregion, especially Cambodia and Laos, are opening up further opportunities for industry and investment, a harbinger of the Mice business. At the other end, strong competition has arisen from Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines, all of which boast equally huge convention centres, as do Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

In principle, the Thai travel industry agrees that Thailand should have a Mice promotion bureau to ensure that it can meet the competition and not lose

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market share. The private sector feels that as long as it does not have to fund the new bureau, there is no reason not to back it.

The existing Mice-promotion body, the Thailand Incentive and Convention Association (TICA), is half-funded by the private sector, the other half by the TAT and Thai Airways International. But TICA's budget is only about 12 million baht while the new bureau is projected to need 220 million baht.

The TAT's board of directors has approved formation of the bureau in principle. After last week's hearing, Mrs Juthamas is in a position to claim that the private sector also backs it. The next step is to win additional support from other trade and industry organisations, plus government agencies before sending the entire package to the cabinet.

After the bureau is formed, TICA will become just another trade body to represent the interests of the Mice sector. It will lose its marketing powers as well as the matching fund provided by the TAT for its operations.

Legally, the bureau will be registered as a juristic person with some kind of a special status under the government. It has not been clarified which government agency it will come under, but backers seem not to want it under the TAT.

The main question is what will happen to the TAT's convention promotion division. Mrs Juthamas has indicated that this unit may be transferred out of the TAT, and its functions (along with the budget, naturally) be turned over to the new bureau. This will mean that the cabinet will have to approve no extra funds, just divert the money from the TAT. For obvious reasons, the TAT does not like this

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As for the TAT's convention division staff, initial indications are that, if they want to move, they will have to reapply for jobs at the new bureau, or simply stay on at the TAT and be transferred to other departments.

Privately, many in the industry are questioning how it will be run. Mrs Juthamas clearly wants to head the bureau but some private sector executives say she will need the support of a high-profile marketing personality with the clout and connections in the specialised and highly-competitive Mice business.

Mrs Juthamas herself does not have a marketing background and has never served at a TAT office abroad. She rose through the development side of the agency and oversaw the tourism job-creation programme under the money allocated by the Miyazawa Fund to alleviate the social impact of the economic crisis. In 1999, she lost a contentious bid to become TAT governor.

With the new cabinet line-up featuring three heavyweight former TAT chairmen, the bureau is expected to sail through. One of Thaksin Shinawatra's companies is also part-owner of NCC Management and Development, operator of the Queen Sirikit convention centre.

Even without a bureau, the local Mice business is not doing badly. From January to October 2000, convention delegates to Thailand totalled 70,436, up 18.66% over the same period of 1999. Some of the largest source markets are Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Australia, all of which have reported big increases.

The existing convention and exhibition centres are

working with the TAT and THAI to bring in more business. Last year saw a number of high-powered meetings such as the Unctad conference in Bangkok and the Asian Development Bank conference in Chiang Mai.

Former foreign minister Surin Pitsuwan also came up with the idea of promoting Bangkok as the "Geneva of Asia", to capitalise on the city's existing lock on the UN business through the Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific. This market alone is expected to yield big dividends, especially now that the US is beginning to pay its arrears to the UN.

- Imtiaz Muqbil is executive editor of Travel Impact Newswire, an e-mail-delivered feature and analysis service focusing on the Asia-Pacific travel industry. e-mail: imtiaz@loxinfo.co.th.

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THE SAIGON TIMES DAILY: Investors need more care

The Saigon Times Daily; Ho Chi Minh City; Mar 7, 2001; HUYNH HOA;

Start Page: 1

Abstract:

Speaking at the opening of a two-day national workshop in Danang on investment promotion and realization in the central provinces, they said regional authorities should work harder to help investors implement their projects; otherwise, they could not attract more investment.

B.P. Dhungana of the UN organization ESCAP, which together with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and Danang is organizing the meeting, said, "Effective investment implementation is the best advertising to attract further investment."

Full Text:

Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Mar 7, 2001

(SGT-DANANG) Experts said yesterday that foreign investors needed greater care from provincial authorities in the country's central region to ensure the good implementation of their projects.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day national workshop in Danang on investment promotion and realization in the central provinces, they said regional authorities should work harder to help investors implement their projects; otherwise, they could not attract more investment.

B.P. Dhungana of the UN organization ESCAP, which together with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and Danang is organizing the meeting, said, "Effective investment implementation is the best advertising to attract further investment."

Other participants said the region had great potential to attract foreign investment, but investment implementation was faced with various hindrances, such as the inconsistent interpretation of investment laws and regulations, and poor coordination between local and central State agencies.

The slow handling of problems with customs procedures, tax, financial and accounting schemes, land, recruitment of workers, and

reimbursements for facilities built outside foreign-invested enterprises' premises were also blamed.

Price discrimination against foreign investors should be abolished, they said, adding investors should enjoy subsidies for shipping and air transport costs.

Central provinces should have regular meetings with investors to resolve problems, if any, and foster mutual understanding.

To speed up foreign investment flow into the poverty-stricken region, provincial authorities should further care for existing foreign-invested projects.

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● Mon Apr 2, 2001

Strong Boost For Mekong Tourism At Kunming Meeting

Senior tourism officials of the Greater Mekong Subregion addressed a broad range of important marketing and destination management-related issues at the Sixth Mekong Tourism Forum held in the southern Chinese city of Kunming between March 31-April 1. The officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan Province of China approved the upgrading of the official GMS website www.Visit-Mekong.com to take bookings, and acknowledged a number of initiatives to train tourism resource managers and support village-based tourism. Mr Paisan Wangsai, Director of the Agency for co-ordinating Mekong Tourism Activities (AMTA), said, "It is important to have a good balance of marketing, facilitation and management issues in addressing the future directions of GMS tourism growth." The Mekong Tourism Forum is organised by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) in co-operation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as well as the national tourism organisations of the six countries. It was first held in Pattaya, Thailand, in 1996. A tourism working group (TWG) comprising of the six NTO representatives and donor/supporting institutions meets alongside to handle the numerous financial, administrative and policy aspects of the development programmes and projects. One of the most significant parts of the sixth forum was an appraisal by the

parts of the sixth forum was an appraisal by the Manila-based ADB about its future plans to focus on tourism as a major force in alleviating poverty in the entire Asian region.

The bank has already funded about US$20 billion worth of regional infrastructure and transportation projects, and is now shifting its focus to more grassroot areas like ecotourism, community development and forging of stronger public-private sector partnerships to ensure local ownership of projects, and hence their long-term sustainability.

The conference heard a keynote speech from Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mr Pongpol Adireksarn who referred to both the ancient and modern elements of the Mekong region. "The mystical Mekong has a strong influence on everyone and everything within its reach," he said. "This is probably a result of the ancient Buddhist heritage of the region supplemented by a belief and legend handed from generation to generation by the peoples that live along the mighty river's banks." At the same time, the Deputy Prime Minister noted the forces of change and globalisation that are changing the face of the GMS region. The economic development is leading to multi-billion-dollar construction of roads, highways, bridges and airports, all of which will facilitate movement of peoples to and within the region. In his comments, Mr Paisan paid tribute to the co-operative spirit among the GMS tourism officials which he said had been instrumental in helping the region achieve visitor arrivals of 14.1 million in 2000.

"However, major challenges lie ahead of us including how to attract quality and high yield tourists to the region, the improvement of tourism-related infrastructure and how to attract investors to invest in tourism and services in the GMS."

The meeting offered delegates a chance to become acquainted with the latest tourism developments in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. The

Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. The northern flank of the GMS region has undergone a major transformation for the better since it hosted the highly-successful Kunming International Horticultural Expo in 1999. Chinese tourism officials have expressed full commitment to making further improvements in the quality of their products and services to attract their fair share of the visitors. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) also supported the event by flying in a group of hosted travel agents and tour operators from Japan, the USA and France to meet with regional sellers at a small trade-mart organised along with the forum. The next Mekong Tourism Forum is to be held in Myanmar in either April or May 2002.

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UN: Links among food security, population growth, environmental degradation addressed in Population and Development Commission

Story Filed: Friday, April 06, 2001 4:28 AM EST

Apr 06, 2001 (M2 PRESSWIRE via COMTEX) -- Food security was intrinsically connected with population growth, overall development and environmental management issues, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) told the Commission on Population and Development this morning, as it heard from United Nations regional commissions and specialized agencies on the theme of population, environment and development.

Analysis showed, she said, that population growth would dominate over other demographic factors as the primary cause for increasing food demand. The situation was especially critical in sub-Saharan Africa, where dietary requirements would triple by 2050. The targets set by the World Food Summit could not be reached without taking into account the links between population dynamics, environmental factors and food security.

The Economic Commission for Africa, said its representative, gave priority to advocacy, creating awareness and capacity-building at the national and subregional levels for better understanding and management of the linked issues of rapid population growth, food insecurity and degradation of the environment. Those "nexus" issues had become the primary focus of the ECA's Food Security and Sustainable Development Programme.

He went on to say that the Programme had been instrumental in developing a computer simulated Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture model, which vividly demonstrated that demographic variables, the environment and modes of agricultural production interacted in vital ways and greatly impacted international food security. The model had been developed for nine African countries, including Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cameroon and Uganda, and further development would soon expand its application at the subregional level.

As the only region-wide intergovernmental organization in Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), was in a unique position to bring governments together in meetings and conferences to share their development experiences and lessons learned, its representative stated. Member countries had approved the organization of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference,

which **ESCAP** hoped to hold jointly with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangkok late next year.

That Conference, he added, would permit governments to address some of the emerging issues in the population field, such as international migration, globalization, population and poverty, population ageing and regional disparities in social development within countries.

Also this morning, Jacques Van Zuydam (South Africa) was elected as a Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the current session.

Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

A subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission is charged with studying and advising the Council on population changes and their effect on economic and social conditions. Following the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), it was decided that the Commission would meet annually, beginning in 1996, to assess implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action.

The Commission will meet again at 10 a.m. Friday, 6 April, to take its final decisions and adopt the draft report of the session.

Background

The thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development met this morning to continue its consideration of programme implementation and the future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population. It was also expected to elect its fourth Vice-Chairman. (For background, see Press Release POP/792 issued on 30 March.)

Statements

MARCELA VILLARREAL, of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said that food security was intrinsically connected with population growth, overall development and environmental management issues. Projected population and income growth were used to assess future food needs, taking into account agro-ecological zones and dietary patterns. The analysis showed that population growth would be the primary cause of increasing food demand. The situation was especially critical in sub-Saharan Africa, where dietary requirements would triple by 2050.

The challenges of food, agricultural and rural development required an understanding and anticipation of changes in the population structure and of how agricultural demand, production, trade and natural resources

management would be affected by those changes. The targets set by the World Food Summit could not be reached without taking into account the links between population dynamics, environmental factors and food security. That could only be done through strong material action with continued collaboration and support from United Nations partners and donors, and the active involvement of all stakeholders at national and international levels.

JAGA SEHGAL, of the International Labour Organization (ILO), said one of his agency's main functions was to prepare labour projections based on the population data produced by the Population Division. A major thrust of the ILO for the coming year was the development of a new draft labour code to address the very important issue of HIV/AIDS and employer/employee relations. That new policy programme would also address workplace discrimination and social exclusion of people suffering with HIV/AIDS.

He said that the ILO had organized an expert's group meeting to be held in the near future, in order to complete negotiations on the draft code. He added that the ILO had recently released its World Report on Technology and the Workplace. The World Employment Report had also been recently issued. It was important to note that that report presented a synthesis of key indicators and trends in the labour market for the future.

AMADOU LAMINE GUEYE, of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), said that his organization gave priority to advocacy, creating awareness and capacity-building at the national and subregional levels for better understanding and management of the linked issues of rapid population growth, food insecurity and degradation of the environment. Those "nexus" issues had become the primary focus of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Programme of the ECA.

He went on to say that the Programme had been instrumental in developing a computer simulated population, environment, development and agriculture model, which vividly demonstrated that demographic variables, the environment and modes of agricultural production interacted in vital ways and had great impact on international food security. To date, the model had been developed for nine African countries, including Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cameroon and Uganda. Further development of the model would soon expand its application at the subregional level. A series of subregional workshops had been planned, with the aim of assisting policy-makers and researchers in the use of the model as an advocacy tool and for the analysis of nexus issues.

He said that this year the ECA would also focus on monitoring the implementation of global and regional population and development frameworks. Another major component of ECA's programme would be spearheading the regional preparatory process for the upcoming World

Summit on Sustainable Development, scheduled to be held in South Africa next year. Findings and recommendations discussed at national and subregional review meetings would be synthesized in a regional report, which would form the basis of Africa's position at the World Summit.

MIROSLAV MACURA, representing the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), said that the new ECE population programme had been launched last year, the centerpiece of which was the generations gender programme. Regarding the Conference on Ageing, he said that the ECE secretariat had started the preparatory work for the ministerial meeting on ageing to be held in September 2002 in Berlin. Preparatory work was being pursued on three tracks. First, an expert track, where experts would offer advice on substantive issues. Second, an intergovernmental track, where representatives of ECE member States would steer the preparatory process and negotiate the draft text. The third track involved the participation of civil society.

He said that the main issues identified by the experts fell into the following three themes: economic security in an ageing world; age integration and intergenerational solidarity; and health and well-being in old age. There would also be a forum for non-governmental organizations, so that they could provide inputs on the draft text.

Turning to the generations gender programme, he said that it was focused on ageing and family development and made use of the specially developed generations gender survey. In June 2000, the generations gender programme consortium was developed to further the programme and mobilize resources for it. It was thanks to the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that the programme was launched.

Finally, he said that the ECE had collaborated closely with the Population Information Network (POPIN) in the past to the benefit of those countries the ECE assisted, particularly those in transition. It was in the interest of the ECE to see the institutional and financial troubles afflicting POPIN resolved. The POPIN had been very successfully managed by its coordinator, and he trusted that the ECE secretariat would continue to benefit from cooperation with the POPIN project and its coordinator.

JERROLD W. HUGUET, Chief, Population and Development Section, Population and Rural and Urban Development Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), described that Commission's population programmes.

ESCAP's entire focus was on assisting its member countries to achieve the population and development goals that they had set in the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, adopted in 1992, and in the Cairo's Programme of Action.

The **ESCAP**, he continued, was the only region-wide intergovernmental organization in Asia and the Pacific. As such, it was in a unique position to bring governments together in meetings and conferences to share their development experiences and lessons learned. Last year, **ESCAP** organized the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2000 in Kitakyushu, Japan.

Member countries had approved the organization of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, which **ESCAP** hoped to hold jointly with the UNFPA in Bangkok late next year, he added. That Conference would permit governments to address some of the emerging issues in the population field, such as international migration, globalization, population and poverty, population ageing and regional disparities in social development within countries.

BATOOL SHAKOORI, Officer in Charge, Population Section, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), said that the overall mission of the Population Section was to enhance the capacities of ESCWA member States to integrate population concerns into development policies, programmes and plans at the regional and national levels. It was also to promote Arab countries' commitment to common population and development goals stemming from the global and regional conferences, including the ICPD.

A two-fold strategy for accomplishing those objectives had been followed, she said. The Section was monitoring population trends and levels, as well as identifying and analyzing population issues by producing population estimates through the most up-to-date demographic methods and by initiating and publishing analytical research on population topics particularly pertinent to the region. In its efforts to contribute to the capacity building of member States in the formulation of national population and related policies, the Section collaborated closely with the UNFPA. Also, the Section sought to increase its visibility in the region through outreach and the dissemination of information through publications, wall charts and by establishing a strong presence on the global POPIN Web site.

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April 13, 2001, Friday

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS; POLITICAL

LENGTH: 257 words

HEADLINE: China to Enhance Cooperation with **ESCAP**

DATELINE: BEIJING, April 13

BODY:
China is willing to continue enhancing cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), in an effort to boost economic and social development in the region.

In a meeting with Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of **ESCAP** here Friday, the Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said the UN and its regional ESCs have played an irreplaceable role in carrying out collaboration and exchange and formulating common rules.

With economic globalization and the rapid development of communication and information technologies, the gap between the rich and the poor is also widening, Tang said. He called on ESCs to help their members take full advantage of globalization and new technologies.

Tang said the cooperation among the diverse members of **ESCAP** has massive potential as they are highly complementary. He proposed that **ESCAP** enhance exchanges and cooperation among its members in many sectors including population control, poverty-relief, balanced development and environmental protection.

Meanwhile, he called on **ESCAP** to look forward into the future and explore new opportunities to speed up the development of its members in the new century.

Kim Hak-Su spoke highly of China's role in **ESCAP** and said the organization is ready to further cooperate with the Chinese side.

China is one of the founders of **ESCAP,** the largest inter- governmental economic and social forum in the Asia and Pacific region, currently comprising 52 members and nine associate members.

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2001

Source: All Sources : News : **News Group File, Most Recent 90 Days**
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●Thu Mar 16, 2000

WTO/UN-ESCAP/TAT - Changing Roles Of Private-Public Sectors In Tourism

About 250 senior officials from Asia-Pacific national tourism organisations are expected at a high-level seminar on improving public-private sector partnerships in travel and tourism to be held between March 20-22, 2000 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok.

The seminar is being jointly organised by the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). The seminar, which is to be opened by Deputy Prime Minister Korn Dabbaransi, will feature high-level presentations by World Tourism Organisation Secretary- General Francesco Frangialli, ESCAP Executive Secretary Adrianus Mooy and Mr. Madan Prasad Bezbaruah, chairman-elect of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

The seminar is intended to help the industry brainstorm opportunities for enhancing co-operation between the public and private sectors at a time when the roles of both are changing rapidly.

According to Mr. M. Rahmatullah, Director of UN ESCAP's Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division, "Governments have traditionally played a key role in tourism

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have traditionally played a key role in tourism development and promotion, especially in countries where tourism is still in a nascent stage.

"However, there is no denying that for tourism to grow in a sustainable manner, an appropriate framework - physical, regulatory, fiscal, social andenvironmental -- is needed which, of course, can only be provided by governments. They are also expected to provide the basic infrastructure for tourism - such as roads, water supply, electricity, communications, airports - and to create a legal framework within which the sector operates." As the private sector is now deeply involved in travel and tourism, it is clearly adopting a leading role in both its marketing and development. Hence, governments are beginning to review what role they should play in the age of globalisation and domination of the industry by multinational concerns.

Now, governments view their role more as a facilitator, or stimulator of private sector investment through fiscal and monetary incentives. In a number of countries, governments have either divested themselves, or are in the process of divesting themselves of their direct interest in tourism and services.

Though industry legislation and regulations are in force, they are less and less common, except where they relate to consumer protection, or to national heritage and environment conservation.

Mr. Rahmatullah added, "This means the private sector has to shoulder more and more responsibilities and a pattern of public-private sector partnership, particularly in the field of marketing and promotion, has emerged in the last decade or so."

"Such partnership are emerging not only at a national level, but increasingly spreading to provincial and municipal levels." Because most Asia-Pacific countries still have much to learn about this new form of partnership, the seminar will help clarify the need for

partnership, the seminar will help clarify the need for such partnerships; their nature, scope and conditions; the respective roles of public and private sectors; and critically, the question of whether governments should withdraw completely from tourism and give a free hand to the private sector.

The various technical sessions and presentations will discuss examples of such partnerships. Two keynote presentations will be made by consultants from the WTO and ESCAP. Private sector travel industry associations such as the International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO), International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH&RA) and Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Association (UFTAA) will also be involved. The seminar will conclude with a set of recommendations to provide policy and strategic guidelines for Asia-Pacific countries to consider in forging a strong and balanced public-private sector partnership in tourism.

● You can view the **Next** Editorial: Associations item: *Sun Mar 19, 2000, Meeting Industry Association of Australia Awards For Excellence*

You can view the **Previous** Editorial: Associations item: *Wed Mar 15, 2000, ASEAN And China Consult On Regional Code Of Conduct*

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Vote View

"Iron Silk Road"becoming reality

SEOUL - The idea of travelling and transporting goods by train from Pusan to Moscow, then on to Berlin or London no longer seems like just an impossible dream.

Rather, which railway will be adopted for such travel and transport in the not-too-distant future has become the more relevant question.

The sudden change in the situation has been brought about by dramatic developments on the Korean Peninsular in recent months.

Since the historic summit talks between the two Koreas last June, inter-Korean exchanges have consistently escalated and the relationship between North and South Korea has become increasingly peaceful and conciliatory.

Of the many agreements reached by the two countries in the months since the summit, one of the most valuable has been the decision to reopen the severed Kyongui Railway, which runs from Seoul to the city of Sinuiju on the North's border with China.

The railway is slated to be reconnected in September, about 50 years after it was severed during the Korean War (1950-53), allowing people here to dream of the day when they can travel by train from their hometowns to great European cities, such as Moscow, Istanbul, Paris, Berlin and London.

When the two Koreas announced that they would begin work to reopen the Kyongui Railway, there was a flurry of activity in Russia, China, Mongolia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for

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Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

In reality, ESCAP first considered the possibility of constructing a Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) in the 1960's.

At that time, however, the TAR project was simply conceived as a way to link Singapore and Istanbul with possible connections to Europe and Africa.

During the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, however, a number of political and economic problems in the region caused the TAR idea to lie nearly moribund.

But the development project was given a new impetus in the late 1980's and 1990's, as some Asian countries stabilised and normalised diplomatic relations, causing a great expansion in the movements of people and goods across the continent. In addition, the globalization of the economy and rapid development of telecommunications technology in the 1990s sparked a trade boom between countries and continents.

In 1992, ESCAP finally endorsed the integrated Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project, comprised of the TAR and other transport and communications projects in Asia and the Pacific.

Under the ALTID's framework, the original Singapore-Istanbul link was extended into a 40,000-kilometre global network covering the entire Asian continent with links to the pan-European rail network.

In view of different standards of railways and levels of technical development between Asian countries, ESCAP later divided the TAR network into four components.

Among the components is the "Northern Corridor," connecting the rail networks of China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia and, theoretically until now, the Korean Peninsular.

The conceived route is to connect the Trans-Korean Railway (TKR), the Trans-Chinese Railway (TCR) and the Trans-Siberian Railway (TSR), creating a route that would begin in Pusan and pass the North's Sinuiju and China's Dandong, Shenyang, Beijing and Urumqi. From there, the route would go to Kazakhstan's Aktogai, on to Moscow and, finally, to Berlin.

The 12,091-kilometre Northern Corridor plan is the result of an ESCAP feasibility study conducted in 1995.

Incumbent ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-soo, who is ironically the first Korean to take up the post, said recently that ESCAP will kick off a project to operate container trains in the Northern Corridor on a trial basis in October.

For its part, the Korean Peninsular has three other alternatives to reach Europe by train.

The first is to link the TKR with the TSR. The route would link Pusan to Berlin by way of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and Russia's Nahodka, Habarovsk, Cita and Moscow.

The second would be to link the TKR, the Trans-Manchurian Railway (TMR) and the TSR. The route would go through Pusan, the North's Namyang, China's Tumen and Manzhouli, Moscow and Berlin.

And the third is to connect the TKR, the TCR, the Trans-Mongolian Railway (Tmgr) and the TSR. This route would run through Pusan, Pyongyang, Shenyang, Tianjin, Ulan Bator, Moscow and Berlin.

The third choice is the shortest route, connecting Korea to Europe over just 11,231 kilometers of track. The first route is 13,054-kilometers long and the second is 11,608 kilometers.

Considering the economic gains a fully-functioning Northern Corridor would bring Russia in the form of transit charges, it isn't surprising that Moscow is pushing for a direct link between the TKR and the TSR.

Actually, Russia is pursuing the project more aggressively than any of the other parties involved.

It has already expressed its intention to directly invest in the North's outdated railway if the TSR is linked directly with the TKR.

But for that plan to work, another long-severed inter-Korean railway line, the Seoul-Wonsan Line, would need to be restored.

Nonetheless, Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly proposed the TKR-TSR connection to

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il during his trip to Pyongyang last July.

During Putin's upcoming trip to Seoul at the end of this month, the TKR-TSR railway connection issue is sure to be one of the top items on his agenda when he meets with President Kim Dae-jung.

Meanwhile, Mongolia is also actively trying to persuade Korea to adopt the TKR-TCR-TMGR-TSR formula.

If adopted, the route would not only provide Mongolia with economic gains, but it would also give it greater access to advanced cultures and technologies.

For its part, China wants to see the TKR, the TMR and the TSR hooked up because the route could be used as a channel for the export of natural resources from its three northeastern provinces.

Apparently bearing that in mind, China adopted a railway exchange and cooperation agreement with South Korea in November 1998, even though their borders are not adjacent.

However, the most important factor in realiing any of the possible formulas is the attitude of North Korea, which has so far been passive regarding the issue while citing security concerns.

Fortunately, North Korea has recently been engaging the international community more actively than it ever has before.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il recently visited Shanghai and enthusiastically applauded the city's capitalistic development. And if the TKR is linked with other international railways, the project would bring a great deal of profits to the cash-strapped North.

ESCAP's goal is to have the Northern Corridor open for business by 1995.

It is estimated that by then, the North would be able to make US$150 million in annual revenues just for allowing trains headed to the South to pass through its borders.

In the end, a time will come when the North will have no choice but to join the opening of the "Iron Silk Road," a move that will surely bring peace and prosperity to Northeast Asia. - Oana-Yonhap

Northern Light

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Title: ADB: Regional Workshop on National Account

Summary: MANILA, PHILIPPINES, May 03, 2001 (M2 PRESSWIRE via COMTEX) -- A regional work on switching to the latest United Nations system national accounting will be held at Tagaytay Cit Philippines, from 7 to 11 May, 2001.

Source: **M2 Communications Ltd.**
Date: 05/03/2001 07:12
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Document ID: FB20010503210000311
Subject(s): Mto; Asia; Australia; Bank; Banking; Colo Finance; Government; India; Indonesia; Ja Money; Nepal; Pilot; Statistics; Thailand; U Nations; Web

ADB: Regional Workshop on National Accounting

Story Filed: Thursday, May 03, 2001 7:12 AM EST

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, May 03, 2001 (M2 PRESSWIRE via COMTEX) -- A regional workshop on switching to the latest United Nations system of national accounting will be held at Tagaytay City, Philippines, from 7 to 11 May, 2001.

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Philippines Government's National Statistical Coordination Board, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the United Nations Statistics Division.

It will draw mainly from the Philippines experience in implementing the 1993 United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA). The experiences of other countries - Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal and Thailand -- will also be presented.

The SNA is a framework for quantifying and monitoring a country's economic performance for a specific period of time.

The 1993 SNA is the third since the 1953 and 1968 SNAs. It harmonizes other related statistical systems such as balance of payments, government finance statistics, and money and banking statistics. It also allows for the introduction of new accounts such as environmental accounts.

Workshop participants will include national accounts compilers, experts and users from 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as representatives of international organizations such as United Nations and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**).

The workshop is the final activity of a US$400,000 ADB technical assistance grant to the Philippines for Institutional Strengthening of the SNA. In 1995, the Philippines was chosen by the UN to pilot the implementation of the 1993 SNA for the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop will also review the institutional practices and country implementation plans of the 1993 SNA. It will hopefully forge an action plan for a collaborative effort in the implementation of the 1993 SNA throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and NEDA Director-General Dante B. Canlas will be the Keynote Speaker.

Mr. V. N. Gnanathurai, ADB's Assistant Chief Economist, Statistics and Data Systems Division, Mr. H. Habermann, Director, UN Statistics Division, and Mr. A. Flatt, Director, **ESCAP** Statistics Division will provide welcoming messages.

More workshop information is available at http://www.nscb.gov.ph/irwsna/.

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May 7, 2001

SECTION: News; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 192 words

HEADLINE: China gives massive boost to Asian market

BODY:

By Keith Nuthall

EAST Asian shipping companies are expected to receive a boost from the ratification by China of the Bangkok making one of Asia's oldest trade the world's in terms of potential.

With China joining the arrangement - which is based on shared trade preferences - it becomes the largest trade opening up a market with a population of more than 2.5bn, said the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**Escap**).

Under the deal, existing members South Korea, India, Laos, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will be able to export 634 products to China at tariffs.

Chris Horrocks, secretary general of the Chamber of Shipping, said: "An awful lot of people have been seeing China as a major prospect for the 21st

"Any agreement where China opens its doors, must be seen as a plus to anyone involved in trade."

He said this was relevant to the shipping industry, given the poor land links between these Asian countries and China.

In a statement, **Escap** officials said: "Several countries in the region have keenly watched the by China, as it will mean easier access to China's huge market."

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May 22, 2001

LENGTH: 236 words

HEADLINE: VIETNAM SEEKS SUPPORT TO TRAIN STATE OFFICIALS

BYLINE: LUU PHAN

BODY:

(SGT-HCMC) Vietnam is seeking support from international and foreign organizations to improve the working capacity of grassroots and medium-ranking Government officials to promote trade development. The idea was given on Friday, the closing day of a two-day workshop on trade promotion in HCMC.

At the workshop co-held by UN-**ESCAP** and the HCMC Foreign Trade Development and Investment Center (FTDC), an official from the city Service of Planning and Investment said the State's macro policy has been more liberal but got stuck at local-level implementation.

"Our import export activities face troubles because liberal regulations from the central Government did not reach localities," said Diep Thanh Kiet, general secretary of the HCMC Textile and Footwear Association.

Kiet gave a specific example, saying that in footwear and textile sector, the materials imported were not always in exact quantity as declared. Any surplus amount, however small, could freeze the whole shipment.
Director of Huong Moi Garment Company, Nguyen Tri Dung, gave another example. He said his company has sent documents to relevant agencies asking if products made from Vietnam's traditional fabric were under quota restriction but has not received a reply.

Businesses suggested that State officials at local levels be trained with intensified knowledge and skills so as to assist, not hinder, business development.

JOURNAL-CODE: FSGT

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

Press/Media: **New Frontiers** Date: May-June 2001

Page(s): vol. 7 No. 3

GMS TOURISM MEETING ADDRESSES THE ISSUE OF POVERTY

[Agency for Coordinating Mekong Tourism Activities (AMTA) Newsletter: April 2001] – BETWEEN 31 March and 1 April, the sixth Mekong Tourism Forum (MTF) was held in Kunming, the capital of China's Yunnan province. The meeting was organized by the Pacific-Asia Travel Association (PATA) in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the national tourism organizations from the six Mekong countries and attended by some 215 delegates from governments, international organizations and the private sector. The MTF is a major project of the ADB-led Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) tourism cooperation scheme.

Apart from addressing issues related to marketing and destination management, MTF participants discussed ADB's plans to focus on tourism as a major force in alleviating poverty in the Asian region (see also ***new frontiers*** 7[2]). The ADB has already funded about US$20 billion worth of large-scale regional infrastructure and transportation projects, and is now vowing to shift its focus to areas like ecotourism, community development and stronger public-private sector partnerships. The Bank claims this will ensure local ownership of projects and their long-term sustainability.

Paisan Wangsai, Director of the Agency for Coordinating Mekong Tourism Activities (AMTA) lauded the cooperative spirit among the GMS tourism officials, which he said had been instrumental in helping the region achieve visitor arrivals of 14.1 million in 2000. "However, major challenges lie ahead of us including how to attract quality and high yield tourists to the region, the improvement of tourism-related infrastructure and how to attract investors to invest in tourism and services in the GMS," Paisan said.

So far, the ADB and other agencies involved in the GMS tourism programme have not revealed a concrete plan as to how exactly more benefits from tourism can "trickle-down" to improve the living standard of poor farmers and indigenous peoples. To suggest tourism development as a "poverty alleviation" strategy, while encouraging large corporations to invest in mega-infrastructure projects, many of which cause serious social and environmental impacts, seems to be a contradiction in terms. In addition, the ADB-led GMS tourism working group has not even made a serious effort to provide a forum that allows people's organizations to express their tourism-related concerns and to present their development alternatives based on the principles of economic equity, social justice, cultural integrity and ecological sustainability. Under these conditions, the new rhetoric of tourism as a force for "poverty reduction" may be primarily a public relations exercise to diffuse growing criticisms. ❖

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

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Page(s): vol. 7 No. 3

Date: May-June 2001

REGION FACES ALARMING ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

[United Nations Information Service/ESCAP: 5.6.01; The Nation: 3.5.01] - THE overall environment in the region has actually deteriorated since the Rio Conference, said ESCAP's Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su on launching the State of the Environment Report in Asia and the Pacific 200o. "Environmental challenges that were identified in the 1990s continue to haunt the region and are in fact exacerbated by the emergence of new challenges linked to enhanced poverty and rapid globalization," said Kim.

With the disappearance and disturbance of ecosystems, the rural population, mainly the poor, are migrating in large numbers to cities. Consequently, the urban population of the Asian and Pacific region which stood at 1.4 billion in 2000 has doubled in the last 20 years, the report stated. "It is projected to increase by 800 million in the next 20 years. This amounts to the establishment of a new city of 150,000 people every day for the next one-and-a half decade. "The magnitude of the challenge is indeed daunting," said Mr Kim unveiling ESCAP's report on World Environment Day, 5 June.

Like poverty, globalization also had serious impacts on the natural resources and environment over the last decades. It has contributed to the loss of forest and biodiversity in the pursuit of maximizing export earnings, the report stated. Additionally, the Asian financial crisis resulting in economic and social turmoil also had adverse effects on the environment. In many countries, environmental budgets have been reduced leading to fewer investments in conservation of resources, mitigation of environmental degradation and the development of clean technologies. Water quality has deteriorated steadily by a combination of factors such as uncontrolled discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, chemicals added by the agricultural run-off and undisposed human excreta.

"Is Asia heading for another crisis - an environmental crisis? The alarm bells are already sounding, calling for urgent attention of the international community. This is the major challenge confronting us in the new millennium, which must be squarely addressed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development next year," said Kim.

ESCAP, Kim said, has already undertaken some significant initiatives towards evolving a consensus on how to ameliorate the environment. It convened a Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in September 2000 at Kitakyushu, Japan, which adopted the Regional Action Programme on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2001-2005.

The ESCAP report estimates that provision of environmental infrastructure and utilities such as water supply, sanitation, energy and transport in urban areas alone will cost around 10 trillion dollars in the next 25 to 30 years in the 'business-as-usual' scenario.

A new study dealing with the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) region also paints a gloomy picture of ecosystems and ethnic minorities under threat from development. The report, recently released by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), warns the GMS is primarily threatened by large-scale dam and road projects.

China's Yunnan province has the greatest number of hydro-power plants already established, followed by Burma, Laos and Vietnam. The dams could cause serious environmental and social impact because they will impede the flow of the Mekong River to downstream areas and pose a major threat to biodiversity in the lower reaches.

The central Mekong region is home to some of the most untouched wilderness areas in Asia. As such, it is highly vulnerable to ecological risks, and there are already 29 hydro power plants either planned or already operating, including Nam Theun and Nam Ngum in Laos.

Another area covered by the SEI study is the Golden Quadrangle that faces major changes as a result of the construction of a super-highway from Chiang Rai in Thailand to China's Kunming, via Burma and Laos. The area is highly regarded for the diversity of its indigenous peoples. However, they rely on increasingly degraded natural resources. While governments eagerly await the great economic benefits expected as a result of opening up the area for tourism and trade, the risks posed to communities ill-prepared to cope with rapid change are staggering. Not the least of these were drug abuse and prostitution, said the report. ❖

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World Chambers Congress Kicks Off

By Shim Jae-yun
Staff Reporter

The second World Chambers Congress (WCC) will kick off today with the goal of establishing a global network among commercial chambers around the world.

More than 1,200 chamber leaders from around 100 countries will also engage in brisk discussion to exchange views on the world economic situation.

The Seoul Congress, jointly organized by the Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), will help create the lasting personal networks that chamber executives worldwide need to truly exchange expertise and experience.

``This sharing of knowledge on a permanent basis promises to be one of the most valuable outcomes of the Congress,'' KCCI Chairman Park Yong-sung told The Korea Times.

President Kim Dae-jung will deliver a speech during the opening ceremony set to be held at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) today.

Among the themes to be addressed are issues on chamber structure, management and finance, impact of globalization, working for small and medium-sized enterprises, information and technology (IT) and e-business, according to organizers.

Capitalizing on the Congress, KCCI will particularly focus on linking the database of 300,000 Korean companies to those of the chambers of commerce in the United States, Japan, Europe and Australia.

``This would help develop an international B2B network which would surely be contributing to a global on-line business

would surely be contributing to a global on-line business network,'' said Park.

The network is designed to offer multimedia materials to cover all the presentations during the congress to the entire world and enables e-mail exchanges with more than 4,000 chambers of commerce worldwide to effectively publicize the high level of Korea's IT industry.

Outstanding figures at the congress will include ICC Chairman Richard D.

Macormick who is CEO of West, a giant telecommunications company, Adnan Kassar, chairman of Fransabank Group in Lebanon, Jean-Rene Fourtou, chairman of Aventis, a world leading bio-engineering company, and ICC Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattaui , an entrepreneur who presided over the Davos-based World Economic Forum.

In the meantime, a number of corporations and organizations are sponsoring a large portion of the expenses required to hold such a huge-scale world event.

They include the Asia Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the Korea National Tourism Organization (KNTO), Korean Air, Samsung Electronics, Samyang, HP-Korea, 3M-Korea, Monami and others.

Main programs of the Congress include ICC Executive Board and World Council sessions scheduled for June 6, the congress opening with the attendance of the president, three plenary sessions, and three working sessions scheduled today.

The June 8th events include three working sessions, three plenary sessions, press conferences, a gala dinner and a special art performance.

In order to help the guests become better acquainted with Korean businesses and culture, the KCCI has prepared tour programs, shopping opportunities, and a diversity of additional events, including industrial tours, a tours program, and a spouse program that will cover Korea's natural scenery, including Mt. Kumgang, and other tourist destinations.

The World Chambers Congress is organized by ICC every other year for the purpose of improving chamber operations, management and member services.

The previous congress was held in Marseilles, France, in October 1999 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the Marseille- Provence Chamber of Commerce.

Entrepreneurs representing five countries _ the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Belgium _ established the ICC in an attempt to vitalize international trade in 1919 after the First World War.

Currently, the ICC has 132 member countries while KCCI Chairman Park Yong- sung took the chairmanship of the Korean chapter in 1996.

``We hope and believe that the second World Chambers Congress will provide pivotal momentum for the KCCI to realize its vision and dream of promoting inter-chamber communications and mutual exchange and prosperity,'' said Park.

jayshim@koreatimes.co.kr

Seoul Congress To Be Very Practical for ICC Future

``The second World Chambers Congress will be a very practical event that will lay the ground for the future of commercial chambers around the world.''

It means the Congress will be dedicated to establishing a global network linking member companies of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), said ICC Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattaui.

With the establishment of a worldwide network, the member companies will be able to share experience and knowledge and promote mutual exchanges and prosperity, she told The Korea Times.

She went on to say that the Seoul meeting has become ever more significant as it is expected to set the pattern of the envisioned global network.

``The need to establish the chambers' network has become heightened all the more for developing countries as well as developed ones in terms of the efficient flow of information, technology, idea, capital, goods and services,'' she said.

She expressed strong willingness that the ICC will continue efforts to help small and medium companies sharpen their competitiveness to brace for the rapidly changing business climate in the new millennium era.

Small and medium companies have become very important momentum of the global economy, she said.

Cattaui, a renowned entrepreneur with a strong career at the World Economic Forum in Davos, revealed regret that North Korea has failed to attend the Seoul event.

``Even though we invited the North on several occasions, there has been no response from the country so far,'' she said.

``But I believe North Korea will eventually open itself to the international society sooner or later as it has shown intention toward that end,'' she said.

She recalled the fact that the North Korean delegation previously visited ICC headquarters in Paris and took part in previous ICC meetings.

Regarding simmering moves in defiance of globalization initiated by some world leading organizations, including the ICC, she said, ``The anti- globalization campaign has been initiated by a few activists who failed to represent the people in general.''

The ultimate victims of such an anti-globalization drive will be the less developed countries as they will lose the chance to strengthen competitiveness through an efficient global trading system, she said.

Such a move will result in hampering the appropriate trading system, sending the developing economies further reeling, she said.

No country would want to be isolated, she noted.

Regarding the economic situation of Korea, she underlined the need to press ahead with the ongoing reform drive against all odds.

Among others, the financial sector reform has been most essential as although related concerns may feel pain in the process, she said.

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South China Morning Post

July 23, 2001

SECTION: Business; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 424 words

HEADLINE: Terminal control demands 'threat to future of PSA'

BYLINE: Shipping Times in Singapore

BODY:

PSA Corp risks losing customers if it continues to insist on total management control of its container terminals, according to a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-**Escap).**

Escap's director of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development, Barry Cable, said that while Singapore has differentiated itself through efficient service, shipping lines increasingly were seeking to be able to control terminal operations themselves.

In reference to PSA, Mr Cable said: "In past years they have always insisted on operating the terminals - very, very efficiently - on behalf of the different shipping lines and providing services to those shipping lines.

"But it is becoming very clear now that some of the shipping lines, although very satisfied with the level of service, have a different management philosophy in terms of wishing to control not only the shipping, but also port operations.

"The feeling we have is that if Singapore continues to wish to have total management control of the terminals, then it may be more attractive for some companies to look outside of Singapore."

W ıile cost was clearly an important factor - with Malaysia offering cheaper rates than Singapore - having some measure of control in the operations was an over-riding factor, he said.

Mr Cable was commenting on the preliminary results of an **Escap** study on the Asia-Pacific maritime industry, to be published in September, which forecast Asia-Pacific throughput volumes to top 215.6 million teu (20 ft equivalent units) by 2011.

Singapore is forecast to reach 28.8 million teu, while the neighbouring Port of Tanjung Pelepas is expected to hit 5.8 million teu and Port Klang is forecast to reach 8.4 million.

Mr Cable emphasised that all forecasts in the study were based assumptions of unlimited capacity.

asked why the volumes forecast for Tanjung Pelapas were not higher, Mr Cable said earlier estimates had forecast about 8 million teu by 2011, "but following discussions in Malaysia we were convinced that we were perhaps being a little too optimistic".

"We had to rely quite heavily on discussions with shipping lines and other people in the industry to help us in terms of trying to make a sensible estimate as to how fast and how much Tanjung Pelepas can grow," he said. "There is potential for a much larger growth there. A lot depends on what Singapore decides to do in the coming years with respect to the way they operate the port."

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July 23, 2001

LENGTH: 3106 words

HEADLINE: UN
ECOSOC concludes discussion on regional cooperation

DATELINE: GENEVA (UN Information Service)

BODY:

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) this afternoon concluded its discussion on regional cooperation, with the coordinator of the United Nations regional commissions noting that the commissions' executive secretaries had all sought Council input on how effective the interaction was between global and regional perspectives on major development issues.

Presenting a report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields, Jose Antonio Ocampo, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the current coordinator of the five commissions, told the Council that the commissions' dual role sought to ensure that regionalism and globalism were complementary. However, the United Nations system as a whole and its intergovernmental bodies had to explore more effective ways for the global and regional aspects of development to be considered together in a cohesive way. At the regional level, the commissions provided forums for serious policy dialogue, analytical reports and normative work, as well as technical cooperation services in a cost-effective manner.

It had become accepted, Mr. Ocampo said, that the economic and social dimension to peace building entailed social and economic policies that led to growth and development, and the commissions were pleased with the growing recognition of their comparative advantage in providing

regional and subregional perspectives to operational activities.

The other regional commissions are the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Government delegations also took the floor, with some maintaining that improved coordination and cooperation between the United Nations system and the regional commissions could contribute better to the understanding by the United Nations agencies of the priorities in the respective regions, as well as better coordination among the agencies at the regional level, and improved ownership of regional programmes. Other delegations praised the commissions' help in opening up transport corridors which could help economic development in all countries in the region.

Speaking from the floor were representatives of Iran (on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries), Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), Bahrain, Belarus, Romania, China, Russian Federation, United States, Nigeria and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

The Council will meet again on Monday, 23 July, at 10 a.m. to continue its general segment and discuss the implementation of General Assembly resolutions.

Regional Cooperation

Under this agenda item, the Council has before it a report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (documents E/2001/18 and Adds. 1-3) which highlights the main aspects of work of the respective commissions; primarily, it updates the Council on actions undertaken by the commissions with respect to the guidance given them by the Council in its resolution 1998/46, annex III. Addendum 1 informs the Council on regional follow-up action during the period 2000-2001 to world conferences and other global meetings; addendum 2 reviews the arrangements for cooperation and coordination between the commissions and their partners and other intergovernmental bodies in the region; and addendum 3 contains resolutions and decisions

emanating from the commissions' recent sessions that require action by the Council or are brought to its attention.

Statements

JUAN ANTONIO OCAMPO, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and current coordinator of the regional commissions, introducing the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (documents E/2001/18 and Adds. 1-3), said that the executive secretaries of the regional commissions had sought Council input on how effective the interaction was between global and regional perspectives on major development issues; the commissions' dual role sought to ensure that regionalism and globalism were complementary.

However, the United Nations system as a whole and its intergovernmental bodies had to explore more effective ways for the global and regional aspects of development to be considered together in a cohesive way.

At the regional level, Mr. Ocampo said, the commissions provided forums for serious policy dialogue, analytical reports and normative work, as well as technical cooperation services in a cost-effective manner. It had become accepted that the economic and social dimension to peace building entailed social and economic policies that led to growth and development, and the commissions were pleased with the growing recognition of their comparative advantage in providing regional and subregional perspectives to operational activities. The commissions also were continuing measures to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in their operations.

NASROLLAH K. KAMYAB (Iran), on behalf of the Group of 77, said the regional commissions could contribute enormously to the debate on the still unfolding process of globalization, particularly through their respective regional perspectives.

There were a number of interpretations about the opportunities and benefits of this process, as well as its challenges and adverse impacts on economic growth and development in developing countries. However, there was a clear indication that globalization was leading to a widening

gap between the rich and poor in nearly all nations, and between the least and most developed countries. The existing data showed that the number of poor people living in poverty in most developing countries, as well as developing regions, had increased. Debt servicing was putting a bigger burden on national budgets, which should be allocating funds to health, education and other social services. In particular, the global exports of least developed countries had declined. But globalization, with conducive and transparent international policies and environments, could contribute to better opportunities and benefits for the development of all countries.

He said follow-up of major conferences should be done in the context of regional priorities and needs, and the work programme of the regional commissions should be adjusted in order to enable regional countries to achieve those objectives. Although there were some common challenges for regional commissions to cope with, the major issues and priorities in their respective regions should nevertheless constitute the work programme. Improved coordination and cooperation between the United Nations system and the regional commissions could contribute better to the understanding by the United Nations agencies of the priorities in the respective regions, as well as better coordination among the agencies at the regional level, and improved ownership of regional programmes.

JEAN-PAUL CHARLIER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated States, said the major United Nations conferences had clearly shown the usefulness and, indeed, the necessity of regional cooperation; during preparations for the conferences, the studies and consultations carried out at the regional level had ensured that the specific situations of each region were taken into consideration. As a result, the approaches adopted were suitably tailored to circumstances and did not remain too abstract. It was necessary to ask how best to incorporate the results of regional work into proceedings in New York and Geneva. In the follow-up to major conferences, the regional level provided an ideal intermediary between the conferences and follow-up exercises within United Nations bodies. The regional level was also important for implementation of many aspects of various action programmes, particularly with regard to analysis, research and technical cooperation.

The European Union felt strongly that the regional economic commissions were a reservoir of talent and expertise which was all too

often under-exploited, and it welcomed the efforts some commissions had already made to revitalize, refocus and update their tasks. In general, regional approaches were often the best answer to out-and-out globalization.

KHALID AL-KHALIFA (Bahrain) said his country believed in the importance of regional cooperation and had joined many regional organizations, among them ESCWA, which had contributed a great deal towards promoting regional cooperation. During its last session, ESCWA had adopted many resolutions relevant to Western Asia and dealing with such matters as cooperation between States, energy, science, infrastructure, transportation and regional development.

Bahrain hoped that ECOSOC would adopt ESCWA's draft resolution on establishment of a consultative committee on scientific and technological development without a vote, as Bahrain believed the measure would contribute positively to regional cooperation.

Bahrain was delighted to see that ESCWA activities were focusing on Arab regional integration, on studying mechanisms, and on the review of the existing organizational structure of the Commission. It hoped that the Commission would initiate more activities and would receive more support and commitment from the United Nations system.

VLADIMIR MALEVICH (Belarus) said his country considered that the globalization process did not hinder regional cooperation. Referring to a report by the ECE, he said the strengthening of regional approaches was seen in many areas.

Regional approaches helped in areas such as transportation corridors and environmental protection. In recent years, the majority of regional commissions had been involved in activities to implement inter- and intra-regional projects.

The regional commissions in recent years also had worked with other United Nations bodies. In particular, Belarus noted ECE's efforts to solve problems that were outlined at the Millennium Summit. The ECE also worked with regional organizations to open up transport corridors, which helped spur economic development for all parties. It was important to expand opportunities in transitional countries, and to help foster

relationships with the private sector.

He noted that the expansion of the ECE's mandate had not been followed by the appropriate allocation of resources.

Belarus supported creating a special fund for the ECE so that it could help countries in transition deal with their problems. Belarus was interested in expanding interaction with the ECE, and it had been pleased to receive the Executive Secretary of the Commission earlier this month. It hoped the ECE would continue to make successful contributions to international forums.

PETRU DIMITRIU (Romania) said financial liberalization was continuing, along with the march of technology, leading to faster change; withdrawing behind walls was no longer viable.

The "closed" economic approach of the past had not worked in Eastern and Central Europe and a number of other regions. The empires of today's world would be built by intelligence, creativity and the effective use of resources. Globalization was often vilified, but it was necessary to examine why problems of globalization occurred; governments could perhaps learn from the efficient, focused operations of transnational corporations which had done well through globalization. At a regional level, States could pursue innovative strategies to better use their resources; regionalization could aid international integration while mitigating its risks.

Countries should not be marginalized; there should be an effort to reconcile and marry national, regional and global economies. Romania played a full role in many forms of regional cooperation and was working especially hard in the field of European economic integration. For countries in transition, the process of enlargement of the European Union was a unique opportunity to finish the transition from planned-economy, authoritarian governments to market economies and democracy.

WU ZHENENG (China) said that among the five regional commissions, **ESCAP** had the widest area and the greatest economic differences between Member States. There was a serious issue of poverty, and attention was needed from the international community. Eight hundred million people lived on less than $1 a day in the region, comprising 67

per cent of the poor people of this world. HIV/AIDS was also a problem - 7 million people - and that would wreak havoc on economic development in the future. Still, little attention was being paid to the epidemic in this region.

NICOLAI TCHOULKOV (Russian Federation) said the regional commissions had a special role to play in helping countries achieve economic growth, regional integration, and full entry into the globalized economy. The commissions should accept a regional leadership role in coordinating activities based on United Nations system activities, such as meeting the goals set by the Millennium Declaration. They also could enhance efforts to improve capacities for information and communications technology and other forms of technology, for establishing favourable frameworks for trade and investment, and for creating such benefits as transportation corridors.

The ECE and **ESCAP** had done commendable work in providing help to countries in transition. Considering the limited financial capacities and the expanding workload faced by the regional commissions, the Russian Federation supported the idea of giving the ECE authority that would allow it to attract additional extra-budgetary resources. However, the Russian Federation was somewhat concerned about certain counterproductive trends in ECE work, such as in shifting the focus of the ECE's annual session from reviews of activities and situations in the region to collections of panels and round tables; the Russian Federation supported keeping the ECE annual session's focus on intergovernmental dialogue.

DOUGLAS GRIFFITHS (United States) said regional commissions could help member States increase the benefits of globalization. Countries less prepared to face the challenges and grasp the opportunities of globalization were realizing fewer benefits, and here the commissions could help by reviewing the lessons of regional success and failure and by analysing and disseminating best practices. In recent months, the United States had participated in coordination sessions of the ECE, ECLAC, and **ESCAP** in the Conference on Least Developed Countries; the General Assembly's special session on HIV/AIDS; and other meetings. It strongly supported the commissions' work in these areas and was pleased the commissions were striving to absorb these added duties through their internal reform efforts.

The United States encouraged further reform, particularly streamlining of priority work areas. This should include eliminating some activities, as resources were limited and the commissions were constantly asked to do more; there were necessarily some activities that should be phased out.

The United States challenged the regional commissions to focus on setting performance targets and clear objectives for their activities, and following this up with comprehensive analysis and evaluation. Member States should join in helping the commissions to do this.

OLESEGUN AKINSANYA (Nigeria) said his country felt that regional cooperation and a regional approach were effective mechanisms to trigger development. Nigeria welcomed the current efforts of the G-8 to allow some developing countries to brief them on the effectiveness of building regional organizations. Globalization had created tremendous opportunities. The world economy had witnessed record fast-growth rates. However, it was fair to say the benefits had been uneven. The regional commissions could play a vital role in creating a more even benefit. Regional commissions could help regions pool their resources.

In the Western African subregion, there were success stories, as well as weaknesses. Nigeria, together with 15 other countries, had expanded the process of integration of microeconomic coordination. The economies of the subregion were being liberalized so that they could fully realize their potential. At the national level, Nigeria had established a one-stop shopping area to centralize investment processes.

The New African Initiative and the endorsement of the new African Union were possible new dimensions, and Nigeria shared the optimism about the potential they held. It was crucial that urgent and decisive action be taken by the international community to cancel foreign debt. The United Nations should play an important role in designing these rules. Humanity could not be failed.

M.T. BELLAMY, of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), said globalization brought many benefits, but it also increased the intensity of competition and the mobility of capital. Regions should set out to promote effective strategies for local development to create stable businesses and jobs; education and

vocational training efforts also should be enhanced to improve regional capabilities for competing in the global economy. Social cohesion and inclusion had to be pursued - these were a prerequisite for economic success, and not simply a consequence of development cooperation and coordination by different players could create synergy that resulted in balanced and stable development.

Education, training, job creation, social stability, technology transfer, respect for human rights, respect for labour rights, and respect for acceptable standards of health and social security were vital. These things needed to be safeguarded by a social charter in all regions. Respect for fundamental labour standards in all regions was a guarantee against the extreme forms of labour and worker exploitation, such as child labour. It also protected workers against the unfair vagaries of economic competition and helped promote a fairer distribution of wealth. HIV/AIDS also had to be addressed at a regional level.

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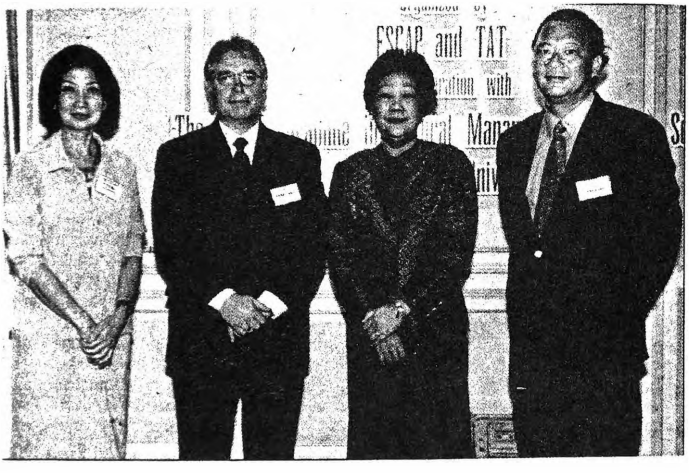
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TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST**

Page(s): 2 *(Outlook)*

Date:28 July 2001



Sumontha Nakornthab, senior adviser of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), and Ryuji Yamakawa, chief of Tourism Unit, Transport, Communication, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), organised a training programme on "Development and Management of Cultural Tourism in the Greater Mekong Sub-region" at the Dusit Thani Hotel recently. From left: Assoc Prof Nopamat Veohong, Barry Cable, Ms Sumontha and Mr Yamakawa.

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July 30, 2001

LENGTH: 333 words

HEADLINE: MEKONG-GANGES COOPERATION BOOSTED

BYLINE: CAO CUONG

BODY:

(SGT-HANOI) The Hanoi Action Program on Mekong-Ganges Cooperation has been approved at a meeting between ministers of regional countries organized on Saturday in Hanoi.

Under program, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and India pledged to boost cooperation in tourism, culture, human resource development, communications and transportation to explore potentials of the riparian countries and stimulate economic development.

To promote tourism, regional countries will organize sight-seeing tours for experts and press officials, hold periodical cultural festivals, organize tours and fairs in the region and elsewhere, publish maps and guidebooks, build a website and found a tourism development fund.

As for cultural cooperation, the six countries will conduct researches and preservation of cultural heritage, establish an information network for cultural exchange, provide preferential treatment for each other in annual international fairs and conferences hosted by a regional country and organize a cultural ministerial conference by 2002 to discuss further cooperation.

In terms of communications and transportation, member countries will

further develop the East-West corridor, a trans-ASEAN railway and other international communication projects, a road and railway linking the Mekong and the Ganges deltas via Myanmar, develop human resource and establish a telecommunication information network.

Cooperation on human resource development includes support in training English and overseas study scholarships. India will organize special training courses on technology for experts of member countries.

The cooperation program also mentions plan to ask for support and investment of international institutions like **ESCAP,** UNDP, UNESCO and ADB.

Myanmar foreign secretary Win Aung said with rich cultural and environmental characteristics and historical and geographical similarities, regional countries could effectively cooperate to boost cultural tourism.

JOURNAL-CODE: FSGT

LOAD-DATE: July 30, 2001

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. . . The Mekong Can Become Many Rivers in One

Joern Kristensen
Tuesday, July 31, 2001

PHNOM PENH From high in Tibet the Mekong River flows for more than 4,300 kilometers through China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before reaching the sea. One of the world's great rivers, it it is a major supplier of food and water for millions.

Over the past 30 years, the population of the Lower Mekong Basin, encompassing Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, has doubled. By 2025 the population is expected to reach more than 100 million. The pressure on natural resources will increase dramatically, as will the demand for additional food, water and energy.

Six years ago, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam signed a landmark agreement recognizing "that the Mekong River Basin and the related natural resources and environment are natural assets of immense value."

The four countries decided to cooperate in all fields of development and management of the river basin and its resources.

This year, the 1995 Agreement on Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, which has the status of an international treaty, is facing its first serious test, with the announcement of the four-nation agreement on commercial navigation on the river between China, Laos, Burma and Thailand. The agreement would open a major shipping route from Simao in China's Yunnan Province to Thailand, via Burma and Laos.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, France, the colonial power in Indochina, believed control of Mekong navigation was the key to riches. Falling water levels in the dry season, various shoals and rapids, and the mighty Khone Falls in southern Laos all conspired to defeat this dream, which the recent navigation agreement revives.

A new river trade route through the underdeveloped region of Laos, Burma and northeastern Thailand could have obvious

Laos, Burma and northeastern Thailand could have obvious benefits for the people of that region, creating much larger markets than they have been able to reach.

But it could also mean that further downstream small producers could be hurt if they have to compete with imports from China. Moreover, river work that would be required for such a new shipping route, such as removing shoals and rapids and dredging the riverbed, could affect the reproduction of fish, as well as create changes in the downstream water flow.

Three-quarters of the population of the Lower Mekong Basin, mainly farmers and fishermen, earn their living from the river. That is why it is so important to take fully into consideration how a new river trade route will affect their livelihoods. For that, the policies, standards and knowledge that have been developed through hard-won international agreements are indispensable.

The risk of one sector benefiting at the expense of others is real. It is critical that universally accepted planning and resource-sharing arrangements be adhered to, and be seen to be fair by all parties, if the Mekong is to be managed in a sustainable way to cater for the area's growing population.

It is time for all parties to sit down with the six countries that share the river and work out rules for sound management. Participants should include the Asian Development Bank, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Mekong River Commission, the World Bank, the UN Development Program, bilateral donor agencies and civil society groups. The Association of South East Asian Nations could lend its weight.

The challenge is to find ways to manage development of the Mekong so that the benefits are shared equally and harm to the environment is minimized.

The writer, chief executive of the Mekong River Commission, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

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August 7, 2001

LENGTH: 108 words

HEADLINE: SYMPOSIUM ON FRUIT, VEGETABLE PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY FROM OCTOBER 15

BODY:

KARACHI : The Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific with the cooperation of China will holding the 3rd International Symposium and Exposition on Fruit and Vegetable Processing Technology in Yantai (North China) from October 15 to 23.

Pakistan has been invited to participate in the symposium. Symposium will focus on assisting member countries of the **ESCAP** region in enhancing the working and competitiveness of small and medium fruit processing units.

It may be mentioned here that small and medium fruit, vegetable enterprises are playing key role in boosting exports from the Asia Pacific region including Pakistan. -UPP

JOURNAL-CODE: WBRE

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August 12, 2001 Sunday

SECTION: Nationwide International News

LENGTH: 76 words

HEADLINE: Agriculture: Symposium on fruit, vegetable processing tech

DATELINE: Lahore Aug 12-

BODY:
The Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific with the cooperation of China will holding the 3rd International Symposium and Exposition on fruits and vegetables processing technology in Yantai (North China) from October 15 to 23. Pakistan has been invited to participate in the symposium. Symposium will focus on assisting member countries of the **ESCAP** region in enhancing the working and competitiveness of small and medium fruit processing units.

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Korea Times

August 18, 2001, Saturday

LENGTH: 88 words

HEADLINE: NSO Hosts Seminar on Data ProtectionScores of statistical experts in Asia and the Pacific gathered in Seoul yesterday to discuss ways to develop technologies to protect data for national statistical offices, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said.

BODY:

The seminar, to be held at the Samjung Hotel in southern Seoul until Tuesday under the co-sponsorship of the NSO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific **(ESCAP)**, focuses on anti-hacking measures and the use of information technology for statistics.

The participants from 21 Asian and Pacific-rim countries will also take part in the International Statistical Institute (ISI) conference which runs Aug. 22-29 at the Convention and Exhibition Center in eastern Seoul.

LOAD-DATE: August 17, 2001

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Date: 20 August 2001

Overcoming the manpower vacuum

A growing regional network of travel and tourism educational institutions is making steady headway in helping overcome one of the region's most pressing problems: The chasm between the quality of manpower being produced by these institutions and that actually required by the private sector.

With the involvement of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (Escap) and the funding of the Japanese government, the network is allowing about 120 regional travel and tourism institutions to swap research, students and faculty members in areas that would have been otherwise impossible.

As a result of the networking contacts, students in Bangladesh are learning to cook Thai food courtesy of trainers from the TAT's tourism training institute in Bang Saen, instructors from the University of Queensland are helping the Shanghai Institute of Tourism set up training courses, the Institute for Tourism Studies, Macau, is helping its counterpart in Mongolia with summer courses in tourism, to cite just a few examples.

All these institutions are members of the network of Asia Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (Apetit), who are looking to each other for help in overcoming a woeful shortage of funds which prevents them from attracting well-qualified trainers and educators or purchasing equipment good enough to meet todays high-tech requirements.

The result is a major drain of foreign exchange from Asia-Pacific countries as students seeking a career in hospitality or tourism head for universities and schools abroad. It also seriously disadvantages small and medium-sized enterprises which, according to an Escap report, cannot access the broad management expertise available to their multinational hotel chain competitors.

In the Asia-Pacific, says the report, the shortage of skilled manpower poses a major threat to the overall development of tourism. In the ultimate analysis, skilled and trained people will ensure the delivery of efficient, high quality service to visitors, which is particularly important in sustaining long-term growth.

In 1997, Escap set up Apetit to help tourism institutions help themselves. The group has grown from about 30 founders then to 120 members today in 30 countries. Twenty members are from Thailand, including the Prince of Songkhla University in Phuket, Khon Kaen University, Mahidol University and the TAT's Bang Saen institute.

Over the last four years, the universities and institutions have helped each other with programmes related to eco-tourism management, language training, hospitality and food and beverage preparation, and many more.

Thailand has been both a contributor and beneficiary. The Bang Saen institute has sent trainers to places like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to teach Thai cooking and, in turn, has received instructors from the Shanghai institute in Chinese cooking.

Apetit members have to do their share. In the exchange programmes,

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST** Date: 20 August 2001

Page(s):3 *(Home)*

the receiving institution takes care of visiting instructors' board and lodgings while the salaries continue to be paid by the employing institutions.

One of the more active members is Prince of Songkla University's Dr Manat Chaisawat who says: "One of the good things of Apetit is that it allows us to learn about each others' problems and experiences in solving those problems."

Adds Dr Laiard Silanoi of the Bang Saen institute: "Many of these training facilities are normal for major hotel and travel industry groups but for us, it is not that easy. So Apetit is a good means of filling those gaps."

Japanese funding is playing a crucial role. About US$20,000 to $25,000 has been poured into it every year, mainly to facilitate travel by instructors to and from least-developed countries, landlocked countries and the Central Asian republics.

In spite of Japan's economic problems, Escap's Tourism Unit chief Ryuji Yamakawa told Apetit delegates at their annual meeting earlier this month that Japan has pledged to maintain the funding for the foreseeable future.

Not all the institutions are impoverished, however. Some Australian universities can draw on Government funds for specific projects. Others, facing cutbacks, are beginning to offer consultancy services to top up their coffers.

The University of Queensland, which is Apetit's focal point for research-related activities, is teaming up with members in China and Korea for research projects. That gives its professors valuable exposure to emerging trends and issues in the Asia-Pacific, as well as teaching experience in dealing with students from a different culture.

Mr Yamakawa says Apetit would welcome private funding for specific projects like research or marketing activities. As more regional educational institutions queue to join, Apetit's executive committee has agreed that no membership fee will be charged. However, the committee is considering allowing in private travel trade associations whose input will be valuable both to help make the training more relevant to industry needs as well as a potential recipient and supporter of courses themselves.

Some academics are trying to encourage Apetit to look at wider issues. Says Prof Walter Jamieson of the Canadian Universities Consortium: "So much of the education/training is forks and spoons related and not dealing with the development/destination issues. Trainers/academics mostly seem only to see hotels. They have to understand that most tourists do not go to hotels but destinations which the hotels are part of."

Other academics are trying to explore ways by which they can start making an impact at a policy-making level, an issue that was discussed at the recent Apetit meeting in Khajuraho, India.

◆ *Imtiaz Muqbil is executive editor of Travel Impact Newswire, an e-mail delivered feature and analysis service focusing on the Asia-Pacific travel industry. e-mail: imtiaz@loxinfo.co.th*

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August 20, 2001, Monday

KR-ACC-NO: TH-TOURISM-JOBS

LENGTH: 973 words

HEADLINE: Thailand Seeks to Improve Quality of Workers in Tourism Industry

BYLINE: By Imtiaz Muqbil

BODY:
A growing regional network of travel and tourism educational institutions is making steady headway in helping overcome one of the region's most pressing problems: The chasm between the quality of manpower being produced by these institutions and that actually required by the private sector.

With the involvement of the UN **Economic and Social Commission** for **Asia**-Pacific (Escap) and the funding of the Japanese government, the network is allowing about 120 regional travel and tourism institutions to swap research, students and faculty members in areas that would have been otherwise impossible.

As a result of the networking contacts, students in Bangladesh are learning to cook Thai food courtesy of trainers from the TAT's tourism training institute in Bang Saen, instructors from the University of Queensland are helping the Shanghai Institute of Tourism set up training courses, the Institute for Tourism Studies, Macau, is helping its counterpart in Mongolia with summer courses in tourism, to cite just a few examples.

All these institutions are members of the network of **Asia** Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (Apetit), who are looking to each other for help in overcoming a woeful shortage of funds which prevents them from attracting well-qualified trainers and educators or purchasing equipment good enough to meet todays high-tech requirements. The result is a major drain of foreign exchange from **Asia**-Pacific countries as students seeking a career in hospitality or tourism head for universities and schools abroad. It also seriously disadvantages small and medium-sized enterprises which, according to an Escap report, cannot access the broad management expertise available to their multinational hotel chain competitors.

In the **Asia**-Pacific, says the report, the shortage of skilled manpower poses a major threat to the overall development of tourism. In the ultimate analysis, skilled and trained people will ensure the delivery of efficient, high quality service to visitors, which is particularly important in sustaining long-term growth.

In 1997, Escap set up Apetit to help tourism institutions help themselves. The group has grown from about 30 founders then to 120 members today in 30 countries. Twenty members are from Thailand, including the Prince of Songkhla University in Phuket, Khon Kaen University, Mahidol University and the TAT's Bang Saen institute.

Over the last four years, the universities and institutions have helped each other with programmes related to ecotourism management, language training, hospitality and food and beverage preparation, and many more.

Thailand has been both a contributor and beneficiary. The Bang Saen institute has sent trainers to places like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to teach Thai cooking and, in turn, has received instructors from the Shanghai institute in Chinese cooking.

Apetit members have to do their share. In the exchange programmes, the receiving institution takes care of visiting instructors' board and lodgings while the salaries continue to be paid by the employing institutions.

One of the more active members is Prince of Songkla University's Dr Manat Chaisawat who says: "One of the good things of Apetit is that it allows us to learn about each others' problems and experiences in solving those problems."

Adds Dr Laiard Silanoi of the Bang Saen institute: "Many of these training facilities are normal for major hotel and travel industry groups but for us, it is not that easy. So Apetit is a good means of filling those gaps."

Japanese funding is playing a crucial role. About US$ 20,000 to $ 25,000 has been poured into it every year, mainly to facilitate travel by instructors to and from least-developed countries, landlocked countries and the Central Asian republics.

In spite of Japan's **economic** problems, Escap's Tourism Unit chief Ryuji Yamakawa told Apetit delegates at their annual meeting earlier this month that Japan has pledged to maintain the funding for the foreseeable future.

Not all the institutions are impoverished, however. Some Australian universities can draw on Government funds for specific projects. Others, facing cutbacks, are beginning to offer consultancy services to top up their coffers.

The University of Queensland, which is Apetit's focal point for research-related activities, is teaming up with members in China and Korea for research projects. That gives its professors valuable exposure to emerging trends and issues in the **Asia**-Pacific, as well as teaching experience in dealing with students from a different culture.

Mr Yamakawa says Apetit would welcome private funding for specific projects like research or marketing activities. As more regional educational institutions queue to join, Apetit's executive committee has agreed that no membership fee will be charged. However, the committee is considering allowing in private travel trade associations whose input will be valuable both to help make the training more relevant to industry needs as well as a potential recipient and supporter of courses themselves.

Some academics are trying to encourage Apetit to look at wider issues. Says Prof Walter Jamieson of the Canadian Universities Consortium: "So much of the education/training is forks and spoons related and not dealing with the development/destination issues. Trainers/academics mostly seem only to see hotels. They have to understand that most tourists do not go to hotels but destinations which the hotels are part of."

Other academics are trying to explore ways by which they can start making an impact at a policy-making level, an issue that was discussed at the recent Apetit meeting in Khajuraho, India.

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JOURNAL-CODE: TH

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ISI Session kicks off at COEX: Olympics for Statisticians to draw

Korea Herald; Seoul; Aug 23, 2001;

Start Page: 1

Abstract:

The 53rd session of International Statistical Institute (ISI) kicked off its eight-day run at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) in Gangnam, southern Seoul, yesterday. About 2,200 government officials, academicians, and experts from around the world are expected to participate in the biannual conference dubbed "the Olympics for Statisticians," which dates back to 1887. They include some 1,400 foreigners from about 100 countries. The ISI Seoul Session aims to enhance the international coordination and integration of statistics and to strengthen existing ties between statisticians in the government and academic circles as well as between statistical societies, said the National Statistical Office (NSO), which is hosting the event. "The 53rd ISI Session will be a dynamic forum where cutting-edge ideas and accumulated expertise will be deliberated on a global basis, leading to the promotion of collective interest in advancing such knowledge," said Yoon Young-dae, NSO commissioner, who also chairs the national organizing committee of the statisticians' gathering. The ISI Seoul conference will include the main conference, or scientific programs, scheduled for Aug. 22 through 29, social programs such as receptions and tours, and satellite meetings. The main conference comprises invited paper meetings for 84 subjects and contributed paper meetings for 107 topics, which will be held concurrently in separate rooms at the convention center from today. At the two meetings, a total of 900 papers, including 250 invited papers, will be presented. Some of the invited papers include Statistics and the Mass Media, Measurement of E-commerce, Internet and Innovative Data Collection, and Information Technology for Official Statistics to name a few.

Full Text:

Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Aug 23, 2001

The 53rd session of International Statistical Institute (ISI) kicked off its eight-day run at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) in Gangnam, southern Seoul, yesterday. About 2,200 government officials, academicians, and experts from around the world are expected to

participate in the biannual conference dubbed "the Olympics for Statisticians," which dates back to 1887. They include some 1,400 foreigners from about 100 countries. The ISI Seoul Session aims to enhance the international coordination and integration of statistics and to strengthen existing ties between statisticians in the government and academic circles as well as between statistical societies, said the National Statistical Office (NS0), which is hosting the event. "The 53rd ISI Session will be a dynamic forum where cutting-edge ideas and accumulated expertise will be deliberated on a global basis, leading to the promotion of collective interest in advancing such knowledge," said Yoon Young-dae, NSO commissioner, who also chairs the national organizing committee of the statisticians' gathering. The ISI Seoul conference will include the main conference, or scientific programs, scheduled for Aug. 22 through 29, social programs such as receptions and tours, and satellite meetings. The main conference comprises invited paper meetings for 84 subjects and contributed paper meetings for 107 topics, which will be held concurrently in separate rooms at the convention center from today. At the two meetings, a total of 900 papers, including 250 invited papers, will be presented. Some of the invited papers include Statistics and the Mass Media, Measurement of E-commerce, Internet and Innovative Data Collection, and Information Technology for Official Statistics to name a few. Opening and closing ceremonies and selected invited papers and programs will be offered in simultaneous interpretation of Korean and English, while some of the meetings will be presented in English and French concurrently. ISI is an autonomous society which seeks to develop and improve statistical methods and their application through the promotion of international activity and cooperation. Established in 1885, the organization, based in the Netherlands, is composed of more than 2,000 individual elected members who are internationally recognized as the definitive leaders in the field of statistics. Its membership crosses all borders, representing more than 133 countries worldwide.

The Seoul ISI Session also encompasses the meeting for statistical office heads of participating countries on Aug. 25 and a general assembly on Aug. 27. Several cultural events will also be staged alongside the session to introduce Korea's history and culture. Importantly, an exhibition of products for statistics has been arranged with 40 to 60 booths, which will showcase books, hardware and software as well as other products developed by statistical offices, associations and public organizations, and private vendors. As a unique feature for this ISI Session, two recent Nobel

Prize winners will present addresses during a special plenary meeting on Aug. 27. They are James J. Heckman, professor at University of Chicago, who will speak on the topic of "Causality in Economics and Statistics," and Daniel L. McFadden, professor at University of California, on "Statistical Simulation." Nobel Prize winners of Economics in 2000, the two scholars grabbed the honor by explaining individuals' economic behavior through a statistical analysis method.

The Seoul Conference, which is organized jointly by the NSO, the Korean Statistical Society, and the Korean Statistical Association, comes with various new trials, said the NSO, which is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Finance and Economy. For one thing, it has incorporated new information technology in the process of preparation and program operation. For once thing, participants were asked to apply for their participation and submit their papers via the Web. Submitted papers can be found on the Web site for the conference at www.nso.go.kr/isi2001/. In addition, all those involved in the preparation were granted with a unified email address 'isi2001@nso.go.kr.' Also, many papers to be presented at the conference will delve into the influence of information technology on the statistics field. Accordingly, the conference has arranged a special tutorial "Data Mining," and designated "Internet Day," which is designed to deal with diverse topics related with the Internet in details. Furthermore, the conference features several events arranged in cooperation with relevant international organizations as satellite meetings. They include a seminar on the protection of statistical materials hosted jointly with ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and a workshop on data analysis with SIAP (Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific) and IAOS (International Association for Official Statistics), as well as a special IASS (International Association for Survey Statistics) course, and a training workshop, which have been held prior to the opening of the main conference. The ISI Seoul conference is expected to make significant contribution to the development not only in the field of statistics but also to the economy in general, NSO said. Extensive papers encompassing economics and social arenas will help develop statistics in Korea, it said.

"As well, the event will enhance the status of the nation's statistics, which in turn boost its national transparency," said NSO spokesman. "It also will instill government officials with international sense, while prompting the development of Korea's nascent convention industry."

UN suggestion

NEW DELHI, Sept. 5. — The Indian government should encourage co-operation among southern countries by creating a separate budget to train officials from developing countries in key areas in the country.

This was suggested by the executive secretary of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Mr Kim Hak-su, who is on a four-day visit to India.

Addressing the Press, Mr Hak-su expressed his admiration for the progress made by India in the field of information technology and space technology. He had visited the leading private IT firms, as well as the Indian Space Research Organisation, on his tour of Bangalore on Sunday. — SNS

THE SATESMAN, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBR 6, 2001

THE HINDU, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

ESCAP to hold another meet

By Sushma Ramachandran

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 5. With the Mexico informal ministerial conference having just concluded, countries in the Asia-Pacific region will hold yet another preparatory meeting in the run up to the Doha conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The meeting is being convened by a U.N. agency — the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) — despite concerns over the neutrality of the conference by major donor countries such as Japan and the Netherlands.

The 61-member ESCAP has decided to hold the meeting at Bangkok from September 24 to 25 as part of a full "WTO week". Apart from the ministerial level conference, there will be a meeting of experts on the future WTO agenda and a official level talks on trade policy for countries of the Greater Mekong sub-region.

The visiting ESCAP executive director, Mr. Kim Hak-Su, said that the agenda for the meeting would include a review of the Uruguay Round agreements including the sensitive agreement on agriculture, as well as a look at the agenda for the proposed new round of trade negotiations. He said about half of the ESCAP members were in the WTO with ten preparing for accession including China.

Conceding that ESCAP's donor countries such as Japan, the Netherlands and South Korea had expressed concerns over the neutrality of ESCAP at the conference, Mr. Kim said ESCAP had assured that it would be neutral and would seek to provide all the necessary factors to member countries to enable them to prepare for the Doha meet. Significantly, in a speech earlier this year, he had said, "bringing new issues on the agenda would be divisive. It would threaten a repeat of the Seattle debacle".

Any new round of negotiations must be predicated on assuring developing countries a level-playing field and removing existing imbalances by focussing on faithful implementation of existing agreements and built-in agenda.

Business Line
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Friday, September 07, 2001

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Frontline
India's National Magazine

Macro Economy

ESCAP to hold `pre-Doha' meet

Our Bureau

NEW DELHI, Sept. 6

THE Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is to organise a `pre-Doha Ministerial' meeting in Bangkok from September 27-29 to sensitise its member countries on the possible agenda for the forthcoming Doha Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

``At the Bangkok conference, we will place before our members the possible agenda that may be taken up at Doha. We will also provide them with the positions of developed countries and developing countries on various key areas such as agriculture, TRIPS, TRIMS. The idea is to help our members take an informed decision on various issues,'' Mr Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, told newspersons here.

Mr Kim Hak-Su said that 30 of the 61 member countries of ESCAP are already members of the WTO. ``About 10 of the 61 member countries are in various stages of accession. Most of our member countries have agreed to attend the conference which will involve representatives at the highest level (trade ministers),'' he said.

He also added that the first part of the conference would focus itself on the various Uruguay Round Agreements and the pending issues concerning these agreements. The conference will also deliberate on the likely positions that various developed countries and developing countries are expected to take at the Doha Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

Meanwhile, the ESCAP Executive Secretary has suggested to Indian Government authorities that India could set aside a rupee fund for training

representatives of other developing countries in areas such as information technology and space technology.

``ESCAP is willing to come up with a matching foreign currency contribution. The rupee funds can be spent within India itself. Such a move would also enhance South-South cooperation,'' he said, adding that ESCAP is keen to sign an MoU with India in this regard.

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THE HINDU, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

ESCAP to map poverty

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has proposed to map poverty in the Asia-Pacific region, using space technology, and has sought India's support.

This issue was raised by the ESCAP Executive Secretary, Mr. Kim Hak Su, who met the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, here on Wednesday. Stating that ESCAP would be setting up a poverty centre, Mr. Hak Su also discussed the possibility of a memorandum of understanding between India and ESCAP for experience-sharing and consultancy, using India's capabilities in core competence areas like information and communications, space technology and consultancy services with the developing countries of the region.

The ESCAP, in collaboration with UNCTAD, would be organising a high-level meeting of the developing countries in Bangkok on September 24 and 25 in preparation for the fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation at Doha. He invited India to participate in the conference.

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September 7, 2001, Friday

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS

LENGTH: 204 words

HEADLINE: Asia Pacific nations plans to hold 'pre-Doha' meet

BYLINE: By HARBAKSH SINGH NANDA

DATELINE: NEW DELHI, India, Sept. 7

BODY:
A regional Asia-Pacific meeting is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in late September ahead of November's fourth ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization in Doha, Qatar.

The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was to organize a 'pre-Doha ministerial' meeting from Sept. 27-29 to chalk out a common strategy ahead of the Doha meeting, an **ESCAP** official said Friday. "At the Bangkok conference, we will place before our members the possible agenda that may be taken up at Doha," Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of **ESCAP** told reporters. "We will also provide them with the positions of developed countries and developing countries on various key areas such as agriculture," he said.

Sixty-one countries of the Asia-Pacific region were scheduled to participate in the **ESCAP** meeting, at least 30 of them are already WTO members and 10 others are at various stages of accession to the world trade body. He said most countries were sending their trade ministers to participate.

"Issues related to the relationship between trade and investments, trade and competition policy, and trade and environment linkages would be discussed during the Bangkok meeting," Kim said.

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September 10, 2001, Monday 07:07 PM Eastern Time

LENGTH: 753 words

HEADLINE: ESCAP Exec-Sec to meet Russia FM, to discuss cooperation.

BYLINE: By Irina Bazhenova

DATELINE: MOSCOW, September 10

BODY:
Kim Hak Sung, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), arrives here on Monday. The Itar-Tass correspondent has learned that Mr Kim is planning to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ordzhonikidze. Mr Kim is also to hold talks in the Unified Energy Systems of Russia (UES) joint-stock company, the Ministries of Railways, Power, Economic Development and Trade, Transport and the Russian aerospace agency Rosaviakosmos. Russia's cooperation within the UN framework in the Asia-Pacific Region is expected to be the main subject of his talks in Moscow.

Mr Kim is to end his visit to the Russian capital on Wednesday, September, 12 and is then to head for Bangkok.

The **ESCAP,** which was established in 1947, tackles the economic and social problems of the development of Pacific Rim countries.

LOAD-DATE: September 9, 2001

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ESCAP keen on ties with India

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (UNI) — Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) is keen to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Government for training people from its member countries in Information Technology (IT) and entrepreneurship.

In an informal chat with newspersons ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak Su said it was desirable that the Indian government keep a budgetary provison for this purpose. The escap would he in turn will arrange a matching foreign exchange component which will provide initial corpus money for purposes of training. To begin with, India could start with initial resources of $ 30,000.

Mr Kim, who before coming to Delhi was in Bangalore, said he was highly impressed with the IT achievements of the city. He recalled with admiration the successful [illegible] by major donor countries such as Infosys and Wipro were managing personnel, including the incentives provided by offering them stock options.

Mr Kim, who began his professional career as a Central Bank economist, said Bangalore was the ideal ground for providing training.

In IT. For purposes of developing entrepreneurial skills, the capital could be an appropriate venue, given many manpower training institutes and a diversified small scale industrial base.

He said the countries of the Asia Pacific region would hold in Bangkok yet another preparatory meeting from September 24 and 25 in the run up to the Doha Conference on World Trade Organisation (WTO). This comes close on the heels Mexico Informal ministerial conference.

The conference is being held despite concerns about its neu-

09/11/2001 09:44:15

Linking Transkorean, Transsiberian railways needed

MOSCOW, Sep 11, 2001 (Itar-Tass via COMTEX) -- The linking of the Transkorean and the Transiberian railways is one of priority projects in the area of transport, Kim Hak Soo, the executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), said during a meeting with Russian First Deputy Minister of Railways Alexander Tselko.

One of the main aims of the visit by the **ESCAP** Executive secretary is to strengthen cooperation among Russia, North Korea and South Korea in the development of transit carriages along the Transsiberian railway, Tass learnt on Tuesday at the press service of the Ministry of Railways.

The Russian Deputy Minister of Railways and the **ESCAP** Executive Secretary discussed optimisation of the functioning of the Eurasian transport corridor via Russia's territory, as well as the linking of the Transsiberian and Transkorean railways. The sides noted with satisfaction that the positions of the Russian Ministry of Railways and of the **ESCAP** coincide on these matters. Kim Hak Soo said that carrying cargoes by the route of the Korean Peninsula, the Transiberian railway, Europe is the cheapest, speediest and safest way to deliver cargoes.

By Alexei Filatov

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September 11, 2001

LENGTH: 195 words

HEADLINE: WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLE TECHNOLOGY IN CHINA FROM OCTOBER 19

BODY:

KARACHI : The third international symposium and exposition on fruits and vegetable technology and industrialisation will be held in China from October 19-23, 2001.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (**ESCAP**) of UN and Chinese Academy of Engineering of Shandong and Yantai Municipal Government will jointly forge purpose of symposium and exposition is to assist member countries of **ESCAP** region in enhancing competitiveness of their small and medium fruit and vegetable processing industries through improved access to advanced technologies capacity building and skills development. It also seeks to enhance regional and international exchange of technology for fruit and vegetable processing and preservation.

It is a unique event for technology buyers and sellers to observe and understand the most modern and advanced technologies for adoption and adaptation.

The regional network for agriculture is also collaborating in this event and will assist participants in their quest for information and transfer of technology.
The regional office of **ESCAP** in Thailand will assist member countries for participation in the event.-APP

JOURNAL-CODE: WBRE

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Russian Economic News

September 12, 2001

LENGTH: 148 words

HEADLINE: A000000 *RUSSIA*UN-COMMISSION*TRANSPORT*TALKS* HEAD OF UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION HOLDS NEGOTIATIONS IN RUSSIA

BODY:

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) supports development of new transport corridors to link the Far East with Europe, said **ESCAP** Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su at a press-conference in Moscow.

According to him, one of the issues of his talks with first Deputy Railway Minister of Russia was connecting the Trans-Siberian railway with Asia's railways, which will significantly reduce the number of border-crossings in the route. As for the construction of the "South-North" transport corridor to transport cargos and passengers, the **ESCAP** Secretary said he hoped these railroads with the total length of about 11,000 km would once link Shanghai with Berlin. He also said **ESCAP** helped promoting the transport project and supervised activities on its realization in three aspects - land transport, water transport and "common transport".

JOURNAL-CODE: WREN

LOAD-DATE: September 14, 2001

1.2 Meeting of Eminent Persons (Friends of Chairs) on Integration of Asian Developing Countries into the international Trading System Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran 10-11 March 2001

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Title: Tehran Meeting to Mull Asian Nations' Joining ' Trade System

Summary: TEHRAN, Mar 7, 2001 (Xinhua via COMTEX Prominent personalities from developing nations Asia-Pacific region will meet in Tehran on Marc 11 to seek an integration into the international tr system.

Source: **Xinhua News Agency**
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Subject(s): XIN; Asia; Commerce; Economy; Executiv Finance; Market; Partnership; Prime Minis Trade; World Trade Organization

新华通讯社 Xinhua News Agency

Tehran Meeting to Mull Asian Nations' Joining World Trade System

Story Filed: Wednesday, March 07, 2001 1:28 PM EST

TEHRAN, Mar 7, 2001 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Prominent personalities from developing nations in the Asia-Pacific region will meet in Tehran on March 10-11 to seek an integration into the international trading system.

According to a press release issued by the U.N. Information Center here Wednesday, the meeting, organized by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), will be a follow-up step to

the 56th **ESCAP** annual session, which was held last June on the development through globalization and partnership in the 21st century.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi is expected to host the gathering, in which former Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi and former Indian Minister of Finance Manmohan Singh would join.

To address the imbalances between developed and developing countries in the multilateral trading system, the meeting will put special emphasis on countries in transition from centrally-planned economy to market economy as well as from single-product economy to diversified-product economy, the press release said.

"The theme has assumed renewed importance in the context of the globalization process and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which has strengthened the institutional framework of the multilateral trading system in a globalizing world," **ESCAP** Executive Secretary Kim Ha Su said.

The imbalances continue and need to be addressed to ensure a smooth integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system, and in effect into the process of globalization, the press release added.

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Date: Thursday, March 08, 2001

ESCAP to Convene Meeting in Tehran

TEHRAN The United Nations economic and social commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will convene a meeting of eminent persons on integration of Asian developing countries into the international trading system in Tehran from March 10-11, the UN Information Center here said in a press release Wednesday.

The meeting is a follow-up to the deliberations of ESCAP 56th annual session held in June last year on the theme topic of "development through globalization and partnership into twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integration developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis," the press release further read.

Eminent persons from the Asian and Pacific region, including Supachai Panitchapakdi, former deputy prime minister and commerce minister of Thailand and future director general of WTO and Manmohan Singh, former minister of finance of India will attend the meeting, it said.

the meeting, it said.

The main theme was to address the imbalances in the multilateral trading system between the developed countries on the one hand and the developing countries, in particular the economies in transition, on the other, said the press release.

"The theme has assumed renewed importance in the context of the globalization process and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which has strengthened the institutional framework of the multilateral trading system in a globalizing world," said Kim Hak Su, ESCAP's executive secretary.

However, it added, the abovementioned imbalances continue and need to be addressed to ensure a smooth integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system, and in effect, into the process of globalization.

The chair of the 56th commission session, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, will host the meeting which is to focus its discussion on issues related to globalization and integration of Asian developing countries into the international trading system.

It will put special emphasis on countries with economies in transition from a centrally-planned to a market economy as well as from a single product to a diversified product economy.

The participants will also discuss the respective roles of the government and the private sector in this process, the press release said in conclusion.

Associated Press

03/09/2001 04:54:58

BC-Thailand-ESCAP 3-9 0161 Supachai to address int'l trade issues

in Tehran

BANGKOK, March 9 (Kyodo) _ Eminent persons from the Asian and Pacific region, including Supachai Panitchapakdi who is to be the next secretary general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), will meet in Tehran this weekend to discuss international trade issues, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) said Friday.

The two-day meeting hosted by **ESCAP** is to address the imbalances in the multilateral trading system between the developed countries and the developing countries.

The meeting will focus on issues related to globalization and integration of Asian developing countries into the international trading system, stressing economies in transition from centrally planned to market economies and single product to diversified product economies.

Participants, including former Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, will also discuss the respective roles of the government and the private sector in the process.

(PROFILE
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(SRC:KYODO;)

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AP-NY-03-09-01 0454EST

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BBC

Iran: Foreign minister stresses need to reinforce regional economic cooperation

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Start Page: 1
Dateline: IRAN
Personal Names: Kharrazi, Kamal
Abstract:
A fair participation by developing countries in macro-economic policy coordination is an overdue undertaking, [Kamal Kharrazi] said adding that ways and means must be explored to protect the enterprises of the developing countries in the face of intense competition with mega- merges, including granting of preferential treatments to the exports of developing countries.

The global economic, financial and monetary arrangements need to enjoy a better democratic and transparent governance so as to enable the developing countries to play a more effective role in guiding the process of economic globalization, Kharrazi said adding, Otherwise, the existing management of globalization process loses its universal acceptability.

"Globalization and integration seem inevitable. Therefore, we need to maximize its benefits and manage its associated risks. To do so, we should first and foremost ensure that the process of globalization becomes inclusive with fair participation of developing countries, that its benefits and opportunities are distributed equitably between poor and rich nations, that it would bridge the gap between developed and developing countries, that it would be more than creating bigger markets, that it upholds and diversity."

Full Text:
IRNA news agency, Tehran, in English 1252 10 Mar 01/BBC Monitoring/(c) BBC

Text of report in English by Iranian news agency IRNA

Tehran, 10 March: Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi here on Saturday [10

March] underlined the need for attempts to be made to reinforce the regional economic cooperation organizations of Asia and the Pacific.

Addressing a meeting of the Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and Pacific on integration of Asian developing countries into the international system, he stressed that further undertakings are needed to broaden the cooperation between these regional organizations.

Regional economic integration plays a significant role in fostering development, increasing the bargaining power of the member states in trade negotiations and ultimately preparing for integration of developing countries of the region into the world economy, he said adding, "We should also forge a partnership between public and private sectors and harmonize their activities." Empirical evidences indicate that neither government nor private sector could succeed alone, he said.

To ensure sustained economic growth and development and access to international markets, national and regional activities and policies ought to be supplemented with foreign finance, investment and technology, he said underlining the need for joining forces in calling for establishment of balance, democratic rules, transparency and equity in international economic, trade, financial and monetary institutions.

A fair participation by developing countries in macro-economic policy coordination is an overdue undertaking, Kharrazi said adding that ways and means must be explored to protect the enterprises of the developing countries in the face of intense competition with mega- merges, including granting of preferential treatments to the exports of developing countries.

Stressing on the importance of coherence, he said creation of coherence between the external economic environment and domestic policies, coherence between the activities of public and private sector and coherence among economic, financial, monetary, and trade policies is all the more imperative.

Kharrazi, as the chairman of the 56th session of the ESCAP, elsewhere in his speech commented on the significance of globalization favourable international environment for promotion of participation of developing countries in shaping the future world.

Throughout the history, Asia and the Pacific region has been the cradle of

great civilizations and as such has considerably contributed to the enrichment of human civilization, he said adding that considering its cultural richness and diversity as well as active and potential capabilities in terms of natural resources, educated and skilful human resources, population and economic capacities, this region could and should play an instrumental role in and enjoy a larger share in the process and management of globalization.

The biggest challenge in attaining this objective is development and integration of developing countries of the region into the world economy, including international trading system, he noted.

The current ESCAP gathering provides a propitious opportunity to draw the attention of the statesmen of Asia and the Pacific to the imperative of working hand in hand towards realization of the existing potentials and removal of the obstacles to economic, social and political development, he said adding this meeting could also help orient regional integration, UN operational activities, as well as the cooperation with and the activities of the international financial, monetary and trade organizations such as World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Turning to the issue of globalization, the Iranian foreign minister said today, at the turn of the millennium, globalization is the most prevalent term used in political, social and economic discourses, discussions, debates and publications.

The process of globalization is profoundly transforming, in no time, the very precepts of the international order and interactions and relations among nations, he said adding that requiring broader trans-boundary interactions, connections and communications, globalization is and will influence various dimensions of economic, social, cultural and political life.

Globalization, if managed properly, offers numerous opportunities and benefits: faster economic growth, more capital formation, substantial increase in trade, immense job creation, poverty alleviation, redressing inequalities, better nourishment, better health, better education, better management of resources, broader transfer of technology, unprecedented development in information and communication technology, further increase in cultural and scientific interactions and tourism, and further

promotion of culture of tolerance.

These could entirely change the face of world, helping developing countries realize their potential, ensuring sustainability of the environment, promoting popular participation and inclusiveness, bringing peace and prosperity and putting an end to many human sufferings, Kharrazi said.

But realization of these opportunities appears very far-reaching, he said adding globalization also seems being only concerned with the search for profit in terms of economic gain by some, thus being less concerned with social, cultural and moral considerations.

"Yet worse, the decision-making on macro-economic policy coordination is non-democratic," he said adding that at present, only a handful of countries, in such forum as G8, decide on matters with sweeping economic, financial and monetary consequences for other nations, with developing countries having no representation.

Non-democratic practices and procedures in international financial and monetary institutions leave developing countries with little or no influence in their decision-making process, he said.

The global economic, financial and monetary arrangements need to enjoy a better democratic and transparent governance so as to enable the developing countries to play a more effective role in guiding the process of economic globalization, Kharrazi said adding, Otherwise, the existing management of globalization process loses its universal acceptability.

As to the most worrying aspect of globalization, he said while developing nations earnestly pursue market policies for integration into the global trading system, some developed countries try to impose their own values under the guise of "market society".

"Globalization and integration seem inevitable. Therefore, we need to maximize its benefits and manage its associated risks. To do so, we should first and foremost ensure that the process of globalization becomes inclusive with fair participation of developing countries, that its benefits and opportunities are distributed equitably between poor and rich nations, that it would bridge the gap between developed and developing countries, that it would be more than creating bigger markets, that it upholds and

diversity."

Globalization is brimming with a host of opportunities and risks, he said adding it needs to be managed.

It is essential to address these issues in a systematic and structured manner and with the participation of governments, international organizations and NGOs, Kharrazi said concluding that ESCAP, in addition to its defined mandate, can offer appropriate settings to conduct a thorough in-depth and deliberation on the challenges of globalization, possible actions, and experience of development in the region.

Credit: IRNA news agency, Tehran, in English 1252 10 Mar 01

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Category: Economy

Date: Sunday, March 11, 2001

FM Stresses Need to Reinforce Regional Economic Cooperation

TEHRAN Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi here on Saturday underlined the need for attempts to be made to reinforce the regional economic cooperation organizations of Asia and the Pacific.

Addressing a meeting of the economic and social commission of the Asia and Pacific on integration of Asian developing countries into the international system, he stressed that further undertakings are needed to broaden the cooperation between these regional organizations.

Regional economic integration plays a significant role in fostering development, increasing the bargaining power of the member states in trade negotiations and ultimately preparing for integration of developing countries of the region into the world economy, he said adding, "We should also forge a partnership between public and private sectors and harmonize their activities." Empirical evidences indicate that neither government nor private sector could succeed alone, he said.

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To ensure sustained economic growth and development and access to international markets, national and regional activities and policies ought to be supplemented with foreign finance, investment and technology, he said underlining the need for joining forces in calling for establishment of balance, democratic rules, transparency and equity in international economic, trade, financial and monetary institutions.

A fair participation by developing countries in macroeconomic policy coordination is an overdue undertaking, Kharrazi said adding that ways and means must be explored to protect the enterprises of the developing countries in the face of intense competition with mega-merges, including granting of preferential treatments to the exports of developing countries.

Stressing on the importance of coherence, he said creation of coherences between the external economic environment and domestic policies, coherence between the activities of public and private sector and coherence among economic, financial, monetary, and trade policies is all the more imperative.

Kharrazi, as the chairman of the 56th session of the ESCAP, elsewhere in his speech commented on the significance of globalization and its associated challenges as well as the need for creation of a favorable international environment for promotion of participation of developing countries in shaping the future world.

Throughout the history, Asia and the Pacific region has been the cradle of great civilizations and as such has considerably

civilizations and as such has considerably contributed to the enrichment of human civilization, he said adding that considering its cultural richness and diversity as well as active and potential capabilities in terms of natural resources, educated and skillful human resources, population and economic capacities, this region could and should play an instrumental role in and enjoy a larger share in the process and management of globalization.

The biggest challenge in attaining this objective is development and integration of developing countries of the region into the world economy, including international trading system, he noted.

The current ESCAP gathering provides a propitious opportunity to draw the attention of the statesmen of Asia and the Pacific to the imperative of working hand in hand toward realization of the existing potentials and removal of the obstacles to economic, social and political development, he said adding this meeting could also help orient regional integrations, UN operational activities, as well as the cooperation with and the activities of the international financial, monetary and trade organizations such as World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

(IRNA)

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Associated Press

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March 12, 2001
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Developing Nations Called for Efforts to Integrate into Globalization, XINHUA

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TEHRAN, March 12 (Xinhua)--The Iranian foreign minister called Monday on developing countries to exert efforts to integrate into economic globalization to ward off marginalization, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on Monday. Addressing the closing session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi stressed the significance of globalization management, saying that all countries, whether big or small, should actively participate in the process.

Kharazi called for comprehensive dialog between developing nations and developed countries in a bid to bridge the gap dividing the two sides, saying that regional cooperation will be an

ideal framework to achieve integration of developing nations into the international trade system.

He also underscored the importance of the private sector in the economic development.

The meeting attended by representatives from developing nations in the Asia-Pacific region opened here on Saturday with a subject of ``integration of developing Asian countries into the international trade system and the role played by government and the private sector.'' It was a follow-up of **ESCAP** deliberations made during its 56th annual session held in Bangkok, Thailand, last June.

Iran, current chairman of the **ESCAP**, is to present the results of the Tehran meeting to the 57th annual meeting.

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Exchange
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Category: Economy

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2001

ESCAP Winds Up Tehran Meeting

TEHRAN The United Nations economic and social commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) here on Sunday wrapped up its two-day meeting on the subject "integration of developing Asian countries into the international trading system and the role played by governments and their private sectors". The meeting was a follow-up of ESCAP deliberations made during its 56th annual session held in June last year on the theme "development through globalization and partnership into the twenty-first century". Addressing the closing session, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi assessed the views expressed by participants on the subject as "effective and valuable," and stressed that their attitudes reflected the widespread views of Asian countries expressed at various national, regional and international fora. Kharrazi said the participants unanimously voiced the belief that globalization is a mixture of threats, challenges and opportunities, and that its effect would be to marginalize developing countries, especially those in Asia. Underlining the significance of globalization management, Kharrazi said all

countries, whether big or small, should actively participate in the process. However, he stressed the need for paying attention to human and cultural values, saying development and globalization should take a humanistic approach that would benefit nations. To achieve the said goal, he said greater attention should be paid to removing poverty which he said is one of the most serious problems facing south countries. Kharrazi also stressed comprehensive dialogue between developing nations and developed ones toward bridging the gap dividing the two sides as a first step in this connection. Underlining the importance of efforts to integrate developing countries into the international trading system, strengthening of regional bonds and regional integration, he said regional cooperation would be an ideal framework within which to achieve integration of developing nations into the international trading system. The Iranian foreign minister also underscored the importance of the private sector in the economic development of countries, and said contemporary governments have changed significantly in attitude toward the private sector and now support it. Iran, currently the annual chairman of ESCAP, is to present the results of the Tehran session before the 57th annual meeting. Prominent figures from the Asia and Pacific region attended the meeting, the main theme of which was to address imbalances in the multilateral trading system between developed countries, on the one hand, and developing countries on the other. The theme of the conference had assumed renewed importance in the context of the globalization process and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which powers the institutional framework of the multilateral trading system characterizing global trade. The session put special emphasis on countries with economies in transition from a centrally-planned to a market economy as well as from a single product to a diversified product economy. (IRNA)

2. Environment and Sustainable Development

2.1 General

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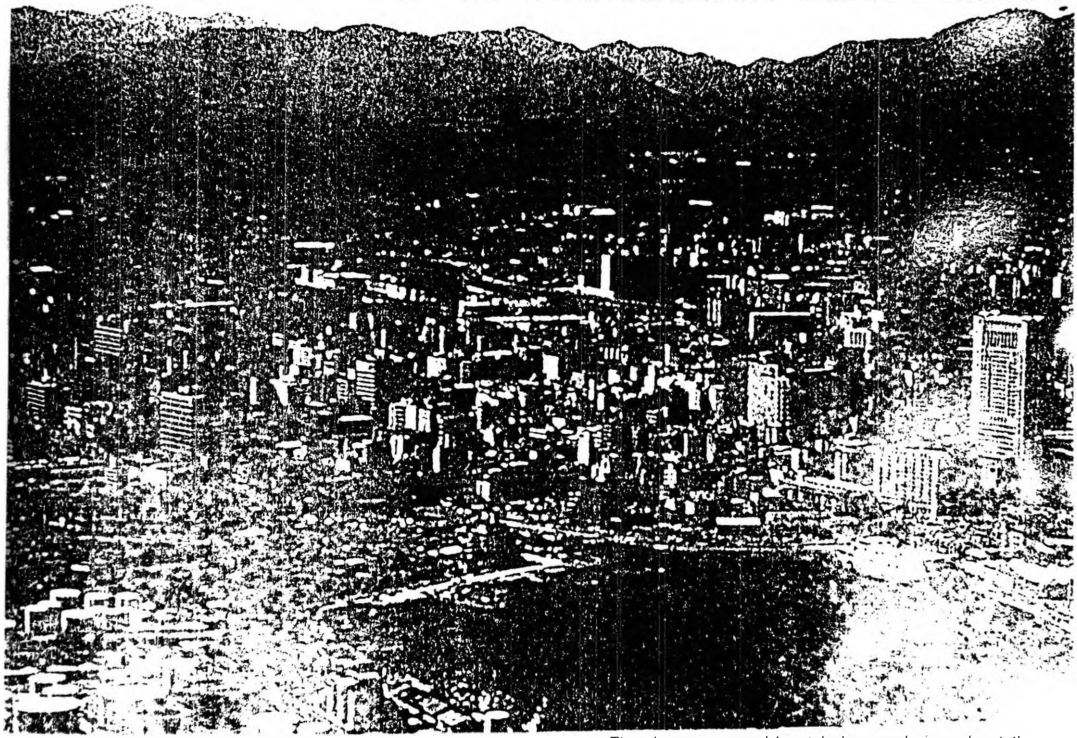
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Date: January 2001

The Kitakyushu environmental lesson

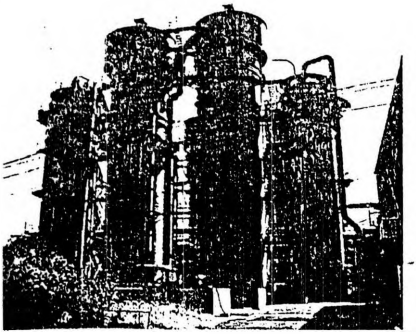


Kitakyushu City is a remarkable city. The southwestern Japanese city, just hours drive to Nagasaki, was plagued by some of the worst air and water pollution levels in the 1950s and 1960s when it was one of the four major industrial cities in the country fuelling Japan's rapid postwar economic development. The Mayor of the City told us how his fellow citizens had made the city pollution-free. In the 1970s Kitakyushu citizens formed a "Blue Sky" brigade. Women were at the forefront of this drive. So great was their resolve that they monitored air pollution by hanging out their laundry to see if it became grimy. They then urged their local Government and the private sector to work together to turn around their City and it became a "Blue Sky" city again winning UN accolades from the international community.

The Japanese could not help wondering about the lessons they can learn from this experience. Today Kitakyushu proudly exports its knowledge. Best practices of any kind come from the developed as well as the developing world. And we can learn so much from them. Partnerships are the key to the environmental and social survival. At the grass roots level and at the governmental level there are many commonalities that must be used. A key message that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivered to the world at the Millennium Assembly is "we must learn to govern better, and we must learn how better to govern together."

ESCAP organized the conference in Japan with a lot of hope. Held every once in five years this conference was stocktaking eight years after the UN Conference for Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

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Governments have been showing greater awareness about the quality of their environment. New policies and programs have been established. The interest of civil society and the press helped along by the Internet is also greatly encouraging.

But the conference also studied a much awaited document - The State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2000. The report prepared by ESCAP and the Asia Development Bank (ADB) covers the past five years and based on the fresh approaches to tackle the problems. The report is grim due to rapid population growth, a high consumption life-style and lack of control over resources by the poor.

This has added to the burden of environment management.

It is estimated that some 214 million hectares of cropland, equal to 37 percent of today's cultivated area, has been damaged. Deforestation in the region has reached a critical point, although the region has also experienced a faster rate of reforestation than any other tropical region. This has increased the region's vulnerability to forest fires, the incidence as well as severity of which have reached alarming levels.

Several of the region's most important fishing areas and two-thirds of the major fish species are either fully or over-exploited.

It is feared that the global sea level may rise 5 to 95 centimeters by 2100 up to five times as much during the last century. The frequency of droughts, storms and floods is also on the rise.

During the past forty years, the region's population grew by more than two-fold from 1.7 billion to 3.7 billion, and the economies of the region as a whole quadrupled during the last two decades to accommodate this phenomenal growth.

This rapid growth in population has resulted in the deterioration of the urban environment in many countries. The region's urban population is expected to go up from 1.4 billion to 2.2 billion in 2020. Great swaths of agricultural lands are likely to be swallowed by growing cities and towns to accommodate this surge in population. Another disturbing result of this trend is the serious deterioration in air quality. Of the 15 cities in the world with the highest levels of totally suspended particulate in the air, 12 are located in Asia.

The rapid growth in population raises serious issues of food security and poverty. Any increase in food production will have to come from croplands as oceanic fish supply and cattle from rangelands appear to have reached their limits. This will put fresh and additional demand on irrigation water supply.

The burden of increases in solid wastes is proving to be especially severe for small island states. The total amount of municipal solid waste generated each year in the region is about 700 million tons and industrial activities generate another 1900 million tons per year. Much of the waste goes without treatment, contaminating groundwater and posing grave health risks.

These then are some of the facts laid before the over 40 environment ministers attending the meeting here. Perhaps with their resolve after the meeting, there would be more blue skies on the horizon.

Source: All Sources : News : **News Group File, All**
Terms: **kim hak-su** (Edit Search)

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HEADLINE: News Digest: International

HIGHLIGHT:
It is forecast that the energy investment needed for east Asia will be $150-200 bil/yr by 2005

BODY:
International: UN economist **Kim Hak-Su** urged Asia's governments to open up their energy markets to attract investment in developing renewable sources of energy. He said that the total energy. He said that the total energy investment requirement for east Asia by 2005 would be between $150bn and $200bn a year. As overseas direct aid is not sufficient to meet to cost, energy market reform would be necessary to facilitate private sector participation and foreign direct investment.

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Flood control needs crop restructuring

The Saigon Times Daily; Ho Chi Minh City; Mar 30, 2001; MY DIEM;

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Abstract:

"Mapping out a strategy on combating floods should be connected closely with cooperation for socio-economic development," said Le Huu Ti, an expert with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Full Text:

Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Mar 30, 2001

(SGT-HCMC) Restructuring not only crops but also the economy has become imperative to control floods in Vietnam's Mekong delta and other Mekong subregions, concluded participants at a conference which closed in HCMC yesterday.

"Mapping out a strategy on combating floods should be connected closely with cooperation for socio-economic development," said Le Huu Ti, an expert with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The Mekong Delta should transform its economic structure so that the region can thrive on not only agriculture but also industrial production, Ti told the four-day conference on flood control organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and ESCAP.

However, forecasting is still the most important aspect of combating floods. Strengthening relations with the media is also necessary to provide the public with information about natural calamities, said the seminar, attended by representatives of countries in the Mekong River Commission, namely Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, as well as scientists and officials from Vietnam's eight Mekong Delta provinces.

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Associated Press

03/26/2001 03:48:47

BC-Climate 3-26 0645 Japan to tackle climate change with Asian

states

TOKYO, March 26 (Kyodo) _ By: Kikuyo Komesu Japan is intensifying its effort to tackle global climate change by cooperating with Asia-Pacific countries on environmental protection efforts, a senior official of the Environment Ministry said Monday.

Hironori Hamanaka, director general of the Global Environment Bureau at the ministry, said, "Japan is taking new initiatives focusing on cooperation with East Asian and Pacific countries, aiming at establishing a new development model in those countries with a view to mainstreaming sustainable development."

Japan has had policy dialogue with China and South Korea through bilateral or trilateral channels, as well as at multilateral forums such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), Hamanaka said at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

A third meeting of environment ministers of the three countries will be held in Tokyo early next month, he said.

Hamanaka also said his ministry, with the cooperation of the Chinese government, will introduce a new initiative to be launched from April which includes an integrated monitoring system on global warming using satellite data.

As for Japan's strategy to meet the Kyoto target designated under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, Hamanaka emphasized "carbon sequestration" through forest management and the use of the Kyoto mechanism -- emission trading, joint implementation and the "clean-development mechanism."

Although most of the reduction target will be reached by greenhouse gas emission cuts, it is difficult for Japan to reduce emission more as its energy efficiency had already reached its height since the 1970s oil crisis, he said.

"During the 1970s, Japanese industries made heavy investment in energy conservation and their energy efficiency is one of the highest in the world," he said.

The Kyoto Protocol legally obliges developed countries to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases between 2008 and 2012 by an average of 5.2% from 1990 levels. Japan is required under the protocol to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 6% from 1990 levels.

"Despite efforts made by many countries, we still have problems concerning the issue. We need to come up with new measurements," he said.

Despite adoption of the protocol, the agreement's future is far from certain as a result of the failed sixth Conference of Parties (COP 6) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

As head of the newly created bureau in the upgraded former Environment Agency under the administrative reform implemented in January, Hamanaka has to deal with a reluctant global community in which the new U.S. administration of President George W. Bush says it needs more time to review the U.S. global warming policy.

Hamanaka expressed concern about the U.S. policy review, saying, "We believe the condition of the Bush administration will be the key through the future climate negotiations. The U.S. is still reviewing its environment policy and we look forward to forthcoming reviews."

"Some (U.S. officials) say the timetable in the protocol should be reconsidered...and such major changes...may cause serious problems," but because the U.S. position is not clear at this point, Japan would like to wait and see what the U.S. would come up with, he said.

Asked why Japan is not going ahead independently with its own measures to tackle the issue, instead of waiting for international consensus, Hamanaka said that because Japan's energy efficiency cost is much higher than that in the U.S. or in European countries "it is not easy for us to convince Japanese industries without having other industrialized countries make similar investments."

05/02/2001 04:44:47

UN: Preparatory Committee for 2002 Sustainable Development Summit

discusses draft procedural rules, participation arrangements

May 02, 2001 (M2 PRESSWIRE via COMTEX) -- The Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, continued its organizational session this morning with consideration of the draft rules of procedure for the Summit, and arrangements for participation by major groups in the Summit and its preparatory process.

Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on suggested arrangements for the involvement of non-governmental organizations and other major groups, JoAnne Disano, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said that the suggested accreditation criteria and procedures were drafted on the basis of those used by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro.

The suggestions contained in the report aimed to fully utilize the experience of the Commission, particularly its unique multi-stakeholder dialogues, in the Summit and its preparatory process, she said. The success of the Summit would depend partly on the extent to which major groups were meaningfully engaged in the process and were part of tangible partnerships for action.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the representative of Sweden said that in order to achieve a positive and forward-looking outcome at the Summit, as well as in the implementation of its results, governments needed the partnerships with both civil society and the private sector, at the local, national and international levels. The Union welcomed the proposals contained in the report and suggested that the Commission adopt them as proposed.

Regarding accreditation of non-governmental organizations currently not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, she noted that the proposed accreditation criteria and

procedures were well in line with established United Nations practices and traditions, and hoped that those arrangements could be easily accepted by all partners.

On the draft rules of procedure, the representative of Iran, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, said the major concern for developing countries was the question of the composition of membership of the Bureau for the Summit. The current 10-member Bureau was too small to handle the work of the Summit and, therefore, he would prefer a Bureau of 39 members to ensure better representation and more transparency.

Also this morning, presentations were made by South Africa on its preparatory work as the host government of the Summit and by Indonesia as the host government of the third substantive (ministerial) preparatory session.

Statements were also made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, United States, New Zealand, Mexico, Hungary, Nigeria, Egypt and China. The Observer for Switzerland and a representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) also spoke.

In addition, the Commission heard from the Education Caucus, the UNED Forum and the inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety.

The Commission will meet again at 3 p.m. today to consider the draft decisions of the session.

Background

The Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, met this morning to continue its organizational session. The Summit will be held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. (For background on the session, see press release ENV/DEV/575 issued 27 April.)

Specific Modalities and Draft Rules of Procedure

JOANNE DISANO, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the report

of the Secretary-General on suggested arrangements for involving non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the Summit and its preparatory process (E/CN.17/2001/PC/22). She said that, in accordance with the General Assembly's request, the suggested accreditation criteria and procedures were drafted on the basis of those used by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)(1992, Rio de Janeiro).

The suggested modalities of major group involvement in the Summit and its preparatory process were based on supplementary arrangements for non-governmental organization participation in the Commission determined by the Economic and Social Council in 1993 and the Commission's practices to date, she said. The suggestions contained in the report aimed to fully utilize the experience of the Commission, particularly its unique multi-stakeholder dialogues, in the Summit and its preparatory process. The success of the Summit would depend partly on the extent to which major groups were meaningfully engaged in the process and were part of tangible partnerships for action.

MOHAMMED REZA SALAMAT (Iran) speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" and China, said the major concern for developing countries on the proposed draft rules of procedure was the question of the composition of membership of the Bureau for the Summit. He felt that the current 10-member Bureau was too small to handle the work of the Summit. His delegation's preference, would be for a Bureau of 39 members. That would ensure a Bureau that was better representative and more transparent.

On the participation of major groups, he reiterated his delegation's support for broad participation by such groups in the work of the Summit. He made several technical proposals to the documents before the Committee. His delegation was still considering the issue of the participation of major groups that did not have accreditation with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). He further suggested that the Secretariat could provide some reports that would be helpful to the Committee's work. Those reports should focus on worldwide trends in the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as evaluations of the implementation of the Agenda by the United Nations system and major groups. The Secretariat might also provide a report evaluating the mandates of the Commission on Sustainable

Development for the last 10 years.

He went on to say that it was critical for regional preparatory processes to undertake a forward-looking evaluation of what should be achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 over the coming decade. In order to ensure an integrated approach, it was also critical to provide support for regional preparatory meetings. The outputs of all national or regional preparatory meetings should also be given priority consideration in the Preparatory Committee. He felt an inter-regional meeting for small island developing States might also be necessary. The possible main themes for the Summit could be based on discussions at the tenth session of the Commission.

TUPUK SUTRISNO (Indonesia) said that, with regard to the active participation of all major groups at all stages of the preparatory process, it was important for the Commission to decide on arrangements for their accreditation and participation in the Summit and its preparatory process. The Commission practices and rules of procedure, which were applied in UNCED, should be taken into account. The specific modalities of future meetings of the Preparatory Committee should also be decided upon during the current meeting, taking into account resolution 55/199.

In that connection, he said, the first substantive preparatory meeting in January 2002 should be able to produce a draft outcome document on accomplishments and lessons learned in the implementation of Agenda 21. The draft should identify constraints and propose measures to be undertaken to ensure the full implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account the results of the preparatory work at the national, subregional and regional levels. The second substantive preparatory meeting should be able to continue negotiations to seek consensus, taking into account new inputs from relevant international organizations and meetings.

The current meeting, he added, should also decide on the organizational work of the final preparatory meeting at the ministerial level. The final meeting should be able to conclude negotiations on a draft document that was concise, visionary and action-oriented, so as to reinvigorate, at the highest level, the global commitment to partnerships.

VIVEKA BOHN (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that in order to achieve a positive and forward-looking outcome at the Summit, as well as in the implementation of its results, governments needed the partnerships with both civil society and the private sector, at the local, national and international levels. The Union welcomed the proposals contained in the report and suggested that the Commission adopt them as proposed. Regarding accreditation of non-governmental organizations currently not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the proposed accreditation criteria and procedures were well in line with established United Nations practices and traditions, and she hoped that those arrangements could be easily accepted by all partners.

She also welcomed the proposals for participation of major groups. It seemed natural to build on the very positive experience of the Commission's multi-stakeholder dialogues in preparations for the Summit and in the review itself. The Union remained committed to an inclusive process, in which governments could work in partnership with major groups towards joint commitments at the Summit.

DIMITRY MAKSIMYCHEV (Russian Federation), agreed that the participation of major groups and non-governmental organizations should be based on precedent set at Rio, as well as the rules of procedure for the Commission on Sustainable Development. On the make-up of the Summit's Bureau, he said that the optimum number of vice-chairpersons should be nine, a number based on Bureau membership at Rio. He agreed that an integrated approach to the entire preparatory process should be adopted, and all final documents from regional meetings should be considered by the Preparatory Committee.

AHMED SALEM OULD AHMED (Mauritania) said governments of wealthy countries must mobilize resources to ensure the broad participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society from developing countries in the preparatory work and the 2002 Summit itself. Also, the membership of the Bureau at the Summit should be expanded. He suggested that the Commission consider devoting one or more segments during the Summit to a dialogue between the heads of State and government and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

KHALID MOHAMMED ABDULEIF (Saudi Arabia) said the membership of the Bureau should be expanded to encourage transparency and broad participation, particularly from developing countries.

Mr. REZA SALAMAT (Iran) said that with regard to providing support for the participation of developing countries, a trust fund should be established within the Secretariat. Contributions to that fund from donors should be used to facilitate the participation of developing countries in all meetings, at all levels. On the participation of major groups, the multi-stakeholder dialogues had proven to be extremely useful. At the same time, a proliferation of multi-stakeholder meetings should be avoided, so as to take into account issues of time and full participation.

Ms. BOHN (Sweden) said that the European Union would like to reflect on the suggestions regarding the size of the Bureau before making a statement on them.

JONATHAN MARGOLIS (United States) agreed that more time was required to consider the suggestions and proposals. With regard to the participation of major groups, he wondered whether the past model of having speeches of major groups interspersed with those of government officials would be acceptable to the Group of 77. On the matter of the footnote, that list should be an inclusive one of all associate members.

Mr. REZA SALAMAT (Iran) said that the footnote seemed to be inclusive of all associate members of the United Nations regional commissions.

FELICITY BUCHANAN (New Zealand) supported the statements of the European Union and the Russian Federation regarding the participation of major groups. She would like to see their participation continue with the holding of multi-stakeholder dialogues and other modes for the exchange of views.

IVO SIEBER, Observer of Switzerland, supported the statements made on the participation of major groups. Their participation should be ensured throughout the whole process and at all levels. Multi-stakeholder dialogues had proven to be effective and it would be useful to build on the experiences of the Commission in that regard.

JOSe RAMSN LORENZO (Mexico) said that the various proposals and suggestions made pointed to the importance of the participation of major groups in the Summit and its preparatory process. He was in favor of having a large number of vice-chairmen on the Bureau of the Summit.

Progress Reports

SIPHO PITYANA (South Africa), introduced an overview of the preparations underway in South Africa, host country of the World Summit. He said that the attainment of the goals of Rio had been hard to achieve, particularly among the developing countries. But, those countries had accepted all the challenges handed them and reinvigorated their efforts to achieve sustainable development on the African continent, and among other developing countries. Tangible progress towards sustainable development could only be achieved, however, by reinvigorating the spirit of international cooperation.

He said the Summit must advance the objectives of the development process. The Summit should not be considered as a forum to renegotiate Agenda 21. Any review and refinement of forward-looking objectives towards sustainable development should be accomplished during the preparatory process.

Indeed, the agenda of the Summit must be informed by the work of regional organizations. Relevant United Nations funds and agencies should also provide appropriate resources.

Success could only be achieved by ensuring broad participation by the developing countries. Success further depended on establishing a realistic time frame and spacing of the three substantive Preparatory Committee meetings. To that end, he drew the attention of the Bureau to the fact that the African regional meeting was presently scheduled to coincide with the upcoming World Conference Against Racism. He hoped that conflict could be rectified as soon as possible. The Summit should focus on a clear programme of action and a tangible outcome.

C. OLVER (South Africa) with a slide presentation, updated the Committee on the logistical preparations underway for the Summit. Johannesburg, he said, had been chosen as the preferred location of the meeting because it had the infrastructure

and capacity to ensure success. Basic national structures, led by the government, had been put into place to manage the entire process. He added that all levels of Government had agreed to provide the necessary funding for the Summit. The Johannesburg Earth Summit Company -- a government-owned, not-for-profit organization -- would handle coordination duties.

He assured the Committee that all aspects of the Summit would be inclusive, and include broad representation and participation by the business sector and non-governmental organizations, among others. He said that work to create a logo for the Summit was also underway, and he showed the Committee the most recent version. He said that office space in Sandton had been made available. The Summit's opening and closing events would be held at the state-of-the-art Johannesburg Stadium, which had a capacity of 50,000. Other activities would take place at the Johannesburg Convention Center. Venues for satellite events would include Gallagher Estates, MTN Sundome and NASREC Convention Center, all within 15 or 20 minutes of center city.

He went on to say that the Government was currently building a state of the art media center and making final proposals for a United Nations-designated area around Sandton. Indeed, much focus had also been placed on using new information technologies in the preparation for the Summit, including the creation of an on-line registration and accreditation Web site. Johannesburg's strategic transport plan had also been completed. He emphasized that the necessary safety and security procedures had been established.

MAKARIM WIBISONO (Indonesia), gave a brief overview of the preparations underway in Indonesia, host country for the final Ministerial Preparatory Committee meeting before the Summit. That meeting, scheduled to be held from 27 May to 7 June 2002, would be the forum for refining an action-oriented document that would be considered and subsequently adopted at Johannesburg. It would also be the last chance to ensure that the Summit would be a success.

Accepting its responsibility to address the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in the implementation of Agenda 21, Indonesia had established a National Organizing Committee to initiate preparations for the

meeting. That Committee, co-chaired by the State Minister for Environment and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, would be made up of representatives from all relevant public and private agencies, as well as civil society. A Presidential Decree on the establishment of the Committee would be issued shortly.

Turing next to the logistics of the meeting, he said that the National Organizing Committee had accepted the offer of Bali as the host city. If all agreed with that location, the meeting would take place at the Bali International Convention Centre, located in Nusa Dua Beach, south of Bali.

The centre had a 2,500 capacity plenary hall, a 560- seat auditorium and other facilities. The National Organizing Committee would also create a reservation center to assist delegates in arranging accommodations and transportation. The Committee would also consider ways to provide transport between the airport, hotel and meeting centers.

RAVI SAWHNEY, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), informed the Commission on the status of preparations in that region. The review process there had already been initiated. Last year, a ministerial conference on environment and development was held, which adopted a programme of action for the region. Recently, a meeting was held on energy, which adopted an action programme on sustainable energy development.

Next week, he continued, a Parliamentarians' Forum would be held in Tokyo, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It would focus on environmental governance and a major theme would be sustainable development and poverty eradication. The region was to hold five subregional meetings leading up to the Summit. The preparatory work for those meetings were underway and they were intended to be as action-oriented as possible. The regional preparatory meeting was to be held in Cambodia, possibly from 27 to 29 November.

TIBOR FARAGO (Hungary) said that Agenda 21 should not renegotiated. Also, many aspects of the Rio Summit should not be repeated. The international community had a different task ahead of it now. In addition to noting progress in some areas, various

constraints and challenges could also be identified. Consequently, it was necessary to have a global forum that was different from the Earth Summit. It was necessary to have an honest and integrated evaluation of the current unsustainable state of the environment. The Summit should demonstrate that sustainable development was achievable. It was important to have a critical and self-critical review and reinforce long-term visions. For the sake of the credibility of the process, it would be better to have a gradual, integrated approach and set a few achievable goals.

D.B. USMAN, (Nigeria) said his government supported global and regional efforts to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 and believed that the Rio+10 review process should be open and transparent. That process should also highlight the gains, weakness and failures of efforts to implement Agenda 21 during the past decade. The preparatory process, and the Summit itself, address cross-sectoral issues, to ensure adequate resources, technological transfer and capacity-building for sustainable development, especially in developing countries. Moreover, poverty eradication should be given priority on the Summit's agenda.

While he welcomed the broad participation of major groups in the work of the Summit, he emphasized that it should remain an inter-governmental affair. All issues intended for inclusion in the agenda of the Summit should be considered during the Committee's preparatory work, so that governments and other relevant stakeholders would have the opportunity to discuss them.

Ms. PUNTENNEY, representing the Education Caucus, said that it had worked closely with many delegations over the past nine years as part of the Commission. The broad policy framework put into place for Rio also included education. The Rio Summit was the most significant environmental education event of the century. The international community must recognize and reaffirm the vital role education had to play in the future of sustainable development. Education had a role to play in all aspects of Agenda 21 and not just as part of the education chapter.

important to address questions of legitimacy. It was also important that the process be facilitated in a constructive way. Many stakeholder groups were already mounting their own preparatory work. Some of the best results in promoting sustainable development had been achieved by local authorities, communities and indigenous groups. He urged the Commission to consider an outcome that combined the commitments of governments and civil society.

Mr. CALVACANTI, of the inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety, said his organization was an innovative and flexible mechanism designed to implement the safe and sound management of toxic chemicals worldwide. The Forum was particularly mindful of the assistance required by developing countries and actively promoted the participation of local scientists and researchers in its work, as well as its educational campaigns. At the national level, his organization worked closely with many relevant United Nations agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He said that his organizations strongly recommended voluntary initiatives and bilateral or multi-lateral partnerships in the area of waste management and pesticide control.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Mr. REZA SALAMAT (Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, suggested that the Secretariat provide a "road map" of the many activities and meetings taking place in preparation for the Summit. Such a guide would be helpful to the Committee.

IHAB GAMALELDIN (Egypt) joined the representative of the Group of 77, adding that it would also be helpful if the outcomes of those meetings were presented to the Preparatory Committee as soon as possible.

Mr. ABDULEIF (Saudi Arabia) also joined the statement of the representative of the Group of 77.

BAI YONGJIE (China) said it was unacceptable that a brochure on travel arrangements to the third preparatory meeting, to be held in Indonesia, made reference to "Taiwan".

Since that meeting would be considered a United Nations event and the Organization recognized only one China, an amendment should be made to that brochure as soon as possible. Her delegation had spoken with representatives of Indonesia, who had assured her that a correction would be made.

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May 14, 2001, Monday, BC Cycle
01:52 Central European Time

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 173 words

HEADLINE: Season's first typhoon heads for southern Japan

DATELINE: Tokyo

BODY:

This year's first typhoon was expected to batter the southernmost Japanese island of Okinawa with six-metre-high waves and winds of up to 90 kilometres per hour on Monday afternoon.

The tropical storm was about 140 kilometres southwest of the island at 9 a.m. and moving northeast at 35 kilometres per hour, said the Meteorological Agency.

Typhoon Cimaron was expected to dump up to 150 milimetres of rain on the subtropical island, also the site of a major U.S. military base.

Cimaron was the Filipino word for "wild cow", said an agency spokesman.

A group of Asia-Pacific countries and territories since last year uses local languages instead of only English to name typhoons.

The 14-member Typhoon Committee is part of the U.N. **Economic and Social Commission for Asia** and the Pacific and the World Meteorological Organization.

Participants are Cambodia, China, North Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Micronesia, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States. dpa ck fz

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May 15, 2001

LENGTH: 400 words

HEADLINE: ASIA PACIFIC AWARDS: ENTRIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM INVITED

BODY:

KARACHI : The local journalists and the photographers have been invited to submit their entries for the 2000 Asia Pacific Awards for Excellence in environmental journalism and photo journalism by June 26, 2001. All journalists and photographers, the staff or free-lance can take part in the contest. They should, however, must be residents of the Asia Pacific region and work in or with the local or national media.

The main theme of the award is high quality coverage of the environment, its conservation and threats to it. The journalists are invited to submit published stories and photographs that have covered any aspect of the environment in their country or region.

The subject may include scientific research and findings; protected areas; eco-tourism; conservation; sustainable development; eco-friendly alternative products and fuels; environmental education; environmental political issues; threats to the environment; mining, logging, oil extraction and other forms of exploitation of natural resources and social issues.

The 2000 Asia-Pacific Awards for excellence in environmental journalism and photo journalist is an initiative of the Asia Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APEJ). Earlier, the awards were supported by the ADB, FNS and UN-**Escap.**

The awards are aimed to recognise the efforts of both the journalists and the photographers working on environmental issues and encourage environmental journalism across the region.

They will consider only printed articles and images published in the local print-media. Each journalist will be able to submit a minimum of five published articles or photos. These should have been published in newspapers or magazines between January 1 and December 31, 2000.

The entries including copies of photographs can be submitted by post by June 26, 2001 to Dr Dharman Wickremaatne, Chairperson, APFEJ, PO Box 26, 434/3-Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka or e-mail:<afej@srilanka.net. Ph (1) 873131 (4 lines) Fax: (1) 883187 or http:// /www.oneworld.org/slejf along with copies of the articles and photos. The entrants should submit their full name, address, phone/fax/e-mail contact numbers, dates of publication and names of newspapers/magazines.

There are two awards-one for journalism and one for photo journalism. The prize is the same for each category. The winners will be announced in September 2001.-APP

JOURNAL-CODE: WBRE

LOAD-DATE: May 15, 2001

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PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: **UN NEWSLETTER**
Page(s): 4 (*Vol. 56 number 21*)

Date: 26 May-1 June 2001

Asia-Pacific Region Prepares for Sustainable Development Summit

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations entities dealing with the environment and socio-economic issues in Asia and the Pacific have begun regional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and ADB said in a statement on 18 May that they would pool resources in organizing a series of subregional and regional consultative meetings with governments and civil society organizations.

The Summit will come a decade after the historic UN Conference on Environment and Development - known as the "Earth Summit" - in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which adopted Agenda 21 - the blueprint for sustainable development - and spawned the conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification.

Recent analyses by the three organizations all show that, despite modest progress in some areas of resource management, the environment of the Asia-Pacific region has declined seriously over the past decade, driven by increasing population and consumption patterns and continued use of polluting and wasteful technologies.

The preparatory process will aim to assess the gains made and lessons learnt since the Rio Summit and identify the human and physical resources needed to reverse the decline in region's natural ecosystems. It will propose policy initiatives that integrate poverty reduction, social development, governance and environmental improvement goals — now recognized as a critical factor for achieving sustainable development.

The first of the Global Preparatory Committee meetings - also known as "PrepComs" - was held last month at UN Headquarters. Two more are scheduled in New York early next year, leading to the final preparatory meeting for the Summit, to be held in Indonesia from 27 May to 7 June 2002. ■

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Title: POVERTY, GLOBALIZATION LEAD TO ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IN ASIA PACIFI **ESCAP**

Summary: CEBU CITY, Jun 19, 2001 (AsiaPulse via COMT -- The overall environment in the Asia Pacific regic has actually deteriorated since the Rio Conference, **ESCAP**'s Executive Secretary Mr. Kim Hak-Su on launching the State of the Environment Report in A and the Pacific 200.

Source: **Asia Pulse**
Date: 06/19/2001 05:33
Price: Free
Document Size: Very Short (less than 1 page)
Document ID: FA20010619940000169
Subject(s): Apu; Asia; Business; Chemicals; Community Conference; Conservation; Earnings; Energy; Environment; Executive; Export; GDP; India Industrial; Japan; Local; Millennium; Populat Poverty; Sewage; Thailand; Utilities; Water

POVERTY, GLOBALIZATION LEAD TO ENVIRONMENTAL

DAMAGE IN ASIA PACIFIC: ESCAP

Story Filed: Tuesday, June 19, 2001 5:33 AM EST

CEBU CITY, Jun 19, 2001 (AsiaPulse via COMTEX) -- The overall environment in the Asia Pacific region has actually deteriorated since the Rio Conference, said **ESCAP**'s Executive Secretary Mr. Kim Hak-Su on launching the State of the Environment Report in Asia and the Pacific 200.

"Environmental challenges that were identified in the 1990s continue to haunt the region and are in fact exacerbated by the emergence of new challenges linked to enhanced poverty and rapid globalization," said Mr Kim.

With the disappearance and disturbance of ecosystems, the rural population mainly the poor, are migrating in large numbers to cities.

Consequently, the urban population of the Asian and Pacific region which stood at 1.4 billion in 2000 has doubled in the last 20 years, the report stated.

"**ESCAP**'s message is a call for immediate action action that must involve all stakeholders otherwise the environment will to continue to deteriorate further at a catastrophic rate," said Mr. Kim.

"It is projected to increase by 800 million in the next 20 years. This amounts to the establishment of a new city of 150,000 people every day for the next one and a half-decade. The magnitude of the challenge is indeed daunting,"said Mr Kim unveiling **ESCAP**'s report at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT) on World Environment Day,June 5th.

Like poverty, globalization also had serious impacts on the natural resources and environment over the last decades.

It has contributed to the loss of forest and biodiversity in the pursuit of maximizing export earnings, the report stated.

Additionally, the Asian financial crisis resulting in economic and social turmoil also had adverse effects on the environment.

In many countries, environmental budgets have been reduced leading to fewer investments in conservation of resources, mitigation of environmental degradation and the development of clean technologies.

Land degradation and desertification are also on the increase.

The annual losses due to land degradation and desertification have been estimated at US$10 billion in South Asia, and US$700 million in North-East Asia.

In Central Asian countries the losses amount to 3 per cent of GDP. Almost 500 million Asians have been affected by desertification directly or indirectly.

Water quality has deteriorated steadily by a combination of factors such as uncontrolled discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, chemicals added by the agricultural run-off and undisposed human excreta.

"Is Asia heading for another crisis ? An environmental crisis?

The alarm bells are already sounding, calling for urgent attention of the international community. This is the major challenge confronting us in the new millennium, which must be squarely addressed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development next year," said Mr Kim.

ESCAP, Mr Kim said, has already undertaken some significant initiatives owards evolving a consensus on how to improve the environment.

It convened a Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in September 2000 at Kitakyushu, Japan which adopted the Regional Action Programme on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2001-2005.

The Regional Action Programme translates the shared commitments of the Conference into a focussed and concrete framework for action in eight priority areas.

One initiative, the Kitakyushu Initiative for Clean Environment adopted by the Ministers is intended to improve the urban environment primarily through local initiatives.

Funding is the key to confronting these enormous environmental challenges.

The report estimates that provision of environmental infrastructure and utilities such as water supply, sanitation, energy and transport in urban areas alone will cost around US$10 trillion in the next 25 to 30 years in the 'business as usual' scenario.

(PNA)

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Emerging Markets Datafile
THE VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW

July 23, 2001, Monday

LENGTH: 610 words

HEADLINE: Chinese dams to quell mighty Mekong floods?, THE VIETNAM INVESTMENT

BODY:
CHINESE plans to dam the upper Mekong river could help Southeast Asia cope with flooding caused by global warming, says a senior United Nations official.

Researchers say global warming threatens to increase flooding in low-lying areas of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

In recent years the Mekong River has burst its banks with ever greater force. Last year floods caused more than 500 deaths and hundreds of millions of dollars of damage across the four countries.

But planned hydro-electricity projects in China's Yunnan province are raising hopes the mighty Mekong can be tamed.

"China could really control the flow of water into the Mekong Delta region," says David Jezeph, chief of Water and Mineral Resources at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**).

"Its dams - three are built already and they're planning up to eight more - could have an impact," he says.

"China is pushing the argument that storage would mitigate high flows in

the wet season and increase dry season flows.

"The water supply in the dry season could be irrigated, and for more of the year saline water would be pushed out and that would have benefits for agriculture," he says.

Jezeph says the completed dams are too small to have any noticeable effect on the Mekong's level.

But the planned 300-metre-high Xiaowan dam, which would hold 10,000 million cubic metros, could help relieve the heavy annual flooding in the Mekong River Delta, he says.

"The Chinese are so excited about it they're even proposing that lower Mekong countries contribute to the building costs," he adds.

Jezeph says governments in the Mekong Delta region are concerned China could exert too much power over water resources.

A draft report prepared for the Asian Development Bank says the Chinese dams pose a threat to people, wildlife and water systems across the region.

But Jezeph says the lower Mekong's fishery resources - potentially worth over $1 billion a year - are not in danger because the dams were too high upstream.

Jezeph says the threat of global warming is very real.

"All models say Southeast Asia would be the hardest hit by global warming. Levels of rainfall would be higher and more prolonged, and seasons would change," he says "Most river systems coming out of the Himalayas - China and Tibet - flow towards Southeast Asia. Imagine what affect a two degree temperature rise would have on melting ice and the water flow," he said.

But global warming was an abstract concept to most people living in the region, Jezeph says.

Instead governments should concentrate on preparing their citizens to

live with flooding, he says.

"Sometimes it's not worth talking about global warming because there are millions of poor people in the region more concerned with where they'll be in three years," he says.

"The countries in the region need to cooperate and make strategic plans to learn to live with the flooding.

"Governments should be prepared, with remote sensing to warn of typhoons and better predictive models.

"Houses can then be put on stilts and better evacuation processes implemented, but dykes are not much use because they stop fertile soils coming into the flood plains," he says.

Jezeph says the nascent Mekong River Commission, which counts Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam as its members, was the best forum for managing the region's water resources.

But he says closer involvement of China is needed.

"We need China in the dialogue process," he says.

"There could be potential conflicts over water allocation, and this needs to be managed and turned into co-operation."

COUNTRY: VIETNAM
CHINA (95%); VIETNAM (89%); CAMBODIA (57%); LAOS (57%);

LOAD-DATE: July 24, 2001

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July 28, 2001, Saturday

LENGTH: 305 words

HEADLINE: China: Northeast Asian nations agree to enhance environmental protection ties

SOURCE: Xinhua news agency, Beijing, in English 1418 gmt 28 Jul 01

BODY:

Text of report in English by official Chinese news agency Xinhua (New China News Agency)

Beijing, 28 July: Six northeast Asian countries worked out new policies and measures to promote regional environmental cooperation at an international meeting in Beijing from 25 to 28 July.

Environment officials from China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russia discussed progress in regional environmental cooperation - achievements as well as problems - at the Seventh Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia.

They also talked about issues related to the core fund of the North-East Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation in an effort to support the project of technological cooperation in environmental protection.

Representatives from Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific(**ESCAP**), United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as Secretariat of UN Convention on Combating Desertification, were present at the

meeting.

During the period, the officials and the representatives, as well as invited NGO representatives, attended the Intergovernmental Meeting for North-East Asia in Preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, reviewing Agenda 21 passed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Reports adopted by the meeting will be delivered to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which is to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002.

Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia was launched by **ESCAP** in 1993, as an action to implement decisions of UNCED.

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2001

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Asia

Monday August 6, 2:40 PM

U.N. says Chinese dams could help Laos fight floods

By Dominic Whiting

Photo Gallery



Reuters Photo

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Chinese plans to dam the upper Mekong river could help Laos cope with flooding caused by global warming, a senior United Nations official said on Wednesday.

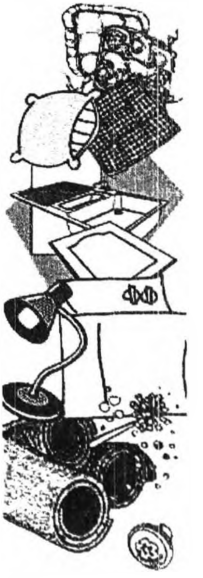
Researchers say global warming threatens to increase flooding in low-lying areas of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

In recent years the Mekong river has burst its banks with ever greater force. Last year floods caused more than 500 deaths and hundreds of millions of dollars of damage across the four countries.

But planned hydro-electricity projects in China's Yunnan province are raising hopes the mighty Mekong can be tamed.

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"China could really help control the flow of water into the lower Mekong basin," said David Jezeph, chief of Water and Mineral Resources at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

"Its dams -- two are built already and they're planning up to six more -- could have an impact," he told Reuters.

Jezeph said the completed dams were too small to have any noticeable affect on the Mekong's level.

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"The Chinese are so excited about it they're even proposing that lower Mekong countries contribute to the building costs."

Jezeph said governments in the lower Mekong basin area were concerned China could exert too much power over water resources.

A draft report prepared for the Asian Development Bank has said the Chinese dams pose a threat to people, wildlife and water systems across the region.

But Jezeph said the lower Mekong's fishery resources -- potentially worth over $1 billion a year -- were not in great danger because the dams were too high upstream.

SOUTHEAST ASIA HARDEST HIT

Jezeph said the threat of global warming was very real.

"All models say Southeast Asia would be the

hardest hit by global warming. Levels of rainfall would be higher and more prolonged, and seasons would change," he said.

"Most river systems coming out of the Himalayas -- China and Tibet -- flow towards Southeast Asia. Imagine what effect a two degree temperature rise would have on melting ice and the water flow," he said.

But global warming was an abstract concept to most people living in the region, Jezeph said.

Instead governments should concentrate on preparing their citizens to live with flooding, he said.

"Sometimes it's not worth talking about global warming because there are millions of poor people in the region more concerned with where they'll be in three years," he said.

"The countries in the region need to cooperate and make strategic plans to learn to live with the flooding.

"Governments should be prepared, with remote sensing to warn of typhoons and better predictive models.

"Houses can then be strengthened and better evacuation processes implemented, but dikes are not much use because they stop fertile soils coming into the flood plains," he said.

Jezeph said the Mekong River Commission, which counts Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam as its members, was the best forum for managing the region's water resources.

But he said, closer involvement of China was needed.
"We need China in the dialogue process," he said.

"There could be potential conflicts over water allocation, and this needs to be managed and turned into co-operation."

ReliefWeb

Email this document

Source: UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Date: 17 Aug 2001

Landslides in Thailand; why it is not too late

Press Release No. G/31/2001

For use by media; not an official record.

PREVENTION MEASURES GO LARGELY UNHEEDED

Bangkok (United Nations Information Services) --- ESCAP recommendations for flood control made some twelve years ago have largely gone unheeded, UN ESCAP's Executive Secretary Mr Kim Hak-Su said in a statement today.

"Twelve years ago southern Thailand experienced a similar type of disasters as what is going on now in the north. An ESCAP expert team at the invitation of the Government had visited the area, and made a number of recommendations. It appears that the recommended measures for prevention of such hazards elsewhere in the country have gone unheeded," said Mr Kim.

Arresting the deterioration of the forest cover, flood warning systems and a central flood authorities were among the comprehensive measures recommended.

With the northern and northeastern provinces of Thailand severely affected by heavy rainfall and associate landslides, causing considerable loss of lives and extensive damage to property, Thailand needs to revisit these safety measures. "Many other parts of Thailand face similar hazards and lessons must be learned from the past and present disasters in order to take adequate and appropriate preventive measures against such hazards," added Mr Kim.

ESCAP had recommended short-term and long-term measures, when the southern part of the country experienced extensive landslides. The ESCAP team included seven experts from five disciplines, namely, water resources and flood protection, geology, agriculture, environment, and human settlements. The team's recommendations to the Government in early January 1989 were as follows and bear relevance today.

- Deterioration of forest cover needs to be arrested and, with immediate effect, reforestation activities are recommended. Proper watershed management and appropriate agricultural practices need to be introduced. A survey of the environmental conditions at the damaged areas should also be made.

- Considering that the area is still vulnerable to similar flooding, establishment of flood forecasting and warning systems in the area should be considered. There is a definite need for more raingauges and streamgauging stations.

- Serious consideration should be given to establishment of a central flood control authority with countrywide responsibility for planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of flood control activities and works. Such a central flood control organization could be particularly effective in river basins shared by two or more provinces.

- There is a need for basin-wide development plans which would clearly indicate the priorities to be assigned to various development activities, including undertaking of reclamation activities, construction of dams, provision of bank and river protection and implementation of other flood control works. In vulnerable areas where human settlements exist a geologic map should be made to provide detailed information on the probable landslide and the associated risk to people and property.

- Consideration should be given to development of supporting information systems for environmentally sound forest management and watershed management together with a mapping system in order to make the management practices more specific to the prevailing environmental conditions. Furthermore, such information should be made available to all organizations concerned and be incorporated into the respective fields effectively in order to secure appropriate coordination of their activities.

"The lessons learned in the Surat Thani and Nakhon Si Thammarat provinces, together with the information on the landslides that caused severe damage in the North and Northeast parts of the country, can be used to aid in the early recognition of landslides hazards throughout the country. Now is not too late," said an ESCAP flood expert. (UNIS)

Top

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Title: **ESCAP** Urges Thailand to Take Lessons From I

Summary: BANGKOK, Aug 17, 2001 (Xinhua via COMT Concerned about the current flash-floods which through northern Thailand since last week, a sen United Nation official on Friday urged the count heed lessons from repeated floods during past de

Source: **Xinhua News Agency**
Date: 08/17/2001 10:51
Price: Free
Document Size: Very Short (227 words)
Document ID: FB20010817840000053
Subject(s): XIN; Asia; Executive; Flood; Government; Minister; Thailand

新华通讯社 Xinhua News Agency

ESCAP Urges Thailand to Take Lessons From Floods

Story Filed: Friday, August 17, 2001 10:51 AM EST

BANGKOK, Aug 17, 2001 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Concerned about the current flash-floods which raged through northern Thailand since last week, a senior United Nation official on Friday urged the country to heed lessons from repeated floods during past decades.

"Twelve years ago we made recommendations for Thailand when the south part of the country experienced a similar type of disasters as what is going on now in the north, but now we found all the recommended measures unheeded," said Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of the local-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), in a written statement.

Arresting the deterioration of the forest cover, flood warning systems and a central flood authorities were among the comprehensive measures **ESCAP** recommended in 1989, he said.

With the northern part of Thailand now severely affected by heavy rainfall and landslides, it is time for Thailand to revisit those measures, Kim noted.

In the most-hit Phetchabun province, 340 kilometers north of Bangkok, authorities have calculated the overall damages caused by the recent flash floods which killed 112 people at more than 2.2 million U.S. dollars.

Government Spokesman Yongyuth Tiyapairat said Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had repeatedly ordered related officials to ensure that relief packages including monetary assistance reach the hands of victims.

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PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

Press/Media: Matichon	Date: 18 August 2001
Page(s): 20	

Summary

เอสแคปเตือนภัยมากว่า12ปี

ดร.นฤ.คิม ฮา-ซู เลขาธิการสำนักงานคณะกรรมการบริหารเศรษฐกิจและสังคมสำหรับเอเชียและแปซิฟิก(เอสแคป) เผยว่า ทางเอสแคปเคยเสนอมาตรการต่างๆ ให้รัฐบาลไทยแก้ปัญหาเรื่องการป้องกันน้ำท่วมในภาคต่างๆ มานานหลายปีแล้ว แต่รัฐบาลไทยไม่ได้สนองตอบ ส่วนมาตรการต่างๆ ที่เอสแคปเคยเสนอให้รัฐบาลไทยแก้ปัญหาเรื่องน้ำท่วม อาทิ จับกุมผู้ลักลอบตัดไม้ทำลายป่า บริหารจัดการเรื่องน้ำให้เหมาะสม สำรวจสภาพแวดล้อมต่างๆ ที่ถูกทำลายเพื่อหาทางแก้ไข พิจารณาพื้นที่ที่เคยถูกน้ำท่วมบ่อยๆ พร้อมจัดตั้งระบบเตือนภัยให้กับชาวบ้าน จัดตั้งศูนย์ควบคุมและแก้ปัญหาเรื่องน้ำท่วมอย่างเป็นระบบ รวมทั้งพัฒนาระบบแจ้งข้อมูลข่าวสารเรื่องน้ำท่วมให้ทันสมัย

ESCAP warned of danger more than twelve year ago.

Mr. Kim Ha-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP reveals that ESCAP had proposed to the Thai government at twelve years ago of several measures for prevention of floods in different regions, but the Thai government did not take heed. The measures were such as arresting illegal loggers, appropriate water management, survey of environmentally damaged areas and rehabilitation, established in the flood prone areas an early warning system, establish a systematical flood control center and find solutions for flood problems as well as development of a modern flood information system.

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August 18, 2001, Saturday, BC Cycle
03:34 Central European Time

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 420 words

HEADLINE: U.N. blasts Thailand for ignoring flood control advice

DATELINE: Bangkok

BODY:

The United Nations has blasted Thailand for ignoring its advice on flood prevention given some 12 years ago after nationwide floods and landslides this week claimed at least 147 lives, sources in the Bangkok office said Saturday.

The executive secretary of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for the Asia-Pacific (**ESCAP**), Kim Hak-Su, said the office's recommendations for flood control, made after catastrophic floods in 1988, had largely gone unheeded.

Heavy rains in northern Thailand caused flash floods and mudslides in Petchabun province last weekend that killed at least 114 people. The floods have been blamed largely on deforestation on the neighbouring Khor mountain range and lack of a proper warning system for people living in the area.

Elsewhere, widespread flooding has claimed another 33 lives in northern and northeastern Thailand this week and caused more than 580 million baht (12.9 million dollars) in damage to public and private property.

The death toll from the floods has been Thailand's highest since 1988, when a massive mudslide and floods in the southern provinces of Nakorn Sri Thammarat and Surat Thani claimed more than 200 lives.

"Twelve years ago southern Thailand experienced a similar type of disaster as what is going on now in the north," said Kim.

"An **ESCAP** expert team, at the invitation of the government, had visited the area and made a number of recommendations. It appears that the recommended measures for prevention of such hazards elsewhere in the country have gone unheeded."

The recommendations included arresting the deterioration of the forest cover, flood warning systems and setting up a central flood authority.

"Many other parts of Thailand face similar hazards, and lessons must be learned from the past and present disasters in order to take adequate and appropriate preventive measures against such hazards," said Kim.

According to **ESCAP's** experts, to prevent future flash floods in the kingdom, the deterioration of the forest cover needs to be arrested and reforestation activities pursued.

Also, watershed management and agricultural practices need to be improved, and the establishment of flood forecasting and warning systems in vulnerable areas should be considered.

"There is a definite need for more rain gauges and stream gauging stations," said the **ESCAP** chief.

Thailand introduced a ban on granting new timber concession following the 1988 floods, but illict deforestation remains rampant. dpa pj fz

LOAD-DATE: August 18, 2001

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

Press Media: Kaosod Page(s): 1013	Date: 18 August 2001

Summary

เอสแคปจวกไทยเตือนแล้วไม่ฟัง

วันเสาร์วันที่กระทรวงการคลัง นายคมไชนิก เอสระ-ดุล-ปลัดกระทรวงการคลัง กล่าวว่า ตามที่กระทรวงการคลังได้ตั้งศูนย์รับบริจาคช่วยเหลือผู้ประสบภัยน้ำท่วมในขณะนี้มีผู้บริจาคเงิน และส่งของมายังศูนย์รับบริจาคในช่วงวันที่ 14-17 ส.ค.เป็นจำนวนเงิน 21,747,239 บาท พร้อมทั้งสิ่งของอุปโภคบริโภคจำนวนมาก

ขณะเดียวกันสำนักข่าวเอพี รายงานว่า นายคิม ฮัก-ซู ผู้บริหารคณะกรรมการเศรษฐกิจและสังคมของสหประชาชาติ สาคพื้นเอเชีย-แปซิฟิก (เอสแคป) กล่าวว่า เมื่อ 12 ปีก่อนหลังจากที่ไทยประสบกับสถานการณ์น้ำท่วมเฉียบพลันในจังหวัดนครศรีธรรมราช จนทำให้มีผู้เสียชีวิต 317 ราย ทางเอสแคปได้จัดทำข้อเสนอแนะแก่ทางการไทยเพื่อเตรียมป้องกันไม่ให้โศกนาฏกรรมเช่นนี้เกิดซ้ำขึ้นมาอีก อาทิ การหยุดตั้งการทำลายหน้าดินที่ยกลุมป่า, การจัดตั้งระบบเตือนภัยอุทกภัย และการจัดตั้งหน่วยงานรับมืออุทกภัยส่วนกลาง แต่ข้อเสนอแนะเหล่านี้ถูกมองข้าม จน

ปัจจุบันทำให้เกิดโศกนาฏกรรมร้ายขึ้นมาอีกทางพื้นที่ตอนเหนือและตะวันออกเฉียงเหนือของไทย

The newspaper quoted an AP's report saying that Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP said that twelve years ago Thailand was faced with a flash flood at Nakhon Sri Thammarat and the number of deaths was 317.

In this regard, ESCAP had made a set of recommendations to the Thai government to prevent the recurrence of the tragedy. The measures were such as stopping the destructing of the soil surface, establishing an early warning system of floods and establish a center to manage flood situations.

However, that set of recommendations were not taken heed.

RESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):
ress/Media: BANGKOK POST Date: 19 August 2001
age(s):3 *(Home)*

Old flood lessons still apply

Revisit findings from 1989, says Escap

Escap has urged Thailand to revisit findings on flood control made by experts 12 years ago that have largely gone unheeded.

Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, said a team of Escap experts in 1989 was invited by the government to visit southern Thailand when it was hit by flooding similar to that which has now hit the North.

Arresting deterioration of forest cover, flood warning systems, and central flood authorities were among measures urged, he said. With the northern and northeastern provinces severely affected by heavy rainfall and associated landslides, Thailand needed to revisit the measures.

"Many parts of Thailand face similar hazards and lessons must be learned to take adequate and appropriate preventive measures," said Mr Kim.

The Escap team included experts from five disciplines: water resources and flood protection, geology, agriculture, environment, and human settlements.

The team's findings in 1989 included:

◆ Arrest deterioration of forest cover and begin reforestation activities.

◆ Set up flood forecasting and warning systems, put in more rain and lake gauges.

◆ Set up a central flood control authority with nationwide responsibility for planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of flood control activities and works.

◆ Draw up basin-wide development plans indicating priorities given to various activities, including reclamation, construction of dams, provision of bank and river protection, and other flood control works.

◆ Form a geologic map in vulnerable areas where settlements exist to provide detail on landslide risks.

"The lessons learned in Surat Thani and Nakhon Si Thammarat provinces can help with early recognition of landslide hazards nationwide. Now is not too late," said an Escap flood expert.

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新华通讯社 Xinhua News Agency

Title: Inter-Regional Symposium on Flood-Reduction Bangkok

Summary: BANGKOK, Aug 27, 2001 (Xinhua via COMT Over 100 weather experts from nearly 30 countr around the world met here Monday, kicking off day symposium on how to reduce water-related disasters and quicken response towards floods.

Source: **Xinhua News Agency**
Date: 08/27/2001 07:42
Price: Free
Document Size: Very Short (314 words)
Document ID: FB20010827210000048
Subject(s): XIN; Asia; Bangladesh; Flood; Policy; Pov Property; United Nations; Water; Weather

新华通讯社 Xinhua News Agency

Inter-Regional Symposium on Flood-Reduction Held in Bangkok

Story Filed: Monday, August 27, 2001 7:42 AM EST

BANGKOK, Aug 27, 2001 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Over 100 weather experts from nearly 30 countries around the world met here Monday, kicking off a five-day symposium on how to reduce water-related disasters and quicken response towards floods.

"This meeting is perceived as an important step in reinforcing our regional efforts to assist countries in mitigating water-related disasters," said Kim Hak-Su, chief of the local-based United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) in his address at the opening

session.

The conference is cosponsored by **ESCAP**, U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

Exchange of experiences in flood-reduction among the regions is important for Asian countries in the wake of the increasing intensity of these disasters in recent years, as annual floods accompanied by cyclones have caused a loss of life and property and severely affected large populations in the region, Kim said.

He said in some worst cases, for example, in 1991 about 140,000 people were killed during a flash-flood in Bangladesh.

"I should highlight two facts. One, the poor were most affected by water-related disasters; and two, most such disasters were caused by global warming," said the U.N. regional head.

Therefore, he noted that while the global warming required enhancement of international cooperation, the linkage between disaster-reduction and poverty alleviation asked for the involvement of all stakeholders, at the local, national and regional levels.

During the meeting between Monday and Friday, participants are expected to discuss various issues concerned with regional capacities to manage water-related disasters, socioeconomic factors in disaster-reduction, and creating and sustaining integrated flood-drought forecast programs.

They will also come up with related recommendations, policy guidelines and project proposals at the end of the symposium.

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WORLD NEWS

BERNAMA

August 28 , 2001 10:22AM

Asia-Pacific Experts Begin Talks On Global Warming

KITAKYUSHU, Japan, Aug 28 (Oana-Kyodo) -- Climate experts from some 20 Asia-Pacific nations and international organisations began a four-day seminar on Tuesday in Kitakyushu, southwestern Japan, to discuss ways to curb global warming in the region.

About 40 experts mostly from developing countries such as China and Indonesia as well as from the U.N. Environment Programme and other international bodies will share their scientific knowledge and discuss how to help developing countries adapt to climate change at the 11th Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change.

Participants will also introduce examples of regional cooperation and measures to mitigate global warming implemented by local governments.

The event, which has been held since 1991, is sponsored this year by Japan's Environment Ministry, local governments and the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

A related event, a one-day symposium aimed at changing people's views on the environment, will be held in the Fukuoka Prefecture city on Saturday.

--Oana-Kyodo

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PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST Date: 28 August 2001

Page(s): 4 *(Home)*

Flooding blamed for huge economic losses in Asia

Escap seeks ways to cushion disasters

Anjira Assavanonda

Floods and landslides have affected vast numbers of people all over Asia this year and caused millions of dollars in economic loss, an Escap seminar was told yesterday.

Organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the conference runs till Aug 31 and is being attended by 120 delegates finding ways of mitigating the impact of water-related disasters.

"Floods and other water-related disasters continue to destabilise socio-economic conditions in the Asia and Pacific region," said Kim Hak Su, Escap executive secretary.

Citing the World Disasters Report 2001, Mr Kim said 90% of those killed in disasters lost their lives in water-related incidents and the poor were the most severely affected.

He said annual floods accompanied by cyclones have caused great loss of life and property in the region.

In 1998, over 4,000 people were killed and total damage of more than US$23 billion affected nearly 50 million people in Bangladesh, China, South Korea and Vietnam.

Last year's massive flooding in the Mekong delta killed 448 people, caused an economic loss of US$275 million and affected millions of lives in Cambodia and Vietnam.

On the other extreme, drought had a severe socio-economic impact in many countries in the region, such as the worst drought in 74 years occurring in Tajikistan in 2000, which left nearly two million people facing hunger and malnutrition.

Salvano Briceño, director of the UN Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), reported the past decade saw a 10% annual increase in economic loss due to disasters.

Despite major advances in scientific and technical knowledge, as well as multi-sectoral co-operation, the number and cost of natural disasters continue to rise.

This was a result of the increasingly degraded natural environment and ever larger population and economic assets moving into disaster-prone areas.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S)

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST**

Date: 28 August 2001

Page(s): 4 *(Home)*

In order to reduce environmental, human, economic and social losses from the disasters, Mr Briceno suggested four solutions including increasing public awareness through media and the school system, obtaining commitment from public authorities, stimulating inter-disciplinary and intersectoral partnership, and improving further the scientific knowledge concerning the causes and effects of natural disasters.

Key strategies introduced at the seminar included risk assessment, legislation at local, national and international levels, land use planning, integration of disaster prevention into national planning, decentralisation of budgetary resources to localities, early warning systems, as well as emergency response to ensure quick mobilisation of sufficient resources.

◆ Flood prevention measures and warning systems nationwide will be improved amid weather forecasts of more rain next month, Deputy Prime Minister Suvit Khunkitti said.

Mr Suvit has called a meeting of representatives from all disaster-related agencies to identify areas prone to floods, landslides and other natural disasters nationwide and work out preventive measures.

The Meteorological Department and concerned agencies have been told to urgently upgrade warning systems in the North to cope with an expected increase in rainwater there next month, which is likely to result in runoffs in the Central Plains.

BBC

Japan: Asia-Pacific experts begin talks on global warming

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political; London; Aug 28, 2001;

Start Page: 1
Dateline: JAPAN
Abstract:
About 40 experts mostly from developing countries such as China and Indonesia as well as from the UN Environment Programme and other international bodies will share their scientific knowledge and discuss how to help developing countries adapt to climate change at the 11th Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change.

Full Text:
Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 0029 28 Aug 01/BBC Monitoring/(c) BBC

Text of report in English by Japanese news agency Kyodo

Kitakyushu, Japan, 28 August: Climate experts from some 20 Asia-Pacific nations and international organizations began a four-day seminar on Tuesday [28 August] in Kitakyushu, southwestern Japan, to discuss ways to curb global warming in the region.

About 40 experts mostly from developing countries such as China and Indonesia as well as from the UN Environment Programme and other international bodies will share their scientific knowledge and discuss how to help developing countries adapt to climate change at the 11th Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change.

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A related event, a one-day symposium aimed at changing people's views on the environment, will be held in the Fukuoka Prefecture city on Saturday.

1 of 7 DOCUMENTS

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August 29, 2001 Wednesday 5:18 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 241 words

HEADLINE: Thailand's flood toll rises to 170 as UN holds disaster conference

DATELINE: BANGKOK, Aug 29

BODY:

The death toll from floods that have ravaged northern Thailand in recent weeks has risen to 170, officials said Wednesday as the UN held a regional meeting on water-related disasters.

In the hardest-hit province of Phetchabun, where flash floods claimed 126 lives two weeks ago, 11 people are still listed as missing, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The floods have affected some 1.7 million people in 35 provinces, forcing 6,407 from their homes and causing damage estimated at more than 1.4 billion baht (31.7 million dollars).

Houses, farmland, livestock and roads have been claimed by floodwaters which have also wracked other countries in the region, prompting the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) to hold a regional meeting.

The Inter-regional Seminar on Water-Related Disaster Reduction and Response this week brings together 120 experts and disaster relief organisations who will draw up plans to lessen the devastation wrought by floods.

"Floods and other water-related disasters continue to destabilize the socio-economic conditions in the Asia and Pacific region," said **ESCAP** executive secretary Kim Hak-Su in a statement.

"We witness this in Thailand and India, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people," he said.

The conference aims to improve cooperation among countries facing flood disasters and share "best practices" in dealing with their effects.

LOAD-DATE: August 29, 2001

2.2 High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bali, Indonesia 21-24 November 2001

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST** Date: 24 October 2000

Page(s): 2 (*Outlook*)



Kim Hak-Su (left), executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN/Escap) is about to shake hands with Indonesian Ambassador Sutria Tubagus following their signing of a host country agreement for a high-level regional meeting on energy for sustainable development, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from November 21 to 24. The meeting is expected to come up with a regional strategy.

ss/Media: NewsEdge
e(s):
Date: 12 November 2000

11/22/2000 03:06:39

Asia Pacific to be world's largest energy-consumer in ten years:

UN

JAKARTA, Nov 22 (AFP) - Asia and the Pacific will overtake

western countries as the world's largest energy-consuming region in ten years time, a United Nations official said Wednesday.

"Demand for energy services is bound to grow and current projections estimate an annual growth rate of 3.4 percent," said Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**).

"In 10 years that will make Asia Pacific the largest energy-consuming region in the world," Kim said at the opening of a meeting on the region's energy and sustainable development in Indonesia's resort island of Bali.

Kim said it was estimated that by 2005 the annual investment requirements of the energy sector in East Asia alone would be in the range of 150 to 200 billion dollars.

UN figures indicate that while the world's primary energy consumption had increased by 1.6 percent annually during the past 25 years, the Asia Pacific region recorded an increase of 2.5 percent per year.

tn/kw/ben

AFP

AFPviaNewsEDGE

KEYWORDS: Asia-energy

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1 6 NOV 2000

THE INDONESIAN OBSERVER

Bali to host talks on sustainable energy

JAKARTA (IO) — Regional strategies for the promotion of sustainable energy sources in the Asia-Pacific region will be the focus of a meeting to be held in Bali from November 21-24.

The meeting, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will be hosted by the government. It is expected to formulate an action program to address sustainable energy issues.

Vice President Megawati Soekarnoputri will open the high level segment of the meeting on November 23.

Among the key participants at the event will be ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su and Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro

More than 200 participants from approximately 35 countries are expected to attend the four-day meeting to be held at the Bali International Conference Center in Denpasar.

Organizers see sufficient, clean and affordable energy as an essential precondition for sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

"Of the 1.8 billion people in the world who are deprived of the minimum needs of energy services, a majority live in the ESCAP region," said Kim Hak-Su.

"There is a vicious circle in which a lack of required energy in terms of quality and quantity leads to poverty, which in turn leads to a reduction in or even denial of access to existing sources of energy, leading to greater poverty."

The meeting will consist of two segments: a meeting of senior officials from November 21-22 and a high-level or ministerial segment from November 23-24.

A symposium of non-governmental organizations will be held in conjunction with the meeting over November

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HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING
ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION
Bali, 21-24 November 2000

KLIPING HARIAN BERITA SURAT KABAR

MEDIA: ..BALI..POS..... TANGGAL: 21... November 2000

Kontrak Karya Energi Selalu Rugikan Indonesia

Denpasar (Bali Post) -

Investasi proyek penyediaan energi yang dilakukan negara maju selalu merugikan negera berkembang. Misalnya, kontrak karya sejumlah proyek energi selalu merugikan Indonesia. Hal ini terjadi karena di dalam kontrak yang dikerjakan konsultan asing tidak terdapat perlindungan hukum bagi Indonesia.

Demikian disampaikan Dirjen Listrik dan Pengembangan Energi Endro Utomo Notodisurvo ketika konferensi pers *Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pasific* (ESCAP) *High-Level Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development* di Bali International Concention Centre (BICC) Sheraton Nusa Dua, Senin (20/11) kemarin.

Diakui Endro, kontrak karya seperti itu banyak dibuat di era orde baru. Tidak ada satupun klausul yang bisa melindungi pihak-pihak terkait dimana investasi tersebut berada. Sedangkan investor mendapat jaminan perlindungan sepenuhnya.

Endro juga menjelaskan, dalam kontrak karya dengan operator perminyakan, Indonesia hanya mendapat 85% dari 60% harga resminya, sedangkan 40% merupakan biaya. Seharusnya biaya tersebut bisa ditekan sehingga bisa mendapat keuntungan lebih. Misalnya, dengan menggunakan SDM dan peralatan milik Indonesia. Namun mereka tidak mau. Bagi mereka, semakin tinggi biaya berarti semakin tinggi keuntungan yang diperoleh.

Dalam rangka memperjuangkan hal tersebut, kata dia, ESCAP yang berada di bawah naungan PBB akan mencoba membicarakan hal tersebut. "Kami akan minta kepada penyandang dana atau PBB bila memberikan proyek di negara berkembang tidak hanya kepada negara maju, negara berkembang juga bisa mengerjakannya."

Listrik

Sedangkan masalah kelistrikan terkait dengan semangat otonomi daerah, lanjutnya, perusahaan listrik di daerah diharapkan lebih kuat dan mampu me[nang]gguk keuntungan. B[i]dang kelistrikan bisa men[da]pat untung yang cuku[p] banyak, misalnya PLN per[nah] untung 1,2 Trilyun ta[hun] 1996, sebelum akhirn[ya] merugi sampai Rp 11 tri[lyun] tahun 1999.

"Nantinya PLN di daer[ah] bisa merancang sendi[ri] pemasaran listrik dan me[n]entukan siapa yang akan menjadi pemasok buat me[n]uhi permintaan pelanggan di daerahnya," kata dia.

Sementara itu pertemuan tingkat menteri tersebut rencananya akan dibuka Wakil Presiden Megawati Soekarnoputri Kamis (23/11) dengan didahului pertemuan tingkat pejabat senior mulai Selasa (21/11) ini dan merupakan pertemuan pertama yang diharapkan dapat menghasilkan berbagai kesepakatan mengenai upaya peningkatan kerja sama guna mengatasi kesenjangan akses sumber energi. Selain itu untuk meningkatkan kerja sama dalam pengelolaan dan pengembangan energi berkesinambungan. Acara ini diikuti 52 negara anggota ESCAP dan 14 wakil dari organisasi internasional dan LSM.

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HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING
ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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KLIPING HARIAN BERITA SURAT KABAR

MEDIA: ...BALI SUN..... TANGGAL: ..22. November 2000

Bali region to control power

UNDER autonomy, which Bali will receive next year, it will make it's own decisions on electricity supply.

The deputy dirctor of Indonesias Electricity Supplier PLN Mr. Endro Prijono said that each autonomous region had the opportunity on decisions for their own sustainable energy.

He said that each region would have the power to decide on which investors or which electrical system better suited local conditions.

Mr. Prijono was speaking at an international conference on sustainable energy which is being held at the Bali International Convention Centre at Nusa Dua.

The conference - The Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific - is a high level meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development which is being attended by the Indonesian Vice-President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

The conference is also being attended by 54 Asian and Pacific countries and 14 international organisations.

Mr. Prijono told the conference that the regional government would control its own energy requirement without any intrusion from the Jakarta government.

He said that electricity had become a political issue and there had be conflicts of interest within government.

HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING
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KLIPING HARIAN BERITA SURAT KABAR

MEDIA: .....KOMPAS..... TANGGAL: ..22. November 2000

Pengelolaan SDA Sebagian Diserahkan ke Daerah

Nusa Dua, Kompas

Menteri Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral Dr Purnomo Yusgiantoro mengatakan, sebagian pengelolaan sumber energi akan diserahkan kepada daerah dalam rangka pelaksanaan otonomi daerah tahun 2001.

"Departemen Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral akan melimpahkan wewenangnya terutama dalam bidang pertambangan umum ke daerah, antara lain batu bara," kata Purnomo Yusgiantoro seusai memberikan sambutan pada "Pertemuan Regional Tingkat Tinggi Asia Pasifik tentang Energi bagi Pembangunan Berkelanjutan di Nusa Dua, Bali, Selasa (21/11).

Namun, sumber energi batu bara itu keberadaannya tidak merata di seluruh wilayah Indonesia, sehingga daerah lain yang tidak memiliki batu bara disarankan untuk menggali seoptimal mungkin sumber daya alam yang ada di daerahnya. Potensi batu bara saat ini baru terdapat di Sumatera Selatan, Kalimantan Timur, Kalimantan Selatan, dan Sumatera.

Tentang kesiapan daerah dalam pengelolaan sumber energi, khususnya batu bara, Purnomo mengatakan, pihaknya kini tengah melakukan sosialisasi ke seluruh wilayah di Indonesia, khususnya mengenai kewenangan dan pedoman teknis.

"Dari sosialisasi tersebut akan diketahui seberapa jauh daerah mampu mengelola SDA-nya. Jika mereka sudah mampu dan mandiri, silakan segera mengelola sumber energi itu untuk mendukung pembangunan berkelanjutan di daerah masing-masing," jelasnya.

Ditambahkan, persediaan minyak bumi di Indonesia saat ini cukup untuk jangka waktu 10 tahun mendatang. Jika pemerintah berhasil menggali beberapa cadangan minyak bumi di Tanah Air, maka persediaan minyak bumi di Indonesia cukup untuk memenuhi kebutuhan 20 tahun mendatang.

Sumber energi batu bara diperkirakan mampu memenuhi kebutuhan masyarakat sampai seratus tahun lagi, sedangkan panas bumi—merupakan cadangan terbesar panas bumi di dunia—mampu memenuhi kebutuhan energi sampai 10 tahun mendatang. (sig)

11/22/2000 08:57:54

Nov. 22-MAR-- Kuwait, Saudis to raise medium-heavy crude supply to Asia

In 2001 Singapore--Nov. 22--0048 ET--Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will raise their term crude supply volumes of medium and heavy crude in 2001 to Japan, China and Taiwan, following OPEC's increased output four times this year. Kuwait will raise the existing contract volumes to Japan, while starting new contracts with China and Taiwan. Saudi Arabia will also increase the volumes to China while revising the current contracts with Japan and Korea, industry sources said. (Story .11292)

Asia Pacific to be world's largest energy-consumer in ten years: UN Jakarta--Nov. 22--0310 ET--Asia and the Pacific will overtake western countries as the world's largest energy-consuming region in ten years time, a United Nations official said Wednesday. "Demand for energy services is bound to grow and current projections estimate an annual growth rate of 3.4 percent," said Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**). (Story .12445)

India for more support from developed nations in energy sector New Delhi--Nov. 22--0336 ET--Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee Wednesday sought greater support from the developed nations in the energy sector to meet the rising domestic requirements for clean energy sources. Developed countries have access to technology, financial resources and expertise, while the developing countries offer an expanding market for energy sources, Vajpayee said. (Story .12698)

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11/23/2000 04:10:48

Asia Pacific to be world's largest energy-consumer in ten years/ UN

Agence France Presse via NewsEdge Corporation : JAKARTA, Nov 22 (AFP) - Asia and the Pacific will overtake western countries as the world's largest energy-consuming region in ten years time, a United Nations official said Wednesday.

"Demand for energy services is bound to grow and current projections estimate an annual growth rate of 3.4 percent," said Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**).

"In 10 years that will make Asia Pacific the largest energy-consuming region in the world," Kim said at the opening of a meeting on the region's energy and sustainable development in Indonesia's resort island of Bali/

Kim said it was estimated that by 2005 the annual investment requirements of the energy sector in East Asia alone would be in the range of 150 to 200 billion dollars.

UN figures indicate that while the world's primary energy consumption had increased by 1.6 percent annually during the past 25 years, the Asia Pacific region recorded an increase of 2.5 percent per year.

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Press/Media: **Far Eastern Economic Review**
Page(s): 36
Date: 23 November 2000

Energizing Asia's Growth



By Kim Hak-Su

The writer, a United Nations under-secretary-general, is executive secretary of the Bangkok-based United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The issue of cleaner energy has great significance in developing countries as the way energy is harnessed and consumed can take a terrible toll on the environment. It is in developing countries that the opportunities for the application of sustainable energy options are the greatest, but where the barriers are also numerous. How can Asia fuel its growth with least cost to the environment? That is a question that may be answered in Bali this month at a conference on energy for sustainable development, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Without a doubt governments, businessmen and non-governmental organizations meeting in Bali will have one thing in mind: how to finance the big bill that cleaner energy entails. As one expert wrote in a preconference paper: "A sustainable energy future is the optimist's answer to the pessimist's view of the future of energy and the environment. While the pessimist tends to view an energy future in which energy consumption levels are increasing unabated and environment-polluting fossil fuels continue to dominate the energy fuel mix, the optimist envisions continuing innovation in energy technologies that will enhance efficient use of energy and promote carbon-free energy sources."

Developing countries must view energy problems with urgency. Between 1987 and 1997, energy consumption in

"The poor in rural areas suffer from a lack of access to cleaner energy . . . and many urban poor also lack access to modern energy services"

the Asia-Pacific region grew 4.5% annually, compared to a world average of 1.5%. It is estimated that energy demand will grow 3.4% annually from 1997 to 2010. At this rate of growth, our region will become the largest energy-consuming region in the world by 2010.

The poor in rural areas are suffering from a lack of access to cleaner energy. Between 1970 and 1990, almost 800 million people in the Asia-Pacific region's rural areas gained access to electricity. At the same time, however, the rural population grew by almost 700 million people. In spite of the efforts made, 1.3 billion people in rural areas of the region are still without access to the most basic, modern energy service. Many urban poor also lack access to modern energy services.

Noncommercial energy consumption among the poor consists mainly of biomass, such as wood, agricultural waste and animal dung, and is therefore based on renewable energy sources. This does not mean, however, that it is used in a sustainable way. In many cases, this energy is used inefficiently, resulting in deforestation and desertification. It also causes indoor air pollution affecting women and children. The time spent collecting fuel represents a further loss in effort and hence retards rural development. As such, our region has a huge potential for increased utilization of modern renewable energy. The transfer of energy-efficient technologies is vital to further this process.

Beyond this, one-third of the energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region currently is met by oil, and prevailing high oil prices certainly are having an impact on economies struggling to recover from the Asian Crisis. Fuel diversification is one way to reduce dependency, and by that the vulnerability to price fluctuations. Indeed, increasing the share of indigenous, renewable energy resources in the energy mix will also reduce the dependency on imported fuels.

According to a United Nations Development Programme publication, Asia-Pacific governments' subsidies for conventional energy, mainly oil and electricity, amounted to $250-300 billion per year in the mid-1990s. The subsidies may help to ensure disadvantaged groups' access to energy services, but in general they do not support low-level consumers such as the poor (who don't use much energy), nor do they present an incentive to improve efficiency.

By 2005, the annual investment requirement of the energy industry in East Asia alone will be between $150 billion and $200 billion. It is not enough for Asia-Pacific leaders to call for help from the international community to attain sustainable energy development goals. They need to take steps to strengthen their strategic energy-sector policies, and integrate them into their overall economic, social and environmental policies. For poorer parts of Asia, the key is to focus more intensely on the efficient use of renewable energy. Hence, we will all do well to call for a level playing field, in terms of financing, between renewable-energy technologies and heavily subsidized conventional fuels. Moreover, we need to look into a more supportive institutional legal framework to ease market penetration and expansion of renewable-energy technologies. ■

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Bali, 21-24 November 2000

KLIPING HARIAN BERITA SURAT KABAR

MEDIA: THE JAKARTA POST TANGGAL: 23 November 2000

Asia to lead in energy use

JAKARTA (AFP): Asia and the Pacific will overtake western countries as the world's largest energy-consuming region in 10 years time, a United Nations official said on Wednesday.

"Demand for energy services is bound to grow and current projections estimate an annual growth rate of 3.4 percent," said Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

"In 10 years that will make Asia Pacific the largest energy-consuming region in the world," Kim said at the opening of a meeting on the region's energy and sustainable development in Indonesia's resort island of Bali.

Kim said it was estimated that by 2005 the annual investment requirements of the energy sector in East Asia alone would be in the range of $150 billion to $200 billion.

UN figures indicate that while the world's primary energy consumption had increased by 1.6 percent annually during the past 25 years, the Asia Pacific region recorded an increase of 2.5 percent per year.

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KLIPING HARIAN BERITA SURAT KABAR

MEDIA: ....BISNIS INDONESIA.... TANGGAL: ..24.. November 2000

Investasi energi akan capai US$200 miliar

NUSA DUA (Bisnis): Menteri Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral, Purnomo Yusgiantoro mengatakan pada 20 ta[illegible] mendatang pemenuhan kebutuhan energi di negara berkembang termasuk Indonesia memerlukan investasi sekitar US$200 miliar.

Menurutnya lebih dari dua miliar orang atau sepertiga dari penduduk dunia saat ini masih tergantung pada energi tradisional karena belum memiliki akses terhadap sumber energi komersil.

"Namun pada 20 tahun mendatang diperkirakan penduduk di negeri berkembang termasuk Indonesia akan sangat tergantung pada sumber energi komersial, itu berarti diperlukan tambahan investasi sedikitnya US$200 miliar, " ujarnya pada pertemuan Tingkat Pejabat Senior, yang dihadiri utusan dari 52 anggota ESCAP dan 14 LSM Internasional di sini kemarin.

Menurut dia, pemanfaatan energi di negara-negara anggota ESCAP saat ini memang masih sangat rendah yakni baru mencapai 40%, pemanfaatan minyak 40% dan gas baru 20%.

"Kami berharap selain gas energi yang bersih akan menjadi sorotan utama dalam pertemuan ini. Sebab 10 tahun mendatang pemanfaatan energi akan semakin banyak tidak seperti yang terjadi 10 tahun lalu dan membutuhkan e[illegible]gi yang lain," katanya.

Purnomo mengatakan saat ini dan kedepan bantuan negara maju dalam bentuk Official Development Asistance (ODA) tetap penting meski ada kecenderungan bertambahnya pebiayaan pembangunan infrastruktur dari pemerintah, BUMN, maupun lembaga keuangan internasional kepembiayaan swasta baik domestik maupun internasional.

Terlebih lagi dalam laporan Dewan Pembangunan PBB (UNDP), Departemen Ekonomi dan Sosial Kantor Sekjen PBB (UNDESA) dan Dewan Energi dunia (BEC), lanjut dia, menyebutkan bahwa lebih dari dua miliar orang belum memiliki akses terhadap sumber energi komersil dan mereka itu masih tinggal di dunia ketiga.

Menurut dia akibat terburuk dari kurang aksesnya masyarakat dunia terhadap pelayanan sumber energi yang terjangkau dan tidak meratanya distribusi energi, dapat menyebabkan semakin meningkatnya jumlah angka kemiskinan, serta terjadinya degradasi lingkungan hidup.

Purnomo menjelaskan, permintaan energi dasar di negara-negara maju, hingga kini baru mencapai 60% dari total kebutuhan energi dunia. Sedangkan 88% dari konsumsi energi dunia berasal dari sumber energi fosil. (dw)

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MEDIA: ..BALI POST..... TANGGAL: 24.... November 2000

Megawati: Energi Dominasi Sumber Pembiayaan Pembangunan

Denpasar (Bali Post) -

Indonesia tidak pernah sepenuhnya terlepas dari peran energi. Sebagai sumber pembiayaan, energi memainkan peran dominan dalam komposisi pada anggaran belanja pembangunan -- APBN. Saat Indonesia mengalami kesulitan terbesar dalam perekonomian, energi tetap menjadi salah satu harapan untuk menopang program-program pemulihan ekonomi.

Hal tersebut disampaikan Wapres Megawati Soekarnoputri, pada pembukaan Pertemuan Tingkat Mentri *Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pasific* (ESCAP) tentang Energi untuk Pembangunan yang Berkelanjutan di Bali International Concention Centre (BICC) Sheraton Nusa Dua, Kamis malam (23/11) kemarin. Pertemuan yang didahului pertemuan tingkat pejabat senior, Selasa (21/11) dan berlangsung hingga, Jumat (24/11) ini. Pertemuan diikuti 52 negara anggota ESCAP dan 14 wakil dari organisasi internasional dan LSM.

"Di tengah melemahnya daya beli sebagian besar rakyat, merancang kebijakan agar pemenuhan kebutuhan energi tidak semakin menambah beban mereka merupakan hal yang benar-benar pelik. Sebab, hal ini hampir sama artinya dengan keputusan untuk menyatakan segala investasi bagi pembangun infrastruktur penyediaan energi—terutama di kalangan rakyat yang telah melemah daya belinya — sebagai biaya sosial," paparnya



Bali Post/09

BUKA ESCAP — *Wapres Megawati Soekarnoputri memukul gong ketika membuka Pertemuan Tingkat Mentri Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pasific (ESCAP) tentang Energi untuk Pembangunan yang Berkelanjutan di Nusa Dua, Kamis malam (23/11) kemarin.*

sembari berharap, forum ini bisa mengidentifikasi lngkah-langkah yang diperlukan untuk mewujudkan pengembangan dan pemanfaatan energi bagi pembangunan yang berkelanjutan.

Di sela-sela acara, Dirjen Migas Rachmat Sudibyo yang diminta konfirmasi cadangan migas Indonesia menyebutkan, yang proven sekitar 5 milyar barel dan yang potensial sekitar 9 milyar barel. Produksi migas Indonesia saat ini sekitar 500 juta barel per tahun. Cadangan yang terbukti itu cukup untuk 10 tahun dan kalau dimasukkan yang potensial cukup kira-kira untuk 18 tahun. Sementara tahun depan, akan ditenderkan yang di Selat Makasar sekitar 20 blok. Sedangkan menyangkut kemungkinan pembangunan energi dengan tenaga nuklir, itu perlu pemikiran lebih jauh terutama dari sisi dampak lingkungannya.

"Kita memang tidak bisa menghitungnya secara kuntitatif. Tetapi pada akhirnya rakyat ikut rugi," kata Dirjen Listrik dan Pengembangan Energi Endro Utomo Notodisuryo ketika ditemui usai acar pembukaan.

Untuk menguatkan posisi negara pemilik sumber daya, harus ada transparansi antara operator/investor. Misalnya saling tukar data sehingga biaya eksplorasi dan eksploitasi menjadi lebih murah. Dalam kontrak karya atau investasi di bidang migas investor mendapat jaminan perlindungan sepenuhnya. Sulit sekali untuk menurunkan biaya. Sebab, bagi mereka yang melakukan kegiatan investasi, biaya itu termasuk keuntungan. Misalnya dari anak perusahaan atupun sub kontraktornya.

Sebelumnya Endro menjelaskan, dalam kontrak karya dengan operator perminyakan, Indonesia hanya mendapat 85% dari 60% harga resminya sedangkan 40% merupakan biaya. Seharusnya biaya tersebut bisa ditekan sehingga bisa mendapat keuntungan lebih. Misalnya, dengan menggunakan SDM dan peralatan milik Indonesia. (012)

Associated Press

11/24/2000 10:40:52

BC-ECO-FRIENDLY-DEVELOPMENT, sked,0409 VP: Limited means for eco-friendly development, JAKARTA POST

xfdws ECO-FRIENDLY-DEVELOPMENT sked Emerging Markets Datafile November 24, 2000 JAKARTA POST INDONESIA ENGLISH

VP: Limited means for eco-friendly development, JAKARTA POST

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NUSA DUA, Bali (JP): Vice President Megawati Soekarnoputri admitted that the Indonesian government has limited resources to design a sustainable and environment-friendly development strategy.

Addressing the opening of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) regional summit on Thursday, the Vice President lamented the fact that certain countries had tried to exploit Indonesia's shortcoming in environmental management to push for concessions in trade.

``We fully understand our knowledge and capability in drafting such a (sustainable) policy and managing it in an effective manner, remains insufficient.

``(But) it's unfair if some of us have to face threats of sanctions while facing difficulties and committing mistakes only because of inadequate knowledge and proficiency,'' Megawat said.

She said like other countries, Indonesia had never intended to design a national development plan which puts the environment at stake.

No less than 40 senior officials and ministers, representatives of 16 countries and international organizations, and some 63 businesspeople are attending the four-day meeting.

Earlier in the day, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnama Yusgiantoro said participants in the conference would seek and share ideas on sustainable development. The proposal drafted in the meeting will be presented to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development in New York in April next year.

``We also expect to agree on a sort of declaration and action program,'' Purnomo said.

Separately, director general of oil and gas Rachmat Sudibyo said for the sake of sustainable development, the government is intensifying efforts to find alternative energy sources.

``Gas is the most likely choice, which can be used also for vehicles. We are developing an integrated distribution system of gas through pipes which in the future will link Sumatra and all parts of Java,'' Rachmat said.

Indonesia's oil reserves of nine billion barrels will be depleted in 18 to 20 years at the current annual consumption rate of 500 million barrels. (zan)

HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

Bali, 21-24 November 2000

KLIPING HARIAN BERITA SURAT KABAR

MEDIA: .....KOMPAS..... TANGGAL: .24.. November 2000

Wapres: Tidak Adil, Ancaman Sanksi untuk Dapat Konsesi Perdagangan

Nusa Dua, Kompas

Wakil Presiden Megawati Soekarnoputri menyatakan tidak adil bila ada negara atau bangsa yang menghadapi kesulitan dan melakukan kekeliruan karena keterbatasan pengetahuan dan kemampuan kemudian masih harus mengahadapi ancaman berbagai macam sanksi. Lebih tidak adil lagi apabila ternyata sanksi-sanksi tersebut kemudian digunakan sekadar sebagai alat untuk menekan dan memperoleh posisi tawar atau konsesi di bidang perdagangan.

Demikian dikemukakan Wakil Presiden dalam sambutan ketika membuka Pertemuan Tingkat Menteri dan Pejabat Tinggi Komisi Ekonomi dan Sosial PBB (Escap) di Nusa Dua, Kamis (23/11).

Dikatakan, tidak satu pun negara di dunia yang pemerintahannya dengan sadar merancang pembangunan yang berlaku sekali dan untuk jangka pendek. Apalagi yang mengabaikan kelestarian lingkungan hidup, demikian juga pemerintah Indonesia. Namun disadari pengetahuan dan kemampuan untuk merancang kebijakan serupa itu serta mengendalikannya secara efektif, benar-benar masih terbatas.

"Kita semua memiliki pengalaman atau setidaknya mengetahui, betapa praktik serupa itu malah memperburuk keadaan. Rakyat kecil yang pada awalnya ingin kita bantu, pada akhirnya merasakan penderitaan yang lebih berat," kata Megawati kepada 150 delegasi dari 40 negara yang menghadiri Pertemuan Regional tentang Energi dan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan Asia Pasifik itu.

Menurut Megawati, walaupun menemui banyak kesulitan, Indonesia akan terus membangun dengan memanfaatkan energi secara lestari dan berkelanjutan. "Kami akan terus meningkatkan kemampuan sehingga pemanfaatan energi selalu dapat berjalan seiring dengan upaya-upaya pelestarian lingkungan," tegas Megawati.

Sebelumnya, Sekretaris Eksekutif Komisi dan Sosial PBB untuk wilayah Asia Pasfik, Kim Hak-su mengingatkan para peserta pertemuan bahwa energi merupakan faktor utama dalam pembangunan. Dan proses ini telah berjalan sejak 30 tahun yang lalu sebagai bagian dari proses alami menuju pembangunan berkelanjutan yang dibayang-bayangi krisis energi pertama.

"Permintaan terhadap pelayanan energi cenderung meningkat dan dalam proyeksi saat ini diperkirakan akan terjadi pertumbuhan 3,4 persen. Dalam kurun waktu 10 tahun mendatang Asia Pasifik akan menjadi konsumen energi terbesar di dunia. Pertumbuhan ini perlu dibiayai. Diperkirakan pada tahun 2005, keperluan investasi per tahun di sektor energi di Asia Timur sendiri berkisar antara 150 - 200 milyar dollar AS," jelas Kim. (sig)

HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING
ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION
Bali, 21-24 November 2000

KLIPING HARIAN BERITA SURAT KABAR

MEDIA: ....THE JAKARTA POST..... TANGGAL: ..24. November 2000

VP: Limited means for eco-friendly development

NUSA DUA, Bali (JP): Vice President Megawati Soekarnoputri admitted that the Indonesian government has limited resources to design a sustainable and environment-friendly development strategy.

Addressing the opening of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) regional summit on Thursday, the Vice President lamented the fact that certain countries had tried to exploit Indonesia's shortcoming in environmental management to push for concessions in trade.

"We fully understand our knowledge and capability in drafting such a (sustainable) policy and managing it in an effective manner, remains insufficient.

"(But) it's unfair if some of us have to face threats of sanctions while facing difficulties and committing mistakes only because of inadequate knowledge and proficiency," Megawat said.

She said like other countries, Indonesia had never intended to design a national development plan which puts the environment at stake.

No less than 40 senior officials and ministers, representatives of 16 countries and international organizations, and some 63 businesspeople are attending the four-day meeting.

Earlier in the day, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnama Yusgiantoro said participants in the conference would seek and share ideas on sustainable development. The proposal drafted in the meeting will be presented to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development in NewYork in April next year.

"We also expect to agree on a sort of declaration and action program," Purnomo said.

Separately, director general of oil and gas Rachmat Sudibyo said for the sake of sustainable development, the government is intensifying efforts to find alternative energy sources.

"Gas is the most likely choice, which can be used also for vehicles. We are developing an integrated distribution system of gas through pipes which in the future will link Sumatra and all parts of Java," Rachmat said.

Indonesia's oil reserves of nine billion barrels will be depleted in 18 to 20 years at the current annual consumption rate of 500 million barrels. (zan)

PRESS CLIPPINGS

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE ♦ JAKARTA

2 5 NOV 2000 THE JAKARTA POST

ESCAP considers other energy sources

NUSA DUA, Bali (JP): The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) regional meeting was officially closed on Friday night with the endorsement of the Bali Declaration on Asia Pacific Perspective on Energy for Sustainable Development.

"The Bali Declaration contains a commitment by Asia Pacific countries to enhance policies, planning and management, including the integration of energy issues into the policy making process in the economic, social and environmental sectors," said chairman of the meeting Purnomo Yusgiantoro, who is also the Indonesian minister of energy and mineral resources.

Representatives from 33 countries, along with six United Nations bodies and four observer countries, business communities and non-government organization attended the four-day meeting.

The Bali Declaration and its action plan will be submitted to the Ninth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development slated to be held in New York next April.

"Meanwhile, the action plan consists of strategy for the implementation of the commitment, including the expansion of energy accessibility," Purnomo said.

"The United Nation's World Energy Assessment Report indicates that nearly two billion people or one third of the world's population still do not have adequate access to commercial energy and rely almost totally on traditional energy sources. Most of them living in rural areas in developing countries."

Another major concern addressed by the action plan is the need to develop renewable energy sources to substitute for fossil-fuel generated energy.

"The most reasonable alternative energy sources are wind, solar energy and hydroelectric energy," he added.

"Yet, we have to deal with many obstacles, including financial investment and the availability of sufficient technology in developing these alternative energy resources."

The section chief of the United Nations' Environment and Natural Resources Development, Pranesh Chandra Saha, revealed that UN figures quoted at the conference gave a dismal picture of energy demand outstripping supply.

"By 2010 the ESCAP regions are estimated to be the largest energy consuming regions in the world," Pranesh said. (zen/edt)

11/25/2000 20:57:23

First step to funding renewable energy is loosening energy

market: UN
by Bronwyn Curran

JAKARTA, Nov 26 (AFP) - Asian governments hoping to woo private

foreign investors to fund their efforts to develop renewable energy sources must open up their respective markets first, the region's senior UN economist said.

"Making the move to renewable energy sources cannot be funded by overseas direct aid (ODA)," head of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Kim Hak-Su told AFP.

"We have to rely on the private sector and foreign direct investment with developing countries' partners," he said.

Kim was speaking by phone from Bali on Friday at the conclusion of a four-day conference of energy ministers and officials from 40 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Delegates were presented with United Nations data predicting the region would be the largest consumer of energy in the world by 2010.

"The bill for energy investment requirements by 2005 in East Asia alone will be in the range of 150 to 200 billion dollars annually," Kim said.

Most of that investment would be funding pollution-producing coal and oil.

Kim said 42 percent of energy currently consumed in the Asia Pacific region originated from coal, 40 percent from oil and nine percent from gas.

Foreign investors were unlikely to make any commitments to helping countries develop renewable sources such as geo-thermal, solar and hydro energy unless energy markets were loosened up, Kim said.

"Their requirements are that we make our markets more competitive. In many countries in the Asia Pacific region they're not open."

A plan of action adopted by delegates committed participating countries to developing policies that would enable the poor to receive the basic requirement of kerosene and electricity.

It also advocated projects to create 100 pecent renewable energy in the region's small island developing states.

A Bali Declaration was drawn up at the conference to serve as the region's input for the upcoming session of the United Nations' Comission on Sustainable Development in New York next April.

It called on the international community to assist developing nations to change their energy use patterns by "enhancing national capacity, mobilising financial resources and facilitating technology transfer."

"We consider capacity building and transfer of technology the most important ... issues that should be taken into account," the declaration stated.

The conference also underlined obstacles posed by energy subsidy systems in many countries which favor "conventional energy and discourage the penetration of renewable energy and energy efficiency intiatives."

"We will aim to target subsidies carefully for the benefit of the poor and for the promotion of sustainable energy and to phase them out gradually over the long term."

Kim also appealed to governments in the region to commit their own domestic resources to increasing the use of renewable energy sources.

Energy pricing policies should be structured to support sustainable energy development, he added.

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Finance - News **International**

Sunday, November 26 9:25 AM SGT

First step to funding renewable energy is loosening energy market:UN

JAKARTA, Nov 26 (AFP) -

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Questions or Comments

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'ress/Media: BANGKOK POST
'age(s): 3 (*Outlook*)
Date: 27 November 2000

Energy burners

Increased energy consumption may contribute to climate change

If the present pattern of energy production and consumption continues, the risk of climate change will further increase the existing serious side-effects on environmental quality, human health and socio-economic conditions, warns Purnomo Yusgiantoro, minister of Indonesia's Energy and Mineral Resources.

"The challenging task for the international community, particularly countries in the region, is improving accessibility of energy and finding ways and means by which energy services can be delivered reliably and in an environmentally sound and acceptable manner," added Purnomo, speaking at the opening of the High-Level Regional Meeting on Energy and Sustainable Development of Asia and the Pacific in Bali, Indonesia.

The executive secretary of the Bangkok-based 61-member United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), Kim Hak-Su, reminded participants that energy is a major factor in development and that these processes started nearly 30 years ago "as a natural part of the process towards more sustainable development and in the shadow of the first major energy crisis."

"Demand for energy services is bound to grow and current projections estimate an annual growth rate of 3.4 percent. In 10 years that will make Asia- Pacific the largest energy-consuming region in the world. This growth will need to be financed. It is estimated that by 2005, the annual investment requirements of the energy sector in East Asia alone will be in the range of $150 to 200 billion (6.4 to 8.6 trillion baht)," Kim said.

UN figures indicate that while total world primary energy consumption increased by 1.6 percent annually during the past 25 years, the Asia Pacific region (excluding OECD countries) recorded an increase of 2.5 percent per year.

"Forward-looking policies at the regional level for achieving sustainable development should not overlook the importance of poverty alleviation, rural development, the potential of women, and the specific problems faced by small island developing states and land-locked countries," JoAnne DiSano, director of the United Nations Division of Sustainable Development, told the meeting.

In a document submitted to the government delegates, non-governmental organisations underlined the importance of accessibility of energy and added that it should be "within the reach of all at affordable prices and that such supply should be capable of being continued indefinitely, in ways that are acceptable in terms of social and environmental concerns."

The meeting, which ended on Friday, was attended by over 150 delegates from 40 countries. — UNIS

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27 NOV 2000

THE JAKARTA POST

Asia told to open energy mart to develop renewable energy

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BC-ESCAP-CONSIDERS, sked,0510 ESCAP considers other energy sources, JAKARTA POST

xfdws **ESCAP**-CONSIDERS sked Emerging Markets Datafile November 25, 2000 JAKARTA POST INDONESIA ENGLISH

ESCAP considers other energy sources, JAKARTA POST

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PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):
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``By 2010 the **ESCAP** regions are estimated to be the largest energy consuming regions in the world,'' Pranesh said.

The bill for energy investment requirement by 2005 in East Asia alone would range between US$150 billion and $200 billion annually, **ESCAP** executive secretary Kim Hak Su said.

The action plan also consists of a design for optimizing the efficiency of energy consumption, efforts to provide reliable and affordable energy services in rural areas, and innovative finance schemes for sustainable energy and enhancing the transfer of technology.

The meeting also recommended that policy on energy price be restructured to support sustainable energy development and create a level playing field for renewable energy and energy efficient technology. (zen/edt)

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2.3 State of the Environment Report In Asia and the Pacific 2001
5 June 2001

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST** Date: 4 June 2001

Page(s): 2 (*Outlook*)

Pressure point

UN/Escap to present 'State of the Environment' report at FCCT

As the region still suffers from the impact of the economic crisis another one may be looming on the horizon — a deteriorating environment that is ringing alarm bells throughout the region.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN/Escap) has undertaken a thorough study of the region, identified danger points, and came out with a salient "Report on the State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2000", the first major assessment since 1995.

The news is not good: "While there are some signs of improvement, the overall picture shows us our environment is deteriorating rapidly. The pressure on natural resources, for example, is overwhelming," states the report.

The report urges all governments, intergovernmental organisations, the private sector, civil society including non-government organisations (NGOs) — and the media — to play a pro-active role in tackling the outstanding problems and prevent further deterioration in this potentially life-threatening situation.

Details of this timely comprehensive report will be presented by Escap's Executive Secretary Kim Hak Su at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT), Penthouse, Maneeya Centre Building, 518/5 Ploen Chit Road, Bangkok (Tel: 255-5915/6) on World Environment Day, tomorrow, at 8 pm.

Senator Khunying Chodchoy Sophonpanich, president of the Thai Environmental and Community Development Association will speak on how Civil Society can help stem the situation.

ABC Online

Asia faces environmental disaster: UN. 6/06/01. ABC News Online

[This is the print version of story http://www.abc.net.au/news/features/stories/s309122.htm]

Wednesday, June 6, 2001 . Posted: (AEDT)

Asia faces environmental disaster: UN

Asia is heading for a new regional crisis - this time an environmental disaster that will cost some $10 trillion dollars to clean up over the next three decades, the United Nations said.

The UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN- ESCAP) said in its five-yearly report launched on Tuesday (06/06) that poverty and globalisation were putting enormous pressure on the environment.

The region's urban population doubled over the last 20 years to 1.4 billion, and is projected to swell by another 800 million in the next two decades, it said.

"This amounts to the establishment of a new city of 150,000 people every day for the next one and a half decades. The magnitude of the challenge is indeed daunting," UN-ESCAP executive secretary Kim Hak-Su said.

"ESCAP's message is a call for immediate action - action that must involve all stakeholders, otherwise the environment will continue to deteriorate further at a catastrophic rate."

Neglect of environment

The 1997-98 financial crisis which felled the region's economies was one factor contributing to widespread neglect of environmental protection measures and the development of clean technologies.

As a result, land degradation and desertification were also on the increase, at an annual cost of $10 billion in South Asia and $700 million in North-East Asia alone.

Water quality was also deteriorating due to the uncontrolled discharge of sewage and industrial waste, as well as runoff from chemicals used in the agricultural industry, the report said.

Widespread poverty was forcing many, particularly the landless from rural communities, to move to economically vulnerable areas where they ransacked fragile natural resources in a desperate bid to survive.

Price of living

As those ecosystems collapsed, millions moved on to the cities where they were forced to find shelter in the slums and squatter settlements that are mushrooming in the region's mega-cities.

ESCAP estimated that the cost of providing water supply, sanitation, energy and transport to Asia's urban areas alone would cost some $10 trillion over the next three decades.

"Is Asia heading for another crisis -- an environmental crisis? The alarm bells are already sounding, calling for urgent attention of the international community," said Kim.

"This is the major challenge confronting us in the new millennium."

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: THE NATION Date: 7 June 2001

Page(s): 6A (*Local*)

ECOLOGICAL NIGHTMARE

Asian environmenta crisis looms

UN warns of 'catastrophic' results from coming population explosion

■ *Agence France-Presse*

ASIA IS HEADING for a new regional crisis – this time an environmental disaster that will cost US$10 trillion (Bt451 trillion) to clean up over the next three decades, the United Nations has warned.

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Edie weekly summaries ***08/06/2001***

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Asia Pacific environment deteriorating and trillions of dollars needed to clean up, United Nations says

Globalisation and poverty will bring on an environmental emergency across Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations agency for the region has stated in its new report on the environment.



The Gobi desert continues to spread further across China and Mongolia

"Environmental challenges that were identified in the 1990s continue to haunt the region and are in fact exacerbated by the emergence of new challenges linked to enhanced poverty and rapid globalisation," said the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Kim Hak-Su, launching *the State of the Environment Report in Asia and the Pacific 2000* in Bangkok on 5 June.

With the disappearance and disturbance of ecosystems, the rural population, mainly the poor, are migrating in large numbers to cities. Consequently, the urban population of the Asian and Pacific region which stood at 1.4 billion in 2000 has doubled in the last 20 years, the report stated. "[The urban population] is projected to increase by 800 million in the next 20 years," Hak-Su announced. "This amounts

to the establishment of a new city of 150,000 people every day for the next one and a half-decade. The magnitude of the challenge is indeed daunting."

Like poverty, globalisation also had serious impacts on the natural resources and environment over the last decades. It has contributed to the loss of forest and biodiversity in the pursuit of maximising export earnings, the report stated. Additionally, the Asian financial crisis resulting in economic and social turmoil also had adverse effects on the environment. In many countries, environmental budgets have been reduced, leading to fewer investments in the conservation of resources, mitigation of environmental degradation and the development of clean technologies.

Land degradation and desertification are also on the increase. The annual losses due to land degradation and desertification have been estimated at US$10 billion in South Asia, and US$ 700 million in North-East Asia. In Central Asian countries the losses amount to 3% of GDP. Almost 500 million Asians have been affected by desertification directly or indirectly. Water quality has also deteriorated steadily by a combination of factors such as uncontrolled discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, chemicals added by agricultural run-off and undisposed human excreta.

Meanwhile, China's top environmental official, Xie Zhenhua, director of the State Environmental Protection Administration has warned that some 90% of grasslands, which cover about 40% of national territory, have been degraded. This has lead to worsening desertification and salting of the land, he said, adding that deserts in the northwest are gradually encroaching on populated areas, worsening sand storms that strike cities.

ESCAP's report estimates that provision of environmental infrastructure and utilities such as water supply, sanitation, energy and transport in urban areas alone will cost around 10 trillion dollars in the next 25 to 30 years in the 'business as usual' scenario. ESCAP, Hak-Su said, has already undertaken some significant initiatives towards evolving a consensus on how to improve the environment. It convened a Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in September 2000 at Kitakyushu, Japan, which adopted the Regional Action Programme on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2001-2005 (see related story). The Programme advocates action in eight priority areas, among them the Kitakyushu Initiative for Clean Environment, intended to improve the urban environment primarily through local initiatives.

"ESCAP's message is a call for immediate action, that must involve all otherwise the environment will to continue to deteriorate further at a catastrophic rate," said Hak-Su. "Is Asia heading for another crisis? An environmental crisis? The alarm bells are already sounding, calling for urgent attention of the international community. This is the major challenge confronting us in the new millennium, which must be squarely addressed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development next year."

Internet links:

- UNESCAP

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Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): 5 (*Outlook*)
Date: 19 June 2001

Asia's last gasp

Asia is a great environment treasure, but according to a recent report, catastrophe awaits if destruction and degradation continue unheeded

NORMITA THONGTHAM

First, the good news. The standards of health and nutrition in Asia and the Pacific have improved substantially over the past few decades, resulting in higher life expectancy, rising from 58 years in 1975 to 67 today.

But if you were born in Southeast Asia, you can expect to live to the ripe old age of 70, seven years longer than those who were born in South Asia, according to a report released recently by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).

More good news is that infant mortality rate is down from 60 per 1,000 in 1995 to 53 at present. Unfortunately, the figure remains high in South Asia, where 77 babies in every 1,000 die before their first birthday, according to *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2000*, which Escap launched at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand on World Environment Day.

Other good news:

◆ The Asia-Pacific region leads the world in having more areas reforested. In China, for example, government reafforestation campaigns had increased forest cover from 12 percent in the 1980s to almost 14 percent by 1996, while an on-going project in Australia aims to treble its forest cover from one million hectares to three million by 2020.

◆ There's greater awareness in the region about the importance of the environment. In response to Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, some countries have set up agencies and promulgated laws to protect the environment, while others have incorporated the basic principles of environmental management into their constitutions.

◆ An increasing number of companies have become involved in environmental protection, making contributions to environmental awareness campaigns and to research and development of production technologies that are clean, efficient and create just a minimum of waste. Many companies have cleaned up their acts and some, seeing that it pays to be green, have become directly involved in eco-business, providing goods and services friendly to the environment.

◆ The number of non-government organisations working for the environment has increased fivefold since the Earth Summit, according to the Escap report. "NGOs have acted as pressure groups in spearheading action, advocated environmental conservation, and contributed to the development of environmental policies and action programmes that are aimed at better environmental safeguards," it said.

Unfortunately for the region, *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific* contains more bad news than good. In fact, "the overall environment in the region has actually deteriorated since the Rio conference," Escap's Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su pointed out at the launching of the report.

"Environmental challenges that were identified in the 1990s continue to haunt the region and are in fact exacerbated by the emergence of new challenges linked to enhanced poverty and rapid globalisation," Mr Kim said.

"The state of the environment continues to deteriorate and if we sound pessimistic, it's because we try to be as realistic as possible," added Ravi Sawhney, director of Escap's Environment and Natural Resources Development Division, whose office prepared the report which is published every five years.

Some 250 million people have been added to the population of the region since 1995, the report said, and the combination of population pressure and poverty has forced people, especially the landless, to clear forests for agriculture in order to survive.

"The land-use pattern in the region has undergone a major change over the years, with a sharp increase in cropland corresponding with a marked decline in forests, indicating mass conversion of forests into cropland," it said.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, among the tropical regions of the world the Asia-Pacific has the highest rate of deforestration, with forest areas the size of Cambodia lost annually.

"Fifty percent of the region's forest base has already vanished," the report said. "Yet, in spite of cropland expansion, the land availability per capita is only about 0.15 hectare compared to the world's average of 0.24 hectare" because of rapid population growth. The region has the three most populated countries in the world — China, India and Indonesia.

Intensive agricultural activities have contributed to desertification and salinisation of land, especially in Central and South Asian countries where degraded land amounts to 460 million hectares, or equivalent to the size of India and Iran put together.

"The annual losses due to land degradation and desertification have been estimated at $10 billion (450 million baht) in South Asia, and $700 million (31.5 billion baht) in Northeast Asia," Mr Kim said. "In Central Asian countries the losses amount to 3 percent of GDP. Almost 500 million Asians have been affected by desertification directly or indirectly."

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Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST** Date: 19 June 2001

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Even more land is lost to urban, industrial and transport infrastructure, the report said. For example, one research study found that in China, 6.5 million hectares of arable land, or some 5 percent of the country's total area, lost production in only six years from 1987 to 1992. Nearly two-thirds of these losses are unexplained, but of the explained loses 40 percent involved expansion of housing and industry infrastructure.

China hopes to build 600 new cities by 2010, and it is expected that an additional 6.5 million hectares, or another 5 percent of the total land area, will be lost to urbanisation while the population will have risen by 14 percent by 2010.

As forests rapidly shrunk to become croplands and new towns, so did the biodiversity of the region's flora and fauna. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List, more than 10,000 higher plant species and over 3,000 vertebrate animal species in Asia and the Pacific are threatened with extinction, while more than 1,000 birds, about 1,000 mammals and several hundred reptile and fish species are at risk.

Meanwhile, the increase in population, industrialisation and irrigation of croplands have imposed a severe demand on water. Many countries in the region are experiencing acute shortages of fresh water while others are facing severe water pollution from pathogens, organic matter, heavy metals and toxic chemicals, sediments, silt and salts.

Most of Asia's rivers have been found to contain three times more bacteria from human waste than the world average, according to the report. This in turn has led to increasing health problems and the proliferation of diseases in many areas of the region.

Coastal and marine ecosystems are equally threatened by pollution from land- and sea-based sources. As mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses are destroyed, so is their ability to nurture fish and other marine life, resulting in huge economic losses in the fishing industry.

Southeast Asia alone boasts 25 percent of the world's coral reefs, the report said. "If properly managed, reefs can yield an average of 15 tonnes annually of fish and other seafood per square km. It has been estimated that in Indonesia alone, reef fisheries could support a $320-million (14.4 billion-baht) industry." However, according to FAO, several of the region's most important fishing areas and almost two thirds of the major fish species are either fully or overexploited. Fishermen with their modern equipment are now capable of wiping out entire populations of fish.

Fish, however, are not the only ones at risk. The air quality in cities has deteriorated in the wake of increasing traffic, rapid industrialisation and increased energy consumption. Of the major cities in the world with the highest levels of total suspended particulates, nine are located in Asia, and at least six cities with the highest levels of sulphur dioxide are in the region.

According to a World Bank estimate, between 2 and 5 percent of all deaths in urban areas in the developing world are due to high exposure to particulates. An estimate of damage resulting from particulates and lead emissions in Jakarta alone indicates that it could be as high as $2.1 billion (94.5 billion baht).

The environmental issues raised t*State of the Environment in Asia and t**Pacific* are the same as the issues rais by *World Environment* and *State of t**Environment* reports published t agencies concerned with the enviro ment in the 1980s and the 1990s. H there been no change for the better in the years that followed? Have all th warnings been in vain, have the alar bells all fallen on deaf ears?

"The deteriorating state of th environment calls for participation all stakeholders including government international organisations, private an public sectors and NGOs in the task environmental management and pr motion of sustainable development, Escap's Kim Hak-su said.

"The message of the Escap repo is therefore a call for immediate ac — action that must involve stake holders, otherwise the environment w continue to deteriorate further a catastrophic rate," to the detrimen all in the Asia-Pacific region.

PRESS CLIPPINGS
Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
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remaining plants still left on desertified land in Longbaoshan village in Hebei province, 70km northwest of Beijing. The environment around the area has deteriorated to the point that farmland and small mountains have been buried under giant piles of sand. The annual losses due to land degradation and desertification have been estimated at $10 billion (450 billion baht) in South Asia, and $700 million (31.5 billion baht) in Northeast Asia, according to Escap's Executive Secretary Kim Hak-su. — ANDREW WONG/ REUTERS

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South Asia asked to combat environment threats

By Asad Ali

LAHORE, July 29: Environmental threats require co-operation among the South Asian subregion countries, says a United Nations report on the state of environment in Asia and the Pacific 2000.

It said South Asia subregion is home to "significant but shrinking array of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, for example the Hindu Kush Himalayan belt is home to some 25,000 major plant species, comprising 10 per cent of the world's flora".

The report said: "it is expected that within the next few years, there will be a substantial portfolio of subregional

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environmental programmes under way, which will benefit the individual countries as well as the subregion as a whole, and improve the quality of life of the population."

Pakistan and Iran were said to have the highest rates of deforestation in the subregion.

It is the fourth in a series of reports published every five years on environmental trends in the region. It is jointly prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asian Development Bank.

The report has placed Pakistan in the South Asian subregion which comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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The problem of pathogenic water pollution has grown to alarming proportions in the region.

The report said the problem of water scarcity and ground water degradation was compounded by the cross-border degradation of existing sources, specifically through uncontrolled releases of sewage, industrial wastes, agricultural run-off, commercial pesticides and arsenic contamination.

The key environmental issues identified in Pakistan are water pollution, seasonal limitations on the availability of natural fresh water resources, majority of the population lacks access to potable water, deforestation, soil erosion, coastal habitat loss and degradation of marine environment, desertification, loss of biodiversity and natural disasters mainly because of floods.

The causes of these problems are said to be high rate of urbanization and deficits in urban infrastructure, industrial wastes, population increases along coastal areas and rise in tourism, depletion of mangroves for aquaculture, over fishing, increased demands for timber/bio-fuels, hunting/poaching, green revolution/agrochemicals and

run-off.

Industrial activity produces 114,726 kilogram's of organic water pollutants in Pakistan every day.

According to the report over 70 per cent of Pakistanis living in urban areas have access to safe water while over 50 per cent of the urbanites have access to sanitation. The report said 37 per cent of Pakistanis lived in urban areas.

SOUTH ASIA: The report said South Asia subregion is home to around 14 per cent of the world's remaining mangrove habitat, in addition to the highest percentage of threatened wetlands, 82 of which are in Bangladesh.

Challenges like population growth, urbanization and poverty, confront the South Asian countries.

The report prioritized shared environmental concerns in the region which include land degradation; water scarcity and degradation; deforestation and biodiversity loss; impacts to the marine environment; atmospheric pollution; deficient urban infrastructure and natural disasters.

South Asia shares approximately 19 per cent of the Asian and Pacific region total forest cover, providing cross-border habitats for a wealth of species.

SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION: The report said the opportunities for subregional policy co-operation are promoted through the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

Formed in 1992, the SACEP's members include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The formulation of the Regional Seas Programme was a major achievement under the aegis of SACEP, the report said and described it as one of the few major transboundary environmental programmes of South Asia. Its activities related to integrated coastal zone management, development of national and regional oil, chemical contingency plans and protection of the marine environment from the impact of land-based activities.

Saarc has setup several technical committees in many fields. The committee on environment was given the status of a technical body in 1992.



ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS DECLINING SIGNIFICANTLY: UN-ESCAP REPORT

Story Filed: Monday, August 13, 2001 2:57 AM EST

CEBU CITY, Aug 13, 2001 (AsiaPulse via COMTEX) -- The forests in the Asia-Pacific region have declined significantly, both in terms of area and quality, according to the State of Environment Report released by the Bangkok-based United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) this year.

The report said 50 per cent of the region's forest base has already vanished and another 75,000 hectares are being lost each year.

Citing a Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) report, the UN-ESCAP report said the annual deforestation rate in the region increased from two million ha during 1976-1981 to 3.9 million ha during 1981-1990.

It declined further between 1990 and 1995 to 3.6 million ha, which is equivalent to the size of Cambodia, the report said.

Among the tropical regions of the world, it said the Asia-Pacific region has the fastest annual rate of deforestation (1.2 per cent), the fastest rate of commercial logging, and the highest rate of fuelwood removal.

Six countries (the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand) account for 175 per cent of the deforestation in the region, the report revealed.

Among subregions, it said the highest deforestation rate takes place in Southeast Asia, where many countries such as Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam have now lost a substantial portion of their forest cover.

Increasing deforestation rates in those natives have coincided with an increase in their gross national product (GNP), the report observed.

In absolute terms, it said these countries still have ample forest resources and relatively high forest areas per capita.

The situation, it said, is more critical in several south and Central Asian countries that have limited forest resources, high rates of deforestation and low per capita forest availability.

Only the Pacific countries have low deforestation rates and high forest area per capita but the situation there could become precarious if the countries yeild to offshore demand and logging companies are given access to forests without the existence of monitoring and check and balance mechanisms, the report warned.

Already, the report said deforestation rates are approaching two per cent in countries such as Samoa.

In future, it said rates of deforestation in the region as a whole are expected to decrease in general as an agricultural intensification takes root in a number of countries and fewer accessible forest areas will remain to be cleared.

3. Social Development

3.1 General

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

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Mr Kim Hak-Su (left), Executive Secretary, inspects a pedestrian bridge being constructed in a Bangkok slum with assistance from ESCAP and the Japanese-sponsored Human Security Fund. Members of the community, secretariat and a counterpart NGO accompany him during his inspection on 30 September.

ESCAP launches slum development project in Bangkok community

Population pressure in big cities is often most manifest in the growth of slums and the poor living conditions of slum communities. In Bangkok, the ESCAP Population and Rural and Urban Development Division recently launched a community development project to alleviate some of the adverse effects of such poverty.

Using resources from the Japanese-funded Human Security Fund, the self-help project involved the construction of two sturdy metal bridges across a drainage canal and other interventions that will make life safer and more pleasant for the slum community known as Pannee. Residents of the community provided the labour and ESCAP the money from the Japanese Fund to make the improvements.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: POPULATION HEADLINERS

Page(s): 1 & 2

Date: September-October 2000

ESCAP

Prior to the intervention, the residents of the Pannee slum had to cross a wobbly wooden bridge spanning a five-metre wide canal. Over the years, there had been a number of accidents, with children and the elderly loosing their balance and falling into the filthy water below. The wood was rotting and the makeshift bridge was so narrow that it was dangerous for even one person at a time to attempt crossing it.

Although ESCAP has launched a total of five pilot community development projects in the Bangkok area with the Japanese Fund, the aims of the project go beyond helping individual communities. One of the other goals is to help restore what ESCAP calls "networks of support and self-reliance" at the community level in urban areas.

Another is to draw lessons from the pilot projects and make recommendations for policy makers and others concerned that would enable them to activate such networks elsewhere. A further aim is to formulate a policy framework for governments to use in creating an economic, political and social environment that promotes and nurtures the establishment of successful community-based initiatives.

ESCAP plans to conduct similar pilot projects in six other countries in the region. After it gathers information on its experience in these countries, it will hold meetings to draw up a framework for community-based "safety-nets". It will also produce a publication and create a CD-ROM containing training material, comparative studies and policy guidelines so that others can benefit from the projects.

The secretariat also plans to mount the information on its website to enable world-wide access to the information in the hope that other countries will be able to imitate the good example provided by the pilot projects.

State

Family planning programmes are successful where government support is strong; providers are well trained, sensitive to cultural conditions, listen to clients' needs and are friendly and sympathetic; services are affordable and a choice of contraceptive methods is available; facilities are comfortable and clean; and service is prompt, among other such characteristics.

The theme of this year's report is "Lives together, worlds apart: men and women in a time of change". The report makes a case for bringing gender inequality fully into the light and treating it as a matter of urgency affecting both human rights and development priorities.

It also states that discrimination and poverty go hand in hand. "Studies show that societies where discrimination is greatest have more poverty, slower economic growth and a lower quality of life than societies with less discrimination. The effects are strongest in the poorest countries", states a sidebar in the report, which also points out that "economic growth by itself will not eliminate inequalities".

Discrimination against girls often begins before birth. "At least 60 million girls are 'missing' from various populations, mostly in Asia, as a result of sex-selective abortion, infanticide or neglect", according to the report.

Pointing out that the second-class status of females carries a financial and social cost, the report states that governments have a key role to play in creating conditions for gender equality, by removing legal barriers and changing laws, policies and programmes.

"Governments agreed in the ICPD Programme of Action on the need to increase domestic allocations to health care, including reproductive health, and contributions to international assistance", adds the report. "The ICPD agreed that $5.7 billion in international assistance would be needed for reproductive health and population programmes in the year 2000, rising to $7.2 billion a year in 2015. Only about $2.1 billion a year is currently being made available" it pointed out.

BBC

Cook Islands to host international women's gathering 10th-18th November

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political; London; Oct 20, 2000;

Start Page:
Companies: Cook Islands News
Abstract:
16th October: It will be one of the most high-powered gatherings of women ever in the South Pacific and certainly for here. The list of high-powered key-note speakers and intending participants at next month's [10th-18th November] international Pan-Pacific and [Southeast] Asian Women's Association [PPSEAWA] conference will be second only to the two South Pacific Forum meetings held in Rarotonga.

Full Text:
'Cook Islands News' web site, Rarotonga, in English 19 Oct 00/BBCMonitoring/ (c) BBC

Excerpts from report by 'Cook Islands News' web site on 19th October

16th October: It will be one of the most high-powered gatherings of women ever in the South Pacific and certainly for here. The list of high-powered key-note speakers and intending participants at next month's [10th-18th November] international Pan-Pacific and [Southeast] Asian Women's Association [PPSEAWA] conference will be second only to the two South Pacific Forum meetings held in Rarotonga.

To make PPSEAWA's first international conference in the Cook Islands possible, the local branch successfully tapped a string of international funding agencies. Armed with funding of 50,000 dollars, a small team of skilled, professional Rarotonga women have pulled off what they believe will be the regional conference of the year 2000.

Over a week, dames, ambassadors and women members of parliament and leaders will discuss the conference theme "Ignite the Power of Peace." Even a royal princess is expected to be here, from the Kingdom of Tonga...

The five major discussion papers will attempt to shed light on principles of a global culture of peace and how it can be achieved... International funding agencies will also be represented at the conference...

PPSEAWA is accredited to the United Nations, ESCAP, UNICEF and UNESCO. It is the one of the few women's organizations devoted to peace and understanding in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. There are currently 21 member countries [from] the South Pacific and Southeast Asia regions, as well as Russia and USA. The international, non- political and non-government organization aims to promote "peace, love, goodwill, harmony and wellbeing among all people" and to promote cooperation among women for the improvement of social, economic and cultural conditions.

The conference will give women the opportunity for participation and developing new ways of thinking and dealing with the world.

Credit: 'Cook Islands News' web site, Rarotonga, in English 19 Oct 00

PRESS CLIPPINGS
Press/Media: THE NATION
Page(s): A5 (Opinion)
Date: 25 October 2000
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Travel and the single paedophile: tourism industry can fight it

The travel industry can reinforce the new laws against child sexploitation by adopting a Code of Ethics, says **Vittit Muntarbhorn.**

Anyone visiting Expo 2000, the world's premier trade fair, in Hanover, Germany, this year will no doubt be struck by some very innovative pavilions. The most interesting is probably the huge pavilion called "Planet of Visions", which is an interactive setting where children can touch walls and play with computers directly to access information. A series of computerised programs are on hand to look back at various key visions in human society as well as to predict how certain cities will operate in future.

The Thai pavilion – prominently green and well-covered to facilitate the technology within – was also futuristic while reflective of the past and present, with the eternal face of a dragon at the gate. Thai agriculture and sustainable development were key themes, conveyed to the public through the latest high tech. Adding a human touch to all this was Thai music played live at the pavilion. The booklets being distributed included "Amazing Tastes of Thailand" and "Amazing Thai Herbs". For music and food, there is perhaps no time constraint for the human imagination and palate.

A few kilometres way from Hanover, a parallel activity was taking place that was very much to do with tourism and more. Tour operators and key partners in the child protection field, led by the End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Child Trafficking for Sexual purposes (ECPAT) organisation, met at Bad Oeyhausen to promote a more active response from the private sector against child sexual exploitation.

While there have been many new laws to fight child sexploitation in recent years, an important challenge is to invite the travel and tourism industry itself to take a stand. Air passengers can see a video clip warning against child sexploitation. Pamphlets and posters are also being distributed as exemplified by the work of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

A key development is the invitation to the industry to adopt a Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct against child sexploitation, with transparent monitoring and pressures for accountability through a "soft law". Opinions vary on the extent of these codes: should they merely stipulate various criteria for tour operators, or should they lead to accreditation involving a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism to certify that a tour operator is adhering strictly to the criteria?

At the Bad Oeyhausen meeting, there was general agreement on five criteria for tour operators to act on child sexploitation, while opinions varied on the question of a certificate or label.

The five criteria are: tour operators should establish a company policy with clear guidelines for their staff; they should offer training to their staff; they should inform travellers; they should include a specific clause in their contracts with other members of the industry; and they should initiate a dialogue with their partners on the issue.

It remains to be seen whether a code based upon these criteria will be adopted extensively by the industry. There are other issues needing further discussion. These include the question of how to finance monitoring to ensure the code is being applied; how it should function; should it be industry self-monitoring or an independent agency; or should it be a mixed system of industry and outside, eg non-governmental organisations.

These are essential questions at a time when the sexual exploitation of children is expanding rather than receding. First, the types of exploitation are changing. This is linked with the explosion of child pornography on the Internet, which has provided a huge technological challenge. Second, the geographic areas of exploitation are changing. Areas which were previously untouched are now under threat. These include various parts of Asia, the Pacific, Europe, Africa and the Americas. Third, the degree of exploitation is changing. Children are not exploited only once but several times by a multiplication of abuses.

For example, in a recent study published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), cases are cited of children being tricked and beaten into submission, beaten again in sexual exploitation, drugged in the process and subjected to a chain of negative consequences such as illegal abortions, HIV/Aids and mental traumas. The travel and tourism industry can help to prevent and reme-

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST Date: 25 October 2000

Page(s): 3 (*Outlook*)

A bridge towards a better life

A United Nations initiative promises a brighter future for needy communities



Escap executive secretary Kim Hak-Su tries out the new Pannee Community Bridge 1 which was built with labour by the residents and funding by Escap through Japanese funds.

To get to the day care centre for children, residents of the Pannee slum in Chatuchak District had to cross a wobbly wooden bridge spanning a five metre wide drainage canal. The wood was rotting and the makeshift bridge was so narrow that it was dangerous for even one person at a time to attempt crossing it. Over the years, there had been a number of accidents with children and the elderly losing their balance and falling into the filthy water below.

But things are now looking promising through a community development project launched by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap). The project taps resources from the Human Security Fund established by the Japanese government to help communities alleviate some of the adverse effects of poverty. The self-help project involves the construction of two sturdy metal bridges across the canal and other interventions that will make life safer and more pleasant in the slum community. Pannee residents themselves are providing the labour.

On hand to see the work underway was Escap's new executive secretary Kim Hak-Su. He visited the community in the hope of seeing ways in which this "Human Dignity Initiative might serve as a model for poverty alleviation schemes that could be sponsored by Escap in other developing countries of the region.

Although Escap has launched a total of five pilot community development projects in the Bangkok area with the Japanese Fund, the aims of the project go beyond helping individual communities. One of the goals is to help restore what Escap calls "networks of support and self-reliance", at the community level.

The Pannee community was chosen because it has a particular profile. Many of the residents are related to one another, and a cooperative spirit and good leadership characterise the community. After the bridges are built, the community plans to turn its attention to cleaning up the area through which another canal flows so hygiene can be improved. The long-term goals include undertaking activities that will improve the health of the people and the quality of life of the community, especially its youth.

For its part, Escap plans to conduct similar pilot projects in six other countries in the region. From its experience in these countries, it will prepare a framework for community-based 'safety nets'.

"Other outputs include a publication and a CD-Rom containing training material, comparative studies and policy guidelines so that others can benefit from the projects. Our Web site will also allow for worldwide access to the information in the hope that other countries will be able to imitate the good example of the Pannee community," said Nibhon Debvalaya, director of Escap Population, Urban and Rural Development Division.

What started out as a project to fix a wobbly old bridge may turn out to have implications for many other communities, not only in Thailand but elsewhere in the world as well.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST**

Page(s): 2 (*Outlook*)

Date: 23 November 2000



The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) was given an award recently by the government of Indonesia for pioneering tourism for people with disabilities. From left: Kemal Heryandri, deputy director of Ports, Indonesia; Sjahril Sabaruddin, minister/counsellor, Indonesian Embassy; Effendi Batubara, assistant to the Indonesian Minister of Communications and Telecommunications; Kim Hak-Su, Escap executive secretary; Kayoko Mizuta, Escap deputy executive secretary; Hasudungan Tampubolon, director for Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division, Escap; and Lim Kim-Lan, director, Social Development Division, Escap.

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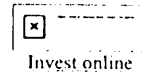
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Singapore

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Singaporeans urged to widen opportunities for intellectually disabled

Active participation of Singaporeans, the community and businesses is needed to widen the opportunities and environment for the disabled.

The Minister for Community Development and Sports Abdullah Tarmugi made this call at the opening of the MINDS-UN ESCAP Millennium Symposium on Intellectual Disability.

He was pleased to note that more and more corporate and voluntary organisations are getting involved to include people with disabilities.

He highlighted Singapore Airlines' participation in this community work.

Having adopted MINDS (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore) as a partner for community contributions, SIA has donated S$4 million for the construction of a new MINDS Employment Development Centre.

Besides monetary contributions, SIA staff have also given their time voluntarily to help the intellectually disabled.

The purpose of the symposium is to provide a forum to share recent developments in the various aspects of early intervention, rehabilitation, education and training for people with intellectual disabilities.

It will also address the concerns faced by societies in creating a more inclusive environment for people with intellectual disabilities.

The minister said that the challenge that lies ahead is how to better translate scientific advances into practical means that can lead to quality lifestyles for people with intellectual disabilities.

Singapore is a signatory to ESCAP's declaration of the period 1993 to 2002 as the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

Mr Tarmugi stated that Singapore adhered to three basic approaches in its planning for people

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Singapore

Tuesday, November 28 10:10 PM SGT

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Overcoming negative attitudes towards intellectually disabled still a hurdle

Minister for Community Development and Sports, Abdullah Tarmugi, says overcoming negative attitudes towards the intellectually disabled still remains a great challenge.

He made this comment at Tuesday's opening of the MINDS-UN ESCAP Millennium Symposium on Intellectual Disability.

Mr Abdullah added that there remains a need to get employers and the community to be more tolerant towards the intellectually disabled although policies and scientific advances may be of help.

Intellectually disabled children are the focus of the United Nations plan on an Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons from 1993 to 2002.

A UN official who has been working for the cause said advances have been made with regards to the integration of the intellectually disabled in society.

Intellectually disabled children in Singapore benefited recently from a project which provided basic IT infrastructure to their schools.

Although this is one of the ways to help the children, Mr Tarmugi warned that MINDS will have to look into how these children can grow up to be independent adults.

MINDS is currently looking into supervised housing, whereby a group of intellectually disabled individuals live together with a supervisor so as to cultivate independence.

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Questions or Comments

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): 12 (*Opinion & Analysis*)
Date: 2 December 2000

More action needed to help the disabled

The International Day of Disabled Persons tomorrow is a time for Thailand to reflect on what it has done to help these people live in dignity. Some steps have been taken, but many more are needed.

For Bangkok residents, the elevators installed at five main Bangkok Transit System stations are the most visible life aids that authorities have provided disabled people. Some will remember that these disabled people had to fight for these facilities, in heated protests on Ratchadamnoen Avenue in June last year.

The authorities subsequently installed more escalators at the sky train stations but these are probably more helpful to able-bodied people who don't need to manoeuvre cumbersome wheelchairs.

The population of disabled people nationwide is estimated at 4.8 million. Most want work so that they can earn a living, and help in transport so that they can go about their daily tasks.

The Fespic (Far East and Asia Pacific) Games in January last year helped bring some improvements as footpaths on 11 roads around the National Stadium were fitted with guiding blocks and ramps to help disabled athletes.

The Asia-Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons from 1993-2002 declared by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has also helped sensitise authorities to the problems of the disabled.

But in terms of work opportunities, the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act of 1991 was a turning point in that it requires employers to hire a disabled person for every 200 able-bodied persons they admit.

The law imposes no penalty as such but requires employers in Bangkok and the provinces who do not comply to pay contributions of respectively 30,000 and 20,000 baht per worker below the quota to the Disabled Rehabilitation Fund.

The fees are rated according to a year's minimum wage.

The incentive for those who comply is a tax deduction equivalent to double the salary they pay disabled workers.

But less than 10% of the disabled people are estimated to have been employed under this law, and the economic crisis over the past three years has further squeezed their job opportunities.

People with particular disabilities are well known to be especially talented in other respects.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S):

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Page(s): 12 (*Opinion & Analysis*)

Date: 2 December 2000

However, official figures show that there have been openings, even through the crisis, with an increasing number of employers willing to hire disabled people. But a low level of education, attributed to laws exempting them from compulsory schooling, lack of skills and commuting difficulties have barred them from these jobs.

A bill now being drafted for the establishment of a national disabled labour institute should help improve the skills of the disabled and boost job opportunities. Enactment of the bill should come with an active effort to provide more vocational training, as people with particular disabilities are well known to be especially talented in other respects.

The Education Ministry's switch to inclusive education in 1998, which meant the opening up of schools and colleges to disabled students, should help raise the standard of education of this generation.

But while the private sector is opening up to disabled people, the public sector seems to remain largely closed although there was a move in 1996 to revoke Article 30 (5) of the Civil Service Commission Act which prohibits the disabled from working in government agencies. This attitude has to change if Thailand wants to remain a forefront advocate of open societies in the region.

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, has urged access to information technology for the disabled, citing the right of everyone "to share in scientific advancement and its benefits". Thailand played its part by hosting a seminar last year that drafted a "strategic framework" to promote Internet accessibility by, for and with persons with disabilities appropriate to conditions among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It must also proceed to improve conditions at home.

ASIA-PACIFIC: Conference Aims To Develop Women's Strategic Plan

04 Dec 2000 Section: *Women, Children and Population*

The UN **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (ESCAP) and **UNESCO** are holding a four-day conference in Hanoi beginning Wednesday to outline a strategic plan of action for strengthening women's contributions to promoting peace and sustainable development.

More than 120 delegates from around the region are expected to attend the meeting, titled "Asian Women for a Culture of Peace." The meeting will provide participants with an opportunity to outline a strategic action plan to be implemented during the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, which starts next year (ESCAP release, 1 Dec).

UNESCO Director-General **Koichiro Matsuura** arrived in Hanoi today in preparation for the conference, which is expected to draw 100 delegates from the region (Agence France-Presse, 4 Dec).

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Page(s):

ESCAP Chief Urged More Efforts to Tackle Regional Population Challenges

December 7, 2000 email story to a friend | fax story to a friend | Join Now!

BANGKOK (Dec. 6) XINHUA via NewsEdge Corporation - To effectively tackle the problem of poverty and other socioeconomic challenges related to population growth in the Asia-Pacific region, countries concerned should redouble their efforts and take a holistic approach, a United Nations regional chief told a regional demographic meeting here Wednesday.

"Reproductive health services, human resources investments, female education, care of older people, are among the best options for the Asia-Pacific countries to solve diverse problems caused by rapid population growth," said Kim Hak-Su, executive-secretary of the Economic and Social Commission For Asia and The Pacific (ESCAP) , in his opening speech at the third session of the Committee on Socioeconomic Measures to Alleviate Poverty and Urban Areas.

The meeting, which is held here between December 6 and 8, is attended by some one hundred senior government officials and demographic experts in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as dozens of representatives from various international and regional organizations.

Although fertility and mortality rates have declined steadily over the past twenty or thirty years in most countries of the region, Kim said the net absolute addition to population numbers in many developing countries in each year is higher than in the previous year.

The fast growing momentum of the region's population, which in the coming quarter of the century will increase roughly by 1 billion, has made poverty problem more difficult to improve, he said.

Another challenge comes from the increasing concentration of population in urban areas, with all the population increase in the Asia-Pacific region in the next quarter of the century to be absorbed in cities. "As a result, congestion, pollution, spread of slums and the rising numbers of the urban poor will cause formidable problems to many developing countries in the years ahead," he said.

The population problem, he noted, has clear linkage with poverty and environment concerns, with the increased poor population considered both victims and agents of environmental damages.

In addition, the growing share of old age population and the care of older people becomes a social concern with increased demands put on public provision of social services and growing pressure on the traditional support systems provided by families and communities, according to the senior U.N. official.

During the three-day conference, participants will review the socioeconomic implications of population trends in the region, while exchanging experiences and discussing related regional programs.

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China Urges More Social Opportunities for Disabled People

December 13, 2000 email story to a friend | fax story to a friend | Join Now!

BANGKOK (Dec. 12) XINHUA via NewsEdge Corporation - China Tuesday urged Asian- Pacific countries to provide more opportunities for disabled persons to participate fully in social life and keep the momentum to promote the rights and well-being of the handicapped.

"The new century has brought a good chance for persons with disabilities in the region to improve their conditions, but we should also recognize clearly that the disabled people in the region still face severe challenges ahead, especially the barrier in their social participation," Sun Zhonghua, a top advisor to the China Disabled Persons Federation said in a speech at the opening ceremony of the Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002.

The five-day meeting, the eighth in a series of the Asia- Pacific forum for the handicapped, is attended by more than 1,000 representatives of disabled persons and officials of governments and concerned organizations from some 20 countries in the region.

As the Asia-Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, a regional social development scheme for the disabled people, started in 1993, is nearing its conclusion, Sun stressed, the governments and concerned organizations should continue their efforts in the long run and integrate their programs for the disabled into the national economic and social blueprints.

He said that as a major initiator of the regional scheme, China is suggesting that the United Nations formulate an international convention on the rights of the handicapped, who account for one-tenth of the world population.

"The proposal is gaining understanding and support from more and more countries," he said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese expert for disabled people said that during the past eight years of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, his country has taken a series of actions suitable for the

national conditions to promote the welfare and rights of the handicapped.

"We now have new plans in accord with the new century, to promote the programs for disabled persons along with the development of the whole country," he said.

During the conference, participants will review the implementation of the 10-year regional scheme while exchanging ideas and raising proposals for the future development of the programs for disabled persons.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Thai government and the Bangkok-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

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BANGKOK POST: Freedom from barriers: Disabled artists to display their works at a UN-hosted exhibition

The Bangkok Post; Bangkok; Dec 11, 2000;

*Sic:*928120
Start Page: 1
Companies: United Nations*Sic:*928120
Abstract:
Agroup of disabled artists from 15 countries will display their artistic skills at an exhibition entitled "Freedom From Barriers", which will be held at the...

Full Text:
Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Dec 11, 2000

Agroup of disabled artists from 15 countries will display their artistic skills at an exhibition entitled "Freedom From Barriers", which will be held at the United Nations' Escap Auditorium on Ratchadamnoen Road from tomorrow until Friday.

The exhibition will include handicrafts, visual arts, prints, and ceramics.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali will be the chief guest at the opening ceremony at 9:30 am tomorrow. For more details, call 218- 4596.

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03/23/2001 02:34:31

Indian Spastics Society wins regional award

Bangkok (dpa) - The Spastics Society of Tamilnadu, India, has been selected to win the 2000 **ESCAP** Human Resources Development Award, the United Nations's Bangkok-based office announced on Friday.

``The Spastics Society of Tamilnadu (SPASTN), a non-government organization, was chosen was the winner of the award for its rights-based approach to the empowerment of people with disabilities,'' said the U.N.'s Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**).

The annual award, which will be handed over to SPASTIN next month at a ceremony in Bangkok, carries a 30,000-dollar prize contributed by the Japanese government.

two runners-up for the award included Indonesia's Institute of Research, Empowerment and Development for People with Different Abilities and Bangladesh's Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed.

ESCAP, the U.N.'s regional office, noted that 10 per cent of the world's people have some sort of disability. dpa pj wp

AP-NY-03-23-01 0234EST

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The Early Word on Karnataka

26th March, 2001

Indian NGO chosen for HRD award

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BANGKOK, Mar 24: An Indian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) working for the empowerment of the disabled has been chosen for the United Nations ESCAP Human Resources Development Award.

The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu (SPASTN) was nominated by a jury of HRD experts here on Thursday in recognition of its "right-based" approach towards people with disabilities, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in a release on Friday.

The award, 'Human Resources Development for the Empowerment of People with Disabilities', carries prize money of 30,000 US Dollars contributed by the Government of Japan, it said.

SPASTN's approach reflected "full participation and equality - the spirit of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 and for its wide impact in bridging the gap between grassroots groups and policy markers," the release quoting the jury said.

The jury also made special mention of the Indian NGO's use of indigenous cultural methods for raising awareness of the rights of the disabled.

"SPASTN works to empower people with disabilities so that they can determine their own development and contribute to the economic, social and cultural advancement of their communities on an equal basis with others in society."

The NGO will be presented the award at the 57th ESCAP Commission session here next month.

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Press/Media: **KAOSOD**
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Date: March 2001

Summary

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) corporate with the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) for Thai social development. According to instability for people in the crowded areas, called "Slum", these people are improving their life by raising various activities. The purpose of this activity is improving their life in the aspects of life security and social welfare. They also founded a saving co-operative society. It would be beneficial for other organizations to issue policies and projects on social development.

ยูเอ็น-เอ็นจีโอเข้าสลัม ยกระดับชุมชนโดยชุมชน

กรุงเทพมหานครในวันนี้ มีตึกรามบ้านช่องใหญ่โต และหรูหราอยู่เต็มเมือง

ขณะที่สาธารณูปโภคต่างๆ ก็มีให้คนกรุงเทพฯ อย่างครบครัน ไม่ว่าจะเป็นระบบไฟฟ้า น้ำประปา โทรศัพท์ ระบบการขนส่ง และอีกหลายๆ อย่าง

ถือเป็นสวัสดิการที่สมบูรณ์แบบสำหรับคนเมืองหลวง

ถ้ามองโดยภาพรวมๆ ก็จะรู้สึกว่าคนกรุงเทพฯ มีชีวิตที่สะดวกสบายเพราะมีสาธารณูปโภคครบครัน

แต่ในความเป็นจริง ยังมีคนที่อาศัยอยู่ในกรุงเทพฯ จำนวนหนึ่ง แทบจะไม่ได้รับบริการสาธารณูปโภคเหล่านี้เลย

เหตุเพราะว่าอาศัยอยู่ในพื้นที่ที่เรียกว่า 'ชุมชนแออัด'

อันเป็นพื้นที่ที่รัฐมองข้ามที่จะนำสาธารณูปโภค และสวัสดิการต่างๆ ไปลงให้

จากการสำรวจครั้งล่าสุดของการเคหะแห่งชาติ พบว่า มีชาวชุมชนแออัดอาศัยอยู่ในกรุงเทพฯ และเมืองต่างๆ ทั่วประเทศกว่า 2 ล้านคน ส่วนใหญ่บุกรุกเข้าไปอาศัยอยู่ในที่ดินของผู้อื่น เช่น ที่ดินราชพัสดุ ที่ดินริมคลอง ริมทางรถไฟ ใต้สะพาน และที่ดินเอกชน

ทำให้เกิดปัญหาความไม่มั่นคงในที่อยู่อาศัย และมีโอกาสที่จะถูกไล่รื้อบ้านเรือนอยู่ตลอดเวลา

ชาวชุมชนแออัดเป็นแรงงานราคาถูกในโรงงานอุตสาหกรรม แต่สามารถทำให้สินค้าไทยส่งไปแข่งขันในประเทศต่างๆ ได้

ในจำนวนนี้รวมถึงแรงงานก่อสร้างแบกหาม ขายอาหารราคาถูก เป็นคนกวาดขยะ ซาเล้ง ที่ทำให้เมืองสะอาด และเจริญมาถึงทุกวันนี้

แต่ชีวิตความเป็นอยู่ของคนเหล่านี้กลับขาดความมั่นคง เข้าไม่ถึงบริการพื้นฐานและสวัสดิการที่จำเป็นจากภาครัฐ และถูกมองจากสังคมภายนอกว่าเป็นปัญหาสังคมตลอดมา ทั้งๆ ที่แรงงานนอกระบบเหล่านี้ได้ขุนเจือ สร้างเมืองใหญ่ให้เจริญตลอดมา

สิ่งที่ทำให้พวกเขามีชีวิตอยู่รอดได้ในเมืองใหญ่ก็คือน้ำใจ ความเอื้ออาทร และช่วยเหลือดูแลซึ่งกันและกันในหมู่พวกเขาเอง

ด้วยแนวคิดนี้ ชาวชุมชนจึงรวมตัวกันทำกิจกรรมหลากหลายรูปแบบบนพื้นฐานของการพึ่งพาตนเอง และช่วยเหลือซึ่งกันและกัน เช่น การตั้งกลุ่มออมทรัพย์ขึ้นในชุมชนเพื่อหยิบยืม แบ่งปันกัน ในยามจำเป็น การตั้งกลุ่มอาชีพเพื่อหางานสร้างรายได้ให้สมาชิก การสมทบเงินคนละเล็กคนละน้อยตั้งเป็นกองทุนสวัสดิการของชุมชน ตลอดจนการจัดทำโครงการพัฒนาที่อยู่อาศัยและสิ่งแวดล้อมเพื่อให้ชุมชนน่าอยู่

กิจกรรมลักษณะนี้เรียกว่า 'การสร้างความเข้มแข็งของเครือข่ายสวัสดิการชุมชน'

โครงการนี้ไม่เพียงทำให้ชาวชุมชนมีความเป็นอยู่ที่ดีขึ้นเท่านั้น แต่ยังเป็นพลังที่แสดงให้สังคมภายนอกเข้าใจพวกเขาในทางที่ดีและถูกต้องมากขึ้น ซึ่งเป็นสิ่งที่มีค่า ควรแก่การศึกษาเพื่อให้เกิดการเรียนรู้ และนำไปขยายผลสู่ชุมชนอื่นๆ ตลอดจนนำไปสู่ข้อเสนอแนะต่อแนวทางพัฒนาระดับนโยบาย

การสร้างความเข้มแข็งของเครือข่ายสวัสดิการชุมชน เป็นการช่วยเหลือเกื้อกูลดูแลกันของคนในชุมชน โดยการสร้างโครงข่ายความปลอดภัยทางสังคม และการจัดการคุ้มครองทางสังคม โดยชาวชุมชนเองในรูปแบบต่างๆ เพื่อป้องกันไม่ให้คนในชุมชนประสบภาวะความทุกข์ยากลำบาก

มีการจัดการโดยชุมชนอย่างเป็นระบบและต่อเนื่อง เช่น การร่วมกันตั้งกลุ่มออมทรัพย์ กลุ่มอาชีพ กลุ่มสวัสดิการต่างๆ เป็นต้น



จอร์จ คาริลโล รอดิวเกรซ

หน่วยงานที่เข้ามาช่วยเหลือในเรื่องนี้คือ คณะกรรมาธิการการเศรษฐกิจและสังคมสำหรับเอเชียและแปซิฟิก องค์การสหประชาชาติ ร่วมกับสถาบันพัฒนาองค์กรชุมชน (องค์การมหาชน) และมูลนิธิชุมชนเมือง

ในการดำเนินการ คณะทำงานได้คัดเลือกชุมชนแอ

Press/Media: **KAOSOD**
Page(s): 5
Date: March 2001



ลัดในเขตกรุงเทพฯ 5 ชุมชน เป็นชุมชนนำร่องเพื่อศึกษาถึงกระบวนการจัดการกา: สร้างเครือข่ายสวัสดิการ และการสร้างความเข้มแข็งโดยชุมชน โดยการสนับสนุนเงิน ทุนให้ชาวชุมชนนำไปพัฒนาชุมชนร่วมกัน

นายจอร์จ คาริลโล รองผิวเกรช เจ้าหน้าที่การตั้งถิ่นฐานของมนุษย์ คณะกรรมาธิการเศรษฐกิจและสังคมสำหรับเอเชียและแปซิฟิก องค์การสหประชาชาติ ให้ข้อคิดเห็นว่า การศึกษาแนวทางการพัฒนาของชุมชน โดยศักยภาพของชาวชุมชน จะเป็นประโยชน์ต่อการวางแผนและนโยบายของหน่วยงานสนับสนุนในการพัฒนาต่อไป ด้วยความเชื่อที่ว่าชุมชนมีพลังที่จะแก้ไขปัญหาของตนเองได้ เพื่อพัฒนาคุณภาพชีวิตของคนเองให้ดีขึ้น และหากมีหน่วยงานหรือองค์กรทำหน้าที่หนุนเสริมการพัฒนาชุมชนก็จะประสบความสำเร็จมากยิ่งขึ้น

นายจอร์จ ระบุว่า ข้อมูลจากการศึกษาชุมชนนำร่องทั้ง 5 ชุมชน พบว่า มีปัจจัยตัวแปรที่นำไปสู่ความสำเร็จหรือความล้มเหลวของการพัฒนาที่แตกต่างกันออกไป ตามสภาพข้อเท็จจริงและปัจจัยต่างๆ ของแต่ละชุมชน กระบวนการสำคัญที่สุดในการจัดทำโครงการของชุมชนคือ เรียนรู้จากโครงการที่เคยทำมาแล้ว ที่ผ่านมาชาวชุมชนให้ความเสียสละเข้ามาทำงานก่อนที่จะขอความช่วยเหลือจากคนอื่น ซึ่งสิ่งเหล่านี้เป็นพลังสำคัญในการพัฒนาชุมชนด้านอื่นๆ ต่อไป

นางปรีดา คิมฐอินทร์ ผู้จัดการมูลนิธิชุมชนเมือง เผยว่า ชุมชนที่ได้รับการคัดเลือก 5 ชุมชน แห่งแรกคือ ชุมชนพรรณี เขตจตุจักร อยู่ใกล้ๆ กับสถานีขนส่งหมอชิต 2 เป็นชุมชนเก่าแก่ที่มีอายุกว่า 100 ปี ตั้งอยู่ในที่ดินของเอกชน การรถไฟแห่งประเทศไทย และกรุงเทพมหานคร มีประชากร 111 หลังคาเรือน ส่วนใหญ่มีอาชีพค้าขายที่ตลาดรถไฟ ก.ม.11 ซึ่งอยู่ใกล้ชุมชน

ต่อมาเมืองแผ่ขยายออกไปเขตรอบนอก ประกอบกับประชากรในชุมชนมีมากขึ้น ทำให้บ้านเรือนหนาแน่นขึ้น เกิดการปลูกบ้านคร่อมคลองสาธารณะ ปัญหาความทรุดโทรมของสิ่งแวดล้อมและที่อยู่อาศัยจึงตามมา ชาวบ้านจึงได้จัดกิจกรรมต่างๆ ร่วมกันเพื่อพัฒนาชุมชน ทั้งกลุ่มออมทรัพย์เพื่อที่อยู่อาศัย โครงการสวัสดิการเพื่อผู้ยากลำบาก หรือการขุดลอกดูแลรักษาคูคลอง เป็นต้น

จากการศึกษาปัญหาร่วมกันของชาวชุมชนและคณะทำงาน พบว่าชาวชุมชนมีความต้องการที่จะทำโครงการอยู่หลายอย่าง เช่น การสร้างสะพานข้ามคลองระบายน้ำ การพัฒนาทางเดินเท้าในชุมชน การยกบ้าน 14 หลังที่สร้างคร่อมคลองอยู่ และการดูแลสุขภาพ

"หลังสำรวจ ชาวชุมชนจึงร่วมกันพิจารณาจัดลำดับความสำคัญของกิจกรรมจนในที่สุดก็เห็นร่วมกันว่าควรจัดทำสะพานข้ามคลองระบายน้ำขึ้นมา เพราะสะพานเก่าทรุดโทรมมากแล้ว การสร้างใหม่จะทำให้คนส่วนใหญ่ได้รับประโยชน์ ในการสร้างสะพานชาวบ้านแบ่งงานกันทำโดยใช้ช่างและแรงงานในชุมชน มาช่วยกันทำสะพาน"

"สิ่งที่ชาวพรรณีสะท้อนให้เห็นในการจัดทำโครงการ คือการเข้าไปมีส่วนร่วมของคนในชุมชน ถึงพวกเขาจะเป็นชุมชนบุกรุก แต่ก็มีความสัมพันธ์แบบถ้อยทีถ้อยอาศัยกับเจ้าของที่ดินมาโดยตลอด ถือเป็นปัจจัยสำคัญที่ทำให้ชุมชนมีศักยภาพที่จะสร้างเครือข่ายความเข้มแข็งโดยตนเองได้"

☐ อ่านต่อหน้า 6

● ยูเอ็น-เอ็นจีโอ

□ ต่อจากหน้า 5

นางปรีดา กล่าวต่อว่า ชุมชนต่อไปคือ ชุมชนบุญเหลือ ตั้งอยู่ในเขตบางซื่อ เดิมเป็นพื้นที่ว่างเปล่ามีต้นไม้ คนตั้งเดิมที่อาศัยอยู่ในชุมชนแห่งนี้ บางส่วนเป็นเจ้าของที่ดิน ได้แบ่งที่ดินให้บุคคลภายนอกเข้าปลูกบ้านอยู่อาศัย

ด้วยสภาพพื้นที่ของชุมชนต่ำ ทำให้มีน้ำท่วมขัง ประกอบกับไม่มีทางเดินเท้า ผู้นำชาวบ้านจึงไปติดต่อการเคหะแห่งชาติให้เข้ามาปรับปรุงสภาพพื้นที่ ต่อมาจึงได้รับบริการสาธารณูปโภคจากรัฐในเรื่องน้ำ ประปา ไฟฟ้า โทรศัพท์

กิจกรรมชุมชนนี้ ได้มีการรวมกลุ่มออมทรัพย์ กิจกรรมผู้สูงอายุ กลุ่มฌาปนกิจฯลฯ โดยการสนับสนุนจากหน่วยงานรัฐและองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชน แต่ในบางกิจกรรมยังทำกันเฉพาะกลุ่มไม่กระจายทุกกลุ่มในชุมชน

ชุมชนบุญเหลือมีกลุ่มผู้นำ 2 กลุ่มที่มีความคิดเห็นที่แตกต่างกัน ซึ่งเป็นเรื่องปกติของการพัฒนาชุมชน ดังนั้น กลไกในระดับเครือข่ายชุมชนและพหุภาคีจึงได้เข้ามาช่วยให้ข้อคิดเห็น ซึ่งสามารถทำให้การดำเนินโครงการสำเร็จลุล่วงไปด้วยดี โดยชุมชนจะช่วยกันพัฒนาสภาพแวดล้อมของชุมชนการขุดลอกคูคลองและการจัดทำเขื่อนธรรมชาติกันคลื่นพัง นอกจากนั้นยังร่วมกันสร้างและจัดหาอุปกรณ์สำหรับให้คนยราได้ออกกำลังกายต่อไป

สิ่งสำคัญที่ได้ศึกษาจากกระบวนการพัฒนาของที่นี่ และน่าจะเป็นหนึ่งในตัวแปรสำคัญของการสร้างเครือข่ายความเข้มแข็งของชุมชนคือ บทบาทการถ่วงดุลของกลุ่มผู้นำต่างๆ ในชุมชน ที่ทำให้เกิดการตรวจสอบ ท้วงติงและเสริมสร้างการทำงานโดยส่วนรวมมากที่สุด

การถ่วงดุลอำนาจกันเองที่เหมาะสม จึงเป็นปัจจัยหนึ่งของการเสริมสร้างเครือข่ายความเข้มแข็งของชุมชนได้อีกทางหนึ่ง

นางปรีดา ให้ข้อคิดเห็นในการจัดทำโครงการของชุมชน ว่า หากจะสนับสนุนเงินให้ชาวชุมชนโดยตรงก็อาจเป็นไปได้ แต่จะไม่ได้ผลเท่าที่ควร แต่น่าเปิดโอกาสให้ผู้นำเครือข่ายชุมชนในละแวกเดียวกันมาร่วมในการจัดทำโครงการ ก็จะก่อให้เกิดการถ่วงดุล ลดความขัดแย้ง มีข้อเสนอแนะต่างๆ เพื่อให้การจัดทำโครงการมีประสิทธิภาพมากยิ่งขึ้น

ชุมชนริมทางด่วนบางนา ตั้งอยู่ในที่ดินของเอกชนประมาณ 7 ไร่ ปัจจุบันมีบ้านประมาณ 214 หลังคาเรือน ชาวบ้านส่วนใหญ่มีรายได้น้อย มีอาชีพรับจ้างทั่วไป ซึ่งเก็บเงินของเก่า เช่นรถขายของ คนงานในโรงงานลอตเตอรี่เก็บผักขาย เนื่องจากเป็นชุมชนบุกรุก จึงไม่ได้รับการยอมรับจากภาครัฐในการพัฒนา

นอกจากจะมีปัญหาเรื่องค่าสาธารณูปโภคแล้ว ชาวชุมชนยังมีปัญหาความไม่มั่นคงที่อยู่อาศัย เมื่อมีกระแสการไล่รื้อทั้งจากเอกชนเจ้าของที่ดิน และการทางพิเศษแห่งประเทศไทย ชาวบ้านจึงเข้าร่วมกับเครือข่ายศูนย์รวมพัฒนาชุมชนต่อสู้เรื่องสิทธิในที่อยู่อาศัยเป็นเวลากว่า 10 ปีแล้ว

"ระยะแรกๆ ชุมชนริมทางด่วนบางนาตั้งบ้านเรือนโดยไม่มีบ้านเลขที่ พวกเขาอยู่กันแบบไม่มีไฟฟ้า น้ำประปา แม้กระทั่งทางเดินเท้าก็ยังไม่มี เครือข่ายกับชุมชนจึงร่วมกันสร้างทางเท้าด้วยขอบขึ้นในชุมชน แล้วก็ช่วยเรียกร้องสิทธิต่างๆ จนได้บ้านเลขที่ น้ำประปา ไฟฟ้า ที่ต่อจากหน่วยงานรัฐโดยตรง"

"ชาวชุมชนเสนอการทำระบบท่อส่งน้ำประปาใหม่ เนื่องจากระบบเดิมน้ำไหลไม่พอต่อการอุปโภคบริโภค เพราะมีหัวจ่ายน้ำอันเดียวแค่ใช้ทั้งชุมชน"

"ส่วนกระบวนการกระตุ้นหนุนเสริมชุมชนให้เกิดการพัฒนารวมกัน ชาวชุมชนยังให้ความสำคัญกับกิจกรรมเด็กและเยาวชน โดยการจัดทำโครงการที่เกี่ยวกับเด็กและเยาวชนขึ้นอีกหนึ่งโครงการ เพื่อให้เด็กและเยาวชนเข้ามามีส่วนร่วมเป็นพลังในการปรับปรุงชุมชนให้มีสภาพแวดล้อมที่ดีและยั่งยืนต่อไป"



นางปรีดา กล่าวต่อว่า ชุมชนร่มเกล้าโซน 7 เป็นชุมชนแรกในโครงการแก้ไขปัญหาที่อยู่อาศัยของชุมชนที่ถูกรื้อย้าย โดยการเคหะแห่งชาติจัดที่ดินให้ปลูกสร้างบ้าน พร้อมสาธารณูปโภคให้ครอบครัวละ 20 ตารางวา กำหนดผ่อนชำระ 400 บาทต่อเดือน เป็นระยะเวลา 20 ปี ส่วนใหญ่ย้ายมาจากคลองเตยและสวนลุมพินี

ด้วยชุมชนตั้งอยู่ในที่ต่ำต้องประสบปัญหาน้ำท่วมขังทุกครั้งที่ฝนตก ประกอบกับบ่อบำบัดน้ำเสียที่ตั้งอยู่ในชุมชนก็ใช้งานไม่ได้ ขยะและสิ่งปฏิกูลต่างๆ จึงสะสมอยู่ในชุมชน ในเรื่องการประกอบอาชีพก็ได้รับผลกระทบอย่างมาก เพราะต้องปรับเปลี่ยนอาชีพใหม่ บางคนก็ตกงาน พวกเขาจึงรวมกลุ่มเพื่อช่วยเหลือกัน ไม่ว่าจะเป็นกลุ่ม

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ออมทรัพย์ กลุ่มอาชีพ กลุ่มอาสาสมัครสาธารณสุข หรือศูนย์พัฒนาเด็กเล็ก

"พอมีการสำรวจข้อมูลในโครงการศึกษาการสร้างเครือข่ายสวัสดิการโดยชุมชน ชาวบ้านได้ประชุมร่วมกันเพื่อแก้ไขปัญหาของชุมชน มีการเสนอปัญหาและวิธีการแก้ไขปัญหา แยกเป็นกลุ่มๆ เช่น ปัญหาระบบสาธารณูปโภค ปัญหากลุ่มอาชีพ ปัญหายาเสพติด"

"แต่โครงการเหล่านี้ได้รับการสนับสนุนด้านงบประมาณจากการเคหะแห่งชาติ และกรุงเทพมหานครแล้ว ในที่สุดพวกเขาก็เห็นร่วมกันในการทำกิจกรรมพัฒนาเด็กและเยาวชน เพราะมองว่าเยาวชนมีกิจกรรมที่เป็นทุนเดิมจากโครงการพี่สอนน้องและการส่อนนาฏศิลป์ของคนในชุมชน"

"พวกเขาเชื่อมั่นว่าทุนเดิมเหล่านี้ ถ้าสนับสนุนอย่างถูกต้องและต่อเนื่อง ก็จะเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของกุรแก้ไขปัญหาภายในชุมชน โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งปัญหายาเสพติด"

"โครงการนาฏศิลป์พัฒนาสิ่งแวดล้อมเชิงสังคมเลยเกิดขึ้น เป็นการสนับสนุนเด็กและเยาวชนในการทำกิจกรรมร่วมกันในเชิงสร้างสรรค์ในเรื่องต่างๆ โดยเริ่มจากกิจกรรมทางศิลปวัฒนธรรม การออมทรัพย์เด็ก มีการพูดคุยกันต่อไปในกลุ่มเยาวชนว่าจะทำกิจกรรมเพื่อสร้างให้ชุมชนน่าอยู่ มีสิ่งแวดล้อมที่ดีต่อไปได้อย่างไร" นางปรีดา กล่าว

ชุมชนร่วมสามัคคี ตั้งอยู่บนที่ดินของสำนักงานทรัพย์สินส่วนพระมหากษัตริย์ ปัจจุบันชุมชนมี 112 หลังคาเรือน และเนื่องจากเป็นชุมชนบุกรุก ทำให้ไม่ได้รับการยอมรับจากหน่วยงานภาครัฐ การพัฒนาต่างๆ จึงเป็นไปได้ยาก กระบวนการพัฒนาของที่นี่จึงเน้นการพัฒนาเพื่อสร้างการยอมรับจากสังคมภายนอ

ชาวบ้านจึงรวมตัวกันเลือกตั้งคณะกรรมการชุมชนกันเอง มีการจัดตั้งกลุ่ออมทรัพย์ เพื่อช่วยเหลือกันทางด้านการเงิน ร่วมกันในการแก้ไขปัญหาสาธารณูปโภค คือ น้ำประปา ไฟฟ้าตามทางเดิน สะพานเลียบคลอง ตลอดจนการเตรียมการแก้ปัญหาที่อยู่อาศัย มีการจัดตั้งกลุ่มอาสาสมัครสาธารณสุขและกลุ่มอาชีพต่างๆ ขึ้น กิจกรรมเหล่านี้ไม่เพียงแต่ชาวบ้านร่วมกันทำเท่านั้น ยังได้ประสานไปยังหน่วยงานของรัฐในท้องถิ่นเข้ามาร่วมกันทำงานตลอดมา

กระบวนการเหล่านี้ล้วนเป็นประสบการณ์สำคัญในการทำงานสร้างเครือข่ายความเข้มแข็ง โดยชุมชนเห็นว่าควรสร้างศูนย์อเนกประสงค์ เพื่อนำไปสู่การพัฒนาคุณภาพชีวิต และยังเป็นศูนย์กลางรวมพลังในการทำกิจกรรมของชุมชนที่มีอยู่หลากหลายเข้าด้วยกัน

ข้อสังเกตที่น่าสนใจจากการศึกษา คือ ระบบคิดที่เน้นการสร้างการยอมรับจากสังคมภายนอก ทำให้ชาวชุมชนประสานงานขอการสนับสนุนการก่อสร้างจากหน่วยงานอื่นๆ ด้วย เป็นการแสดงศักยภาพการสร้างพหุภาคีของชุมชน

กระบวนการทำงานจึงใช้กระบวนการกีระตุ้นชุมชนให้เกิดการกระจายบาทไปยังกลุ่มกิจกรรมต่างๆ ในชุมชน เข้ามาร่วมวางแผนการใช้ประโยชน์ศูนย์ที่จะสร้างขึ้นใหม่

ในการจัดทำโครงการของชาวชุมชน ถึงแม้ว่าจะเปิดโอกาสให้ชาวชุมชนร่วมกันคิดร่วมตัดสินใจ ร่วมทำโดยชาวชุมชนเองก็ตาม แต่หากหน่วยงานสนุนหรือพหุภาคีใช้จังหวะและท่วงทำนองในการแสดงข้อคิดเห็นที่เหมาะเพื่อกระตุ้นในบางโอกาส ก็จะทำให้มีการถ่วงดุลและโครงการดำเนินไปอย่างราบรื่น และมีประสิทธิภาพมากยิ่งขึ้น

จากการศึกษาและพบเห็นจากการปฏิบัติจริงของทั้ง 5 โครงการนำร่อง ทำให้เห็นว่าตัวแปรที่จะนำไปสู่ความสำเร็จในการจัดทำโครงการโดยองค์กรชุมชน ก็คือ การที่พวกเข้าได้เข้ามาร่วมกันคิดและปรึกษาหารือร่วมกัน ช่วยกันรับผิดชอบในการบริหารจัดการ กระจายบทบาทหน้าที่สู่คนกลุ่มต่างๆ มีการตรวจสอบสรุปบทเรียนที่เป็นกระบวนการเรียนรู้ไปพร้อมกับการประสานความร่วมมือกับพหุภาคีทั้งภาครัฐและเอกชน

เพื่อเดินไปสู่เป้าหมายร่วมกัน และยังเป็นการร้อยเกี่ยวการพัฒนาชุมชนด้านต่างๆ เข้าด้วยกันอย่างเป็นเอกภาพ

นี่คือการสร้างเครือข่ายความเข้มแข็งของระบบสวัสดิการชุมชน โดยชาวชุมชนเอง

และหน่วยงานพัฒนาต่างๆ ควรให้การสนับสนุนเพื่อการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืนต่อไป

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ART CAMP: Project hopes to develop skills and talent in youth; Normal children to mingle with disabled

The Bangkok Post; Bangkok; Apr 15, 2001;

Start Page: 1

Abstract:
The event will bring together normal and disabled children to create art. It was first launched in 1999 by Assoc Prof Channarong Pornrungroj of Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Fine Arts.

All activities will be under the supervision of Thai and foreign art masters, including Mr Channarong and renowned actress Patravadi Meechuthon.

*Prasong Ongpreechakul, of UN-**Escap**, said the project coincides with the Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002). This initiative aims to break barriers to promote social integration of the disabled.*

Full Text:
Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Apr 15, 2001

Young people with special needs have been invited to attend the Art for All project, an art camp which will enable them to prove their talents by overcoming physical, emotional and intellectual limitations.

The event will bring together normal and disabled children to create art. It was first launched in 1999 by Assoc Prof Channarong Pornrungroj of Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Fine Arts.

He said: "We'll see at the camp that children, no matter what differences they have, can live and work together.

"The deaf kids will be the eyes, the blind kids the ears, the mentally handicapped the limbs, and normal kids the brains - and we'll see how wonderful they all are."The project is in its third year, and is co-sponsored by UN-Escap, the Government Lottery Office and the Office of the National Culture Commission.

The five-day event will take place from July 4 to 8, at Muaklek Paradise

Resort in Saraburi. Participants, aged 14-25, will enjoy a wide range of artistic pursuits, including painting, sculpting, printing, music and dancing.

All activities will be under the supervision of Thai and foreign art masters, including Mr Channarong and renowned actress Patravadi Meechuthon.

Mr Channarong said disabled children are highly creative but get limited chances to express their talents. Art will be an instrument to develop them both physically and mentally, he said.

Prasong Ongpreechakul, of UN-Escap, said the project coincides with the Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002). This initiative aims to break barriers to promote social integration of the disabled.

Mr Channarong expressed hope the Art for All project will be expanded to other countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

Ms Patravadi said youths with performance and choreographic skills become more optimistic and positive.

Those interested in the event should contact the Art for All project at Chulalongkorn University's Fine Arts Faculty, tel: 218- 4596, 219-2606.

Anjira Assavanonda

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04/17/2001 02:43:00

BC-Confab-ESCAP 4-17 0157 Shiga Pref. likely to host ESCAP

high-level meeting

OTSU, Japan, April 17 (Kyodo) The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) is likely to hold a high-level meeting in Shiga Prefecture, western Japan, in the fall of 2002, Shiga Gov. Yoshitsugu Kunimatsu said Tuesday.

Kunimatsu said the Japanese government is expected to propose the schedule for official endorsement at the general meeting of **ESCAP**, which opens Thursday in Bangkok. Otsu, the prefectural capital, is most likely to host the meeting.

ESCAP will consider measures to improve the quality of life of disabled people in the Asia-Pacific region in line with a U.N. initiative over 10 years to support the disabled that will end next year.

The **ESCAP** meeting aims to summarize the achievements of each Asia-Pacific nation and discuss further measures to improve the lives of handicapped people in the region.

A total of 61 nations and territories are expected to take part in the meeting.

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Press/Media: **INTL.HERALD TRIBUNE**
Page(s): 8 (Editorial& opinion)
Date: 24 April 2001

Needed, Leaders to Vanquish AIDS

By Peter Piot and Kim Hak-Su

BANGKOK — Much has been written about cheaper drugs for the world's poor, but most people in developing countries do not have access to treatment and prevention services. Ninety-five percent of all new HIV/AIDS cases come from developing countries.

We need a radically different approach to one of the most pressing development issues of our times. The fight against HIV/AIDS must harness the expertise of all sectors of society, including the pharmaceutical industry.

Recent discussions on incentives for research and increased access to medication for the poor mark a significant step forward. Drugs can work, however, only if they form part of a comprehensive approach encompassing prevention, education, care and support.

The conspiracy of silence surrounding AIDS must be broken if we are to confront the challenge directly. For drugs themselves to have a real impact, AIDS has to be fought on several fronts. Our highest priority must still be prevention, to ensure that fewer people become infected with HIV/AIDS in the first place.

For the millions living in poverty who are already infected, enabling access to treatment is crucial. Drugs are an important component of this. Yet we still need to foster the climate for open dialogue on issues that are directly linked with AIDS — social values, behavioral norms, gender roles, health and sexuality.

AIDS is systematically destroying the social and economic fabric of communities in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world.

The whole United Nations organization is being mobilized to fight against AIDS. The General Assembly's decision to convene a special session this June to review and address the problem underscores the international consensus on the urgency of tackling HIV/AIDS as a global problem.

A strong focus on prevention must be linked to young people, since half of new infections are occurring in this age group. Preventive efforts must also target other vulnerable populations, including sex workers, drug users and men who have sex with men. Health and sex education programs and measures for preventing mother-to-child transmission need to be expanded, while access to condoms and to voluntary counseling must be made available to all who need them.

We know today that political commitment, coordination, participation and adequate resources are the key components in combating HIV/AIDS. Leadership at the global, national and community levels is the single most important thing that can reverse the trend.

Peter Piot is executive director of Unaids, the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, based in Geneva. Kim Hak-Su is executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

thr 044
ESCAP-Seminar /GNR/

ESCAP to hold seminar on fighting 'modern slavery'

Tehran, July 30, IRNA -- With the continued rise in traff women and children for sexual purposes as its backdrop, t Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the P (ESCAP) will hold a regional seminar on using legal instr weapons in the fight against this modern form of slavery.

A press release from the United Nations Information C in Tehran on Monday said that the Regional Seminar on Usi Instruments to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children w held from August 1 to 3 at the U.N. Conference Center in Thailand.

The seminar is being organized by ESCAP in collaborat International Organization for Migration.

More than 50 participants from 15 countries in Centra Southeast Asia are expected to attend.

According to the United Nations, trafficking in women for sexual exploitation constitutes a major social proble South and Southeast Asia. Experts are concerned that traf still on the rise and increasingly linked to internationa crime.

In recent years, significant new national and interna such as the United Nations Protocol on Trafficking of the against Transnational Organized Crime have been adopted t trafficking.

Organizers expect the seminar to be a forum for infor sharing and awareness-raising for government officials ab of legal instruments available to them to combat traffick to adapt them to local policies.

As one of the by-products of the meeting, ESCAP aims anti-trafficking resource guide for governments on using instruments to combat trafficking in women and children.

The regional seminar is the first of four meetings to throughout the region to deal in more depth with the issu catalyze governments to develop similar legal instruments national level and to develop mechanisms for cooperation countries.

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July 4, 2001, Wednesday 6:45 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; SCIENCE, CULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH

LENGTH: 367 words

HEADLINE: Regional Campaign to Promote Art Education of Disabled Kicks Off in Bangkok

DATELINE: BANGKOK, July 4

BODY:
A five-day campaign to promote art education of the disabled people in Southeast Asia was launched here Wednesday, aiming to awaken greater public awareness on the issues.

"Art education is not only a way of learning to the disabled people, but also an important method to express their inner feelings and to realize the essence of nature and life," Lim Kim-lan, a United Nations official said at the opening ceremony of the series of activities which are called "Art for All."

"So the objective of the campaign is to show people that the disabled has the artistic talent as good as commoners and to draw more attention to the subject," said the official, who is in charge of the social development issues in the local-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**).

Around 400 art educators, officials from national organizations of the disabled and representatives of the disabled youth from Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam joined the opening event.

"The development of the art education of the disabled persons will provide more opportunities in the lives of those disabled, especially children and teenagers, " said Sutham Saengpratoom, Thai Minister of University Affairs, at the meeting.

He reiterated that the Thai government, as a signatory of the **ESCAP** declaration on the disabled persons and one of the initiators of the Asia and the Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993 to 2002, will always support the local and international efforts to help the disabled people.

He noted that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has given this year's Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award to Thailand Tuesday in New York, which is a big boost for Thailand's endeavor to promote more chances for the disabled.

The campaign will span from July 4 to July 8, including a seminar on the art education of the disabled, a youth camp of disabled teenagers, an exhibition of the art works of the disabled persons and a training course for art educators specialized in teaching disabled people.

The activities were cosponsored by **ESCAP,** the Thai government and the local private sectors.

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Press/Media: BANGKOK POST Date:21 July 2001

Page(s): 8 *(Outlook-features)*

Differently able

Women with disabilities from throughout the Asian region were invited to participate in a recent summit held in Thailand — and the future looks brighter

"Women with disabilities bear two burdens," some say at the risk of ruffling feathers; being the weaker sex primarily and then a certain handicap on top of that. But what if these two "flaws" were assets?

That was the belief of most participants at the recent Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors held late last month in Phitsanulok.

They were strengthened by the sight of so many outstanding female participants with disabilities or "special needs", taking part in the summit. "This group is value added to the summit," said Yutaka Takamine, project expert on disability at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), which is based in Bangkok.

"The gender issue already receives a lot of attention. But we feel that women with disabilities have not been part of the process."

To redress the balance, the organisers of the four-day summit aimed at increasing the awareness of women's transformative role in local government, paving the way for representatives from various disabled women's associations to attend. Representatives came from India, Vietnam, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, Fiji, Indonesia and Thailand.

Ten women with various disabilities took part in the meeting, all models of dynamism and full of fighting spirit to defend the rights of people with special needs.

As part of the "Regional Training Workshop on the Inclusion of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Mainstream Gender Equality Initiatives" organised by Escap's Social Development Division, a three-day preparation seminar and advocacy training was held before the main summit to acquaint delegates with the agenda.

"We might be tagged as very ambitious but we take the summit as a platform for discussion," said India's representative, Anuradha Mohit, who is blind.

"It is so important to give disabled people a chance to work," said Miraflor N. Rico, herself a trained civil engineer from the Philippines city of Cagayan de Oro, where she supervises building plans to ensure they abide by accessibility laws.

"There are government funded schools and a few laws to help disabled people but the main concern is what happens after school. How do they get real employment?" asked Panomwan Bootem, president of the National Association of the Deaf in Thailand.

Speaking through sign language, she deplored the lack of interpreters and the information and communication void deaf and mute people have to endure.

Another delegate from the association, Malinee Chandratitaya, said training for for self-sufficiency should be provided for people with disabilities. "We need — at the very least — compulsory education and the opportunity to earn some income in order to have a productive life," she said.

"Parents in Thailand usually keep disabled kids at home, they don't send them to school or if they do, only for a short while. That leads (such children) to feel very frustrated and develop emotional and mental problems."

Expressing herself with the help of an interpreter, Malinee explained she was often heartbroken hearing about so many cases of poor up-country kids with disabilities deprived of education, training and any ability to communicate with the outside world, and on top of that —although most cases go unreported — victims of physical and mental abuse.

The group's overall wish to be part of the working population is surely indicative of a growing global trend towards more equitable

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societies and the recognition of disability as "a normal matter, something which could happen to anybody", as Clinton E. Rapley, the UN's Senior Social Affairs Officer from New York, noted.

"In general in the past five years, throughout the world we have seen some phenomenal developments, with more results still to come in the next two or three years. Many people are active and trying to do something to improve the lot of people with disabilities, and most importantly, looking at disabled people as *people*, not charity cases. We have come a long way from that,' 'Mohit said, referring to international agreements such as the UN Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

After a few fruitful roundtable discussions, video presentations and symposiums on topics such as promoting barrier free environments and incorporating the concerns of women with disabilities in decision-making, the summit ended on a very positive note.

"The summit provided an excellent opportunity for 10 women with disabilities to participate in a mainstream gender initiative and demonstrate their newly learned advocacy skills," Takamine said.

"The issues on women with disabilities were fully incorporated into the summit deliberations and reflected in the Phitsanulok Declaration on the Advancement of Women in Local Government adopted by the summit.

"The lesson the group learned is that although small in number, when each member is well-prepared and willing to support each other, they can make a sizeable contribution to the agenda of a larger group. They have gained a lot of confidence from this experience and will share it with other women with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region."

A few days after the Phitsanulok summit ended, another development was to bring smiles to those very same faces and by extension, to the faces of an estimated five to six million Thai people with disabilities. Thailand, represented by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, was awarded the Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability prize for 2001.

Roosevelt contracted polio at the age of 39 and was unable to walk or stand without assistance but was nevertheless elected US President four times. The award, with its bronze bust of Roosevelt, was in recognition of Thailand's "noteworthy progress towards the goal of full participation of citizens with disabilities".

"Thailand truly deserves the FDR International Disability Award. The country has strengthened its national capacity to improve the lives of persons with disabilities through promoting their rights for development," Takamine said.

"Thailand has also assisted other countries in the region by collaborating with Escap in many regional activities in support of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons."



Some of the participants at the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors. In the front row (third left) is Yutaka Takamine, UN Escap project expert on disability.

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The Hindu

July 23, 2001

LENGTH: 1487 words

HEADLINE: MADRAS MISCELLANY: HELPING HANDS ACROSS THE SEAS

BODY:

WHEN ELIZABETH Herridge, the wife of the British Deputy High Commissioner in Madras, decided, as had been her wont at other postings, to get involved in local community service, she became part of the Overseas Women's Club team that offered instruction in English to disabled children at the Andhra Mahila Sabha Hospital. Little did she realise at the time that her experiences there would lead to her being catalytical in a much larger hands- across-the-seas project.

When Elizabeth found that one little boy took almost as long as the class to just reach it, she became conscious of the crying need for wheelchairs felt by many special children and their parents in Chennai. Determined to do something about it, she looked around for help during a furlough in the U.K. - and found the Inside Outside Trust.

The British NGO works with prison inmates and encourages them to provide services to people in need. In this case, the Trust put her on to Dave Kellett, Chief Instruction Officer, Garth Prison, Leyland, and they worked out a way to get a hundred wheelchairs for special children in Chennai. The Trust found wheelchairs that required refurbishing, prisoners at Garth made them as good as new, in many cases altering them for special needs following the detailed notes given by Elizabeth, and the funds needed for packing and transporting them in the U.K. were raised by her at a school old girls' reunion she organised. British Airways

Cargo then flew the consignment out to Chennai free earlier this year and has promised to do so early next year as well, when support for the project comes from the Standard Chartered Bank, Madras. The Kelletts flew out to Madras to participate in the distribution of the wheelchairs, carry out fine-tuning and take back a video that was shown to the prisoners at Garth, which has encouraged them to continue with the project.

The wheelchairs were distributed to 11 organisations in South India, including the Andhra Mahila Sabha Hospital, the Spastics Societies of India, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Cheshire Homes, RASA, Pathway Orphange and the Asha Project of St. Andrew's Kirk. Seeing the impact the wheelchairs have had on the lives of these special children, Elizabeth Herridge says, "It is almost impossible to describe the joy on the face of a parent who has, until now, been carrying a disabled child, sometimes three miles each way, to a centre for treatment every day."

Back in the U.K., one of the prisoners at Garth was moved to write after seeing the video how committed it had made him to work on projects that helped those in far greater need than his. It is such commitment that has made Garth Prison's Community Workshop one of the favourites for this year's R. A. Butler Award, for which it has been nominated. The annual award is presented to British prisons/ prisoners for outstanding community service.

From director to chairperson

TALL, SLIM, bespectacled Aloka Guha is a person always on the move. And what she got moving when she arrived in Madras around a dozen years ago, was the Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu (SPASTN) whose dedicated founders wanted someone dynamic like her to put in the full-time effort the Society needed and which they could not give.

The Society's activities had made a beginning in the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar home in Alwarpet, then moved to Ayanavaram. When Aloka Guha arrived on the scene, SPASTN was getting ready to move to a splendid facility in Taramani, where the land had been a Government gift from MGR. It was there that the Society's friends and well-wishers recently gathered to felicitate its director and her team for winning the UNESCAP HRD Award for 2000. There are 61 countries in the Asia-Pacific regions

that could be considered for the award and a country like India offered 40 nominations. Being picked the best in this company speaks more than words for the success the Management Committee, their director Aloka Guha, and her team have made of SPASTN.

Explaining why the **ESCAP** award was for the first time ever given to an organisation caring for the disabled, Aloka Guha, speaking at the felicitation function, chose to cite four of the several reasons given at the presentation. Spastics Tamil Nadu had the widest spread, working in 21 Tamil Nadu districts, providing rehabilitation services through its link with Primary Health Centres, offering service through a mobile therapy van in rural and suburban areas, and giving a wide range of training to both staff and children at Taramani, Ayanavaram and Royapuram. A second reason was the continuous change in approach SPASTN has been making in its 18 years of existence. The third reason was that SPASTN was clear about what it wanted to do with the US $ 30,000 award offered; it had earmarked the money not for the institution but for training the disabled. And that its documentation was thought to be the best among the 129 institutions considered, was the fourth reason cited.

It was with the move to Taramani, and the much more focussed approach of the Committee to where SPASTN was headed, that Aloka Guha joined the organisation in 1991. She'd qualified in special education in the University of Manitoba, Canada, worked in the slums of Bombay when her husband was posted in that city, and arrived with him in Madras around this time when he joined the TVS Group. Taking over as SPASTN's first full-time director, she changed the organisation's outlook from being a local charity to a professionally run education and training centre that focussed on the development of the special child anywhere in Tamil Nadu.

What this young Bengali woman has established may have won an Asia-Pacific award, but more significantly it has earned her the national recognition that was also reason for the felicitation. She has been named the Chairperson of the National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, "the four worst handicaps". The appointment is also recognition of the major inputs she contributed to the Charter and Act framed to make life better for the disabled and to give them an equal place in society. The appointment means that she'll be shuttling between Madras and Delhi,

"but my children in Taramani and the other centres will still see a lot of me", Aloka Guha promised as she got ready to lay down office as director, SPASTN.

Gallantry awards for sailors

I MIGHT be a bit late in the day with this story, but it was just the other day at Madras-based Sanmar Engineering's Silver Jubilee celebrations that I caught up with the news that two members of the crew of M.V. Sanmar Pageant had been presented gallantry awards at the National Maritime Day celebrations on April 5. The annual celebrations on this day mark the day in 1919 when the first Indian ship in modern times, the M.V. Liberty, left on a voyage to an overseas destination, Bombay to London.

The Government of India awards, presented to the master of the M. V. Sanmar Pageant, Capt. N. S. Bharat, and his bosun, P. M. Shanmugam, were for the part they played in rescuing two Belgians aboard the yacht P. M. Charles that was floundering in Atlantic waters off Nova Scotia on July 17, 2000.

Recalling the rescue effort, after they had been informed about the stricken vessel by the U.S. Coast Guard's Rescue Coordination Centre, Norfolk, Capt. Bharat narrated, "With efforts to contact the Charles not fruitful, it took us over an hour to locate the yacht with the help of a French sailing vessel, Spot, which was in the vicinity. When we reached the yacht, rough weather conditions made it difficult to manoeuvre the Sanmar Pageant close to the Charles, which kept drifting away. Eventually we were able to get within 100 metres of the Charles.

"Now there were difficulties in passing a line to the distressed vessel. Our French-speaking Second Officer once again coordinated with Spot and asked her to manoeuvre close to the Sanmar Pageant. Our bosun quickly seized the opportunity and threw a line accurately on the deck of Spot which was carried promptly to the distressed vessel. A giant line attached to the first line was heaved and fastened to the broken sail mast by the skipper of the Charles.

"The Charles was in a precarious position, heavily trimmed with water that had leaked in, so heaving it in had to be done with extreme caution to prevent it from capsizing during the process. With deft handling, the Charles was eventually brought alongside and the exhausted survivors taken aboard our vessel safely."

Arriving at Pier Kilo, Brooklyn, New York, the Sanmar Pageant was greeted with congratulations by representatives of the Coast Guard and presented to the awaiting media.

The rescue didn't capture as much interest here - or did I miss it? - but the awards at the annual celebrations brought the feat the recognition it deserved.

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New Straits Times (Malaysia)

July 30, 2001

SECTION: Focus; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 996 words

HEADLINE: Looking beyond disabilities

BYLINE: By Ooi Kok Chuen

BODY:
DISABLED but not handicapped. This rallying cry of the physically-challenged in pursuit of their legitimate rights for access to public amenities has been gaining ground even in the less developed countries.

Thailand's Art For All project, the extraordinary art camp for people with disabilities, is an extension of their claim for greater independance.

The camp is the brainchild of Assistant Professor Dr Channarong Pornrungroj, who has made the project into a year-round affair with supplementary and follow-up activities.

It brings together some 115 disabled and able youth for five days of intensive exposure in a convivial surrounding to painting, printmaking, sculpture, cartoon-drawing, dance, music and poetry.

The third of an annual series, it was held last July 4-8, at the Muak-lek Paradise Resort, about two hours' drive north of Bangkok.

The camps are to unearth, explore and develop the creative talents of the disabled, with a view of empowering them with a vocation or profession.

The camp also offers a broad perspective of achievements and problems of

the disabled, both in Thailand and neighbouring Asean countries.

It is also a meeting point to network, streamline, collaborate and co-ordinate among various non-governmental organisations and individuals in
related fields.

This is provided for in useful talks-cum-video presentation by Poonpit Amatyakul of the Ratchusuda College's (Mahidol University) Programme for
Persons with Disabilities, and the United Nations **Economic and Social Commission for Asia** and the Pacific's Yutaka Takamine. Wheelchair-bound
Takamine himself surmounted a gymnastics accident during his teens.

The preamble to the camp was a short half-day regional seminar held at the United Nations Conference Centre.

The presenters were Malaysian artist Victor Chin, Indonesian Mitra-Netra
Foundation for People with Disabilities Ahmad Nasikhin, Filipina artist Alma Quinto, Very Special Arts (Singapore) project director Lim Lin Da,

Vietnamese Xa Dan School of Hearing-Impaired Children's deputy principal
Tran Thi Tin and Setsation School for the Deaf's Amporn Panpanich (Thailand).

Others from Asean invited for the workshops were National Art Gallery assistant curator Rohana Yusof (Malaysia), Vietnam's Hathi Dau (also Xa

Dan) and visually-impaired Singapore artist Chng Seok Tin.

The speakers gave helpful insights into the type of social work and organisations of their respective countries.

Ahmad says that 1.15 per cent or three million people of Indonesia's 203 million are visually impaired. Of this, 1.82 per cent are of school age.

He says that in addition to the rehabilitation, education,

entertainment, self-actualisation and awareness campaign, Mitra-Netra also
organises poetry contests for the blind where the best 40 will be compiled

into an anthology.

Chin visits various disabled institutions in the Klang Valley and laments the lack of follow-through support after two years of vocational school for the disabled.

"They end up in factories. There are two distinct types of art - one for the open market, and another for the handicapped," he rues.

Alma, whose art since 1995 involves abused women and children, talks about the Tam-Awan artist's village in Baguio City run by artist Ben Cabrera where regular workshops include solar drawings.

Lin Da shows how Singapore is more fortunate with a battery of support mechanisms and marketing.

Among others, the VSA sponsors children's thematic art camp (since 1997), Saori handweaving, greeting cards, Saturday art classes, busker's cafe, music and art exhibitions. More recently, it hosted a Pair-With-An-Artist mentoring project which culminated in an exhibition called Duo Sensitivity at Balai Seni-lukis Maybank in Kuala Lumpur last June.

The programmes are geared towards promoting relaxation, emotional healing, building self-esteem, integrating into society and income generation.

Chng has obviously gone over and beyond lamenting "Why me?" when she
lost 80 per cent of her sight in a brain tumour operation in 1988.

Since then, the 55-year-old has had a mini-retrospective at SAM (Singapore Art Museum) in 1988, a nine-week artist-in-residency programme
in Sichuan Fine Arts Institute/Teachers Training University in Chengdu in
China in 1998, and was a visiting artist to San Jose State University in

1992.

Poonpit reveals that an early obstacle to rehabilitation is the taboo that one's disability is derived from one's karma.

He says that another major problem is the unsanitary conditions in rural areas where iodine and salt are lacking in water and pregnant mothers lack
protein.

"All these partly result in children in rural areas being born with cleft palates and who later get infection in their ears," Poonpit adds.

The blind and deaf are better off now, especially with advances in adaptative technology for their special needs, and they can receive education until tertiary level.

Under Thailand's 1991 Rehabilitation Act, every disabled child must go to school, which is free for the first 12 years.

"A programme has been worked out where any disabled child within a 5km
radius of a school will be provided transport to attend school with regular students. There are 287 schools in the Bangkok metropolitan area,"
Poonpit reveals.

Some 8.1 per cent of Thailand's 60.8 million people are disabled. In the Asia-Pacific region itself, it is estimated that there are 300 million disabled people.

An upshot of this camp is that Kuala Lumpur will organise the first International Arts Fest for the Disabled on Oct 12-15, while Vietnam will

host an exhibition of the works by such artists.

Channarong's seminal Art For All has certainly touched many others beyond national boundaries.

The writer's trip and participation in the camp was sponsored by the National Art Gallery of Malaysia.

The writer can be contacted at ooi@nstp.com.my

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): 2*(Outlook-society)*
Date: 7 August 2001

Concert to mark International Youth Day

Classical and folk music concert to be held at the UN Conference Centre tomorrow

Girton College Chapel Choir of Cambridge University, England, will present a concert of classical, folk and popular music at the United Nations Conference Centre tomorrow to commemorate International Youth Day 2001.

The concert, which marks the Choir's Southeast Asia debut, is being presented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).

For the past 10 years Girton College Choir has been growing in prominence at home and abroad. The 30-member, award-winning choir has performed in France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, and toured Central America.

Following its performances in Thailand, the choir will tour Malaysia, Lao PDR, Singapore and Sarawak/East Malaysia.

The choir's repertoire is very diverse and ranges from Byrd to Britten, with a wide range of secular music to complement the sacred works that form the staple fare of Cambridge choirs.

Martin Ennis is the choir's music director. Admission to the concert is by invitation only.

Limited tickets are available. Call UN Escap on 02-288-1660 for further information.

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s):2 *(Society)*
Date: 22 August 2001

Empowering the rural poor

Korean government sponsors 1.35-million baht Escap award for 2001

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) has invited applications for the 2001 Escap HRD Award.

The award aims to encourage research, training and other innovative achievement in the field of human resources development (HRD) in Asia and the Pacific.

The theme of this year's award is "Empowering the Rural Poor through HRD".

The 2001 award, sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Korea, carries a prize of $30,000 (1.35 million baht) in the form of a grant in support of further work towards empowering the rural poor.

The deadline for applications is November 15, 2001.

The award is open to government agencies, civil society organisations/ institutions, and individuals (resident nationals) in both developing and transitional-economy countries and areas of the Asia-Pacific region that have undertaken innovative HRD work to empower the rural poor through means such as education, skills development, health promotion, employment creation, promotion of legal literacy, and social mobilisation.

The criteria for selection of the winner will be based on:

- degree of HRD commitment;
- responsiveness to the needs of the rural poor;
- innovativeness of the approach;
- impact; and
- sustainability of the activity.

Applications for the award (in English and not exceeding 3,000 words) must contain:

- applicant's name;
- applicant's address (complete postal address, email address and contact numbers);
- a summary of the applicant's work focusing on the above criteria (maximum 600 words);
- Letters from two independent referees; and
- A project proposal for use of the grant for further work towards the empowerment of the rural poor.

Detailed information about the award and the application requirements are on the Escap HRD Web at www.escap-hrd.org.

Alternatively, you may contact the Escap HRD Section directly.

Give your full contact details and an information brochure will be sent to you.

Applications are to be addressed to The Chief, Human Resources Development Section, Social Development Division, Escap, United Nations Building, Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand.

The fax number is 02-288-3031 and the telephone number is 02-288-1502.

Applicants are advised to note that applications sent by electronic mail will not be accepted.

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s):6 *(International)*
Date: 23 August 2001

Asia remains a paradise for foreign paedophiles

SEX TOURISM : *Internet makes it easier to tap into vast local networks*

Asia remains a magnet for paedophiles despite efforts to clean up the region's image, a fact highlighted this week by the arrest in Thailand of a US fugitive on the FBI's 10 "most wanted" list.

Poverty, lax laws and corruption lie at the root of the problem, while the growing use of the Internet has made it easier for Western sex tourists to tap into vast local networks.

"Asia is the primary hot spot, particularly for child sex tourism," said Nanda Kraitriksh, human resources development chief at the UN regional headquarters in Bangkok.

The popularity of Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines and South Asia as budget tourist destinations has made it easier for foreign paedophiles to pass unnoticed.

The sheer scale of the problem and international pressure had forced governments in the region into action, said Thelma Kay, a UN official working on Asian women's development issues.

"In the last three years there has been a lot of sensitisation about this issue so governments are now beginning to realise they cannot sweep it under the carpet."

After decades of denial, Sri Lanka is coming to terms with its reputation as a paradise for child pornographers and tourists seeking sex with minors, officials said.

The number of child sex workers is officially estimated at 30,000, with boys servicing Western tourists in beach resorts and girls supplying a growing domestic market.

"This is still the tip of the iceberg," said Hiranthi Wijemanne of Sri Lanka's Unicef office.

The UN said paedophilia in most of Asia feeds off not just Western tourists but also a larger domestic pool.

"We did a study in 12 countries, and out of the 12, 11 were fuelled primarily by local demand," said Mr Nanda.

"A lot of governments prefer to say the demand is foreign. But actually the majority of cases in virtually all countries in Asia are local.

"The networks are just tremendous and the Internet has just made it so easy for them [foreign paedophiles] to network with existing local networks."

In Sri Lanka, laws have been toughened recently and the arrest and conviction of at least 10 Westerners have begun to deter foreign paedophiles, police said.

But local offenders still make the headlines, often as part of international pornography rings.

Increasing vigilance by Thai authorities working with foreign law enforcers like the FBI has seen paedophiles turn to neighbouring Cambodia — where the end of three decades of

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Date: 23 August 2001



Activists, one wearing a mask, bondage straps and handcuffs, march through a street in Hong Kong to protest the closure of a sex shop by police. — AFP

civil war has resulted in a tourism mini-boom.

In recent years several alleged paedophiles have bribed their way out of pre-trial detention, compounding efforts by authorities there to clean up Cambodia's tarnished image.

But last year a British headmaster was sentenced to three years in jail in a rare conviction for paedophilia after he was caught videotaping eight- to 10-year-old girls fondling themselves in a public park.

Despite the relative leniency of that sentence, rights workers hailed the verdict as a step in the right direction, and Cambodian authorities have vowed the case sets a precedent.

"We are very concerned over the name of Cambodia as a sex tourism [destination] being used by foreigners as a cheap and easy place to have sex with young girls," Cambodia's Minister of Women's Affairs Mu Sochua said.

"We will prosecute anyone who violates our law ... no matter who this person is, no matter the nationality."

In the Philippines, at least three foreigners — two Britons and one Australian — have been convicted of paedophilia by local courts in recent years.

Council for the Welfare of Children executive director Maria Elena Caraballo said the problem reached its height in the 1980s and early 1990s, but had declined in recent years partly as a result of monitoring efforts and and a fall in the number of foreign tourists because of instability in the country.

Despite efforts to crack down on paedophiles, experts said that with an estimated 700,000 women and children trafficked for sexual purposes in Asia every year, there is little chance of the problem abating.

Adding to the problem is the HIV/Aids epidemic which has led to increased trafficking of younger women.

"There is a lot of demand for younger sex workers because of the HIV/Aids epidemic," said Mr Nanda. "A lot of the clients now feel that if you go for younger girls they will be pure... Virgins have a very high market rate."

◆ **Dan Eaton**
Bangkok, Reuters

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For the disabled

By Ng Su-Ann

AS THE country strives towards achieving developed status, there should be emphasis on creating a safe, usable and accessible environment for the disabled.

Universiti Malaya's Faculty of Built Environment lecturer Naziaty Mohd Yaacob said more efforts were needed to get the disabled into the mainsteam of society.

"Malaysia is currently at the stage where Britain was in the 1970s when efforts were made to look into public transportation for the disabled," she added.

Naziaty, who uses crutches, is also a trainer for non-handicapping environment under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission Asia Pacific (Unescap).

"Besides creating a barrier-free environment for the disabled, we can also incorporate universal designs to benefit the elderly.

"Due to increasing average life span, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has projected that 30% of the world population would be aged 60 and above in the year 2025," she said in an interview during a two-day technical training workshop on *The Promotion of Non-Handicapping Environment in Penang* recently.

She said policies should be drawn up to address the needs of the elderly, mothers with young children and the disabled, adding that they should not plan and design for only "Mr and Mrs Average."

About 50 people, including architects, planners and engineers from the Penang Municipal Council (MPPP), took part in the workshop which was jointly organised by the council MPPP and the Socio-Economic and Environmental Research Institute (Seri).

Naziaty said the workshop, held for the first time in Penang, was important in enhancing the pace of public awareness on this issue.

Participants also took part in a simulation exercise where they were given different roles--being visually-impaired (they were blindfolded), hearing-impaired (wore ear plugs), having low-vision (wore swimming goggles), wheelchair-bound, a person on crutches or attendants for the visually-impaired.

Then they were taken to Komtar where they encountered several obstacles including uncovered drains, high telephone booths, slippery floors, lack of directional signs, high footpaths and poorly lit areas.

Local Government deputy director-general Fong Tian Yong, one of the facilitators, said this activity was aimed at creating an awareness on the needs of the disabled.

Thus council participants, who were directly involved in town planning, would now be more aware of the importance of making residential and public areas barrier-free, he added.

They also formed groups to conduct surveys on the accessibility of several areas such as George Town's Heritage Trail, Komtar, Gurney Drive, Fort Cornwallis and Macallum Street Ghaut flats.

One of the groups claimed that the only toilet for the disabled in Komtar was on the fifth level and it was closed on Sundays while another group said the steps 'to get into several shops were too high."

Next

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Page(s): 3 *(home)*
Date: 20 September 2001

Poverty talk

Bangkok is hosting an inter-regional workshop on fighting poverty through community development.

The three-day workshop, which started yesterday, creates a forum where UN people, and more than 100 city mayors from Asia and the Pacific exchange opinions and experience.

Deputy city clerk Nattanon Taweesin said Bangkok's scheme was a success. Vocational training was provided by eight training centres and mobile training units.

3.2 Drugs

RESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):
ress/Media: SATURDAY FORUM Date: 23 December 2000
age(s): 12

Of drug abuse and the danger to development

By Kim Hak-su

DRUG abuse and the drug trade that feeds it distort economic and social development. Thus, in this sense too, drug abuse is incompatible with development.

The insidious aspects of this distortion of the development process and what we must consider in our pursuit of a drug-free Asean 2015 should be the focus of our development efforts today.

Drug-related problems impede, and can derail, progress towards sustainable economic and social development in the Asean sub-region in several ways.

The nexus between drug abuse, exploitation of human vulnerability and crime directly heightens the level of violence in society and undermines public security.

Pimps and gangsters lure their victims into drug dependency as a means of entrapping them to serve vast supply networks. Drug production, trafficking and supply commonly involve the use of lethal weapons, both by criminals and law enforcement personnel.

On the demand side, drug users often steal, rob and assault to support their habit. With the high stakes involved, pitching force against force would seem a rational response.

According to this logic, Asean governments are compelled to channel enormous resources to fight the war against drugs.

The same resources may therefore be diverted from education, health promotion, and other forms of social and economic support to address human development needs.

The drug trade thrives on poor governance, and further weakens societies and governments. The drug lords and their networks are tenacious and elusive.

There is often strong public and political pressure for the police to demonstrate results. This can lead to human rights violations, including extra-judicial executions.



KIM ... nexus of violence

Justice thus becomes more arbitrary, and the rule of law is further weakened. Such violations can also occur when the police force and influential public figures themselves engage in the lucrative drug trade.

Drug abuse also leads to physical and mental health problems that weaken the fabric of society and undermine the workforce. An overdose of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) leads to tremors, loss of co-ordination, and even heart attacks or strokes.

In the long term, amphetamine-related dependency can lead to malnutrition, psychosis and violence. In many Asean countries, needle sharing among injection drug users first led to HIV/AIDS gaining a foothold.

Illicit drug users who are employed are more likely to be absent from work and also suffer work-related accidents. Developed country data estimate that drug use in the workplace costs the economy 1 to 1.4 per cent of GDP.

The reduced productivity of people who take illicit drugs is an economic and social loss. Furthermore, illicit drug use poses as a danger to other members of the workforce and the general public.

This is largely because of the pattern of amphetamine-type stimulant abuse in the industrial and land transport sectors, which leads to higher risks of accidents. This phenomenon must be more closely examined to generate a realistic basis for a more effective response.

Also noteworthy is the high cost of treating and rehabilitating drug abusers. For example, the monthly cost of residential treatment in one Asean capital can be US$360 (RM1,140). This is 40 times the annual health expenditure of an average citizen in the same country.

When the quantifiable costs of drug abuse are added up, the total is usually equal to several per cent of a country's GDP. When we look at the broader, and less quantified, costs of illicit drug use, we find that these are even more alarming.

So, who are drug users?

Worldwide, most drug users are aged between 15 and 35. Those aged 18 to 25 manifest the highest rates of use.

They include students cramming for examinations, long distance truck drivers, stock exchange executives and party boppers. In the Asean sub-region, it is very disturbing how common drug abuse has become among young people.

There are push and there are pull factors.

In the fast pace of the Internet age, it is *de rigeur* for young people to seek constant gratification from diverse sources of stimulation.

Raised on video games and films that are characterised by violence, young people crave a steady diet of thrills to escape boredom.

To do so, they need a steady stream of sensory and tactile inputs. These, in turn, heighten the need for continuous excitement.

Experimentation with illicit drugs, and the dependency that easily follows, is one aspect of this constant craving for excitement.

Parents are most often blamed for the failures of their children. The family as an institution is under great strain to extend the support that its members may no longer be in a position to give.

Many of the icons of youth culture are often associated with non-conformist behaviour.

In some cases, that behaviour may include the use of illicit drugs. These youth icons may not necessarily be from the Asean region.

The electronic media give wide coverage to youth icons and their actions. Glitzy advertisements powerfully project their image.

In this way, their actions have a far greater impact on young people than in the case of an ordinary individual drug user.

The more society projects drug use as something bad and dangerous, the more youth attach allure to it, the tastier the forbidden fruit and the higher the status of those who dare to eat this fruit.

It is important that this aspect of youth culture is recognised in the communication strategies to be implemented.

On the supply side, one undesirable outcome of technological progress is that cheaper scientific methods now exist.

They can now produce much more powerful and dangerous drugs and in larger quantities.

All our endeavours must be informed by what predisposes people to become involved in drugs.

Only then, can our understanding of life circumstances be used to address the root causes effectively and to avoid expensive cosmetic measures of limited impact.

In the absence of a grasp of the phenomena, mere data crunching with the most powerful of computers will lead nowhere.

□ The writer is United Nations Under Secretary-General.

BANGKOK POST: Alive and kicking

The Bangkok Post; Bangkok; Feb 13, 2001;

Start Page: 1

Personal Names: **Calvani, Sandro**
Ungsonthamhata, Prateep

Abstract:
In the remote countryside of southern Chumphon province, among the forests, coffee plants, rubber trees and ponds which comprise the 39 hectares of the Duang Prateep Foundation's rehabilitation centre, a handful of boys, mostly about 16 years old, are engaged in the titanic struggle to overcome their drug addictions.

Like [Somkiat], a native of Uttaradit province and a resident at the centre for the last one-and-a-half years, some 90 teenagers from all over Thailand are currently involved in the Duang Prateep Foundation's Niwattana New Life Project for boys, established in 1986.

"I want this project to be an example for the government to follow. They should support community work all the more since people have begun to realise that other types of rehabilitation programmes don't work," said Khru [Prateep Ungsonthamhata], now known as Senator Prateep Ungsongtham Hata, the famous figure behind the Duang Prateep Foundation.

Full Text:
Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Feb 13, 2001

At the Niwattana New Life Project for boys, the drug war is being fought one soul - and body - at a time

In the remote countryside of southern Chumphon province, among the forests, coffee plants, rubber trees and ponds which comprise the 39 hectares of the Duang Prateep Foundation's rehabilitation centre, a handful of boys, mostly about 16 years old, are engaged in the titanic struggle to overcome their drug addictions.

They are battling mostly in silence and without gradual drying- out periods or chemical substitutes or medicines, operating on the strength of will with the help of peers, tutors and Mother Nature: a rural environment, fresh water and physical exercise.

The battle is being fought with their own bodies and souls, which have been thoroughly enslaved to narcotic substances, mostly amphetamines, sometimes for years on end.

"I keep thinking about it. This feeling of being under the influence of drugs is haunting me," said Somkiat, 18 years old, a handsome face with sad brown eyes.

"This feeling can be very stressful sometimes. I try and overcome it by going a bit overboard, doing everything full tilt, speaking very loudly, exercising like mad. It's very difficult to forget it." Somkiat's main concern is to get rid of his amphetamine addiction in order to support his family: a little sister, an ageing mother who farms for a living, and a paralysed father.

"Those who have never had to deal with this problem are lucky. But for those who are fighting drug addiction like me, I want to tell them to always forge ahead, to never lose hope. I want them to know that drugs are destroying their future and putting their lives in danger."

Like Somkiat, a native of Uttaradit province and a resident at the centre for the last one-and-a-half years, some 90 teenagers from all over Thailand are currently involved in the Duang Prateep Foundation's Niwattana New Life Project for boys, established in 1986.

Each of them has a tragic story to share of the slow descent into the hell of drug addiction: "I had a weakness for having fun," said one; "my heart is my soft spot," said another; "I am too emotionally unstable," or "I wanted to have the energy to study in the daytime and work at night," or "I wanted to stay awake later at night" - each offered their reasons for becoming addicted.

The young boys are enrolled in the project for a minimum of three years, the time needed to cut short all kinds of bad habits and addictions and, in short, start a new life. If the parents can afford it, the monthly fee is 3,000 baht; if not, the foundation calls on private donations to cover expenses, or the Ministry of Non-Formal Education, various schools and the local community.

During the three-year period, the young boys may attend the local school on a regular basis, and if not much academically inclined they can

undertake a programme which contains vocational training and agricultural work mixed with a bit of conventional schooling. The recovering addicts also have the opportunity to build links with the local community by taking part in construction projects and various other projects under way in the neighbouring village.

Their daily routine includes self-development activities, group activities such as language studies, computer studies, and optional educational studies as well as practical agriculture and sports. Supplementary activities such as meditation, watching videos, training and discussions are also on the agenda. They also help with the upkeep of the centre itself.

The success rate of the Niwattana New Life Project, according to the residents, seems to be about 70 to 80 percent, which ranks this rehabilitation centre amongst the most efficient and sought-after programmes in the country. Indeed, there is a waiting-list of around 400.

For many of these young boys, this was the end of the road: many said they fared badly in other rehabilitation centres, hospitals and temples.

"I have undergone treatment for drug addiction in numerous places, but unsuccessfully - four times at Thanyarak Hospital, once for a one- month treatment programme at Tham Krabok temple some 10 years ago, costing 3,000 baht, plus another course of 21 days somewhere else. Each time I felt it was too short, and I tended to get addicted to the other drugs I was given as a substitute," explains Wanchai, a 24- year-old from Samut Sakhon, a former heroin addict who is now a teacher's assistant at the Chumphon centre.

"The good thing about this project is that there are plenty of activities, things to do. Many gain confidence and self-esteem by learning new skills, doing things themselves, mending things, doing physical exercise," said Wanchai, wearing a loose white T-shirt with the word "Nirvana" in big letters.

"I want this project to be an example for the government to follow. They should support community work all the more since people have begun to realise that other types of rehabilitation programmes don't work," said Khru Prateep, now known as Senator Prateep Ungsongtham Hata, the famous figure behind the Duang Prateep Foundation.

While driving down the bumpy road leading to the rehabilitation centre, she said, "This type of programme, with links to the local community, is a more appropriate way of dealing with drug addiction. It is also much more economical - our government is spending billions of baht on drug-related issues."

Senator Prateep enumerated, at length, the various budget items related to the drug scourge.

One thing is certain: the curse of drugs is spreading through all sectors of society, affecting more than 1 million people (casual users and addicts) in Thailand, according to a study commissioned by the Narcotics Control Board.

Another recent study on this multibillion-baht business showed that over 70 percent of drug addicts in Thailand are no longer from broken families as before, and the drug of choice is amphetamine, claiming 90 percent of total addictions.

The Duang Prateep Foundation had a ringside seat for the turn of the tide. Conceived at first as a way to rescue children from the Khlong Toey slum communities, the New Life Project residents coming from slum communities now number less than 15 percent, about 10 of the 90 current residents. The majority are now from middle and upper class families.

"The kids are all sent by their parents. Sometimes the parents had even sworn they would only send them here as a last resort. But other methods failed, and they would sometimes come to me with tears in their eyes, hopeless. We have kids from all over Thailand, and all types of communities, even the Muslim community."

The senator added: "For sure, many middle-class families are suffering. Sometimes parents put too much pressure on their children and have too many expectations. The kids might not feel up to handling those expectations and may become frustrated for not being appreciated. It might also happen that because of over-protection, kids feel they can never think for themselves and make their own decisions, leading to poor self-esteem. Gathered in the centre's main hall on that rainy day late last month with Senator Prateep were other honourable guests such as Dr Sandro Calvani, a representative from the United Nations International

Drug Control Programme, and Nanda Krairiksh and Kayoko Mizuta from United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific. The gathering offered the recovering addicts a rare opportunity to try and make sense of the big picture.

At the request of some of the youths, Dr Calvani painted a broad picture of the situation in the region, explaining, for example, that Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia had, to a certain extent, eliminated the circulation of heroin and amphetamines in their countries, but had much to do regarding the consumption of marijuana. The situation in Burma, ranked the second largest producer of opium in the world as well as the number one producer of amphetamines, is extremely serious.

"People within communities have to change - they have to realise that drugs are destroying our young people," Dr Calvani said. "We need mobilisation within civil society, as if we had decided to stage a revolution, or as Thai people did to bring about the new constitution - all joining hands together. Drugs are not just the problem of the government, or of the Prateep Foundation alone. It's much more than that.

"Drugs are a symptom of a sick society, where only money, sex and power rule," he added. "We need to rebuild values and learn how to earn happiness by serving, giving to others, rebuilding people's self- respect."

The young listeners could only agree with such elevated words and goals, but still dared to make a few small requests: less crowded rooms, divided bathrooms, better sports equipment, an electrical generator and some means of transportation ...

Whatever one might say, it is first and foremost on their young shoulders that this gigantic struggle against drugs is being Info for donations:

- Name of organisation: Duang Prateep Foundation, Niwattana New Life Project for Boys

- Address: Duang Prateep Foundation, 34 Lock 6, Art Narong Road, Klong Toey, Bangkok 10110.

- Contact person: Senator Prateep Ungsonthamhata

- Telephone: (02) 671-4045-8, 249-4880 or 249-3553

- Fax: (02) 249-5254

- Bank details: Savings account at Thai Farmers' Bank, Khlong Toey branch, number 017-2-06336-5; account name: Duang Prateep

Or send a cheque payable to the Post Publishing Plc. Address it to Kusuma Mintakhin, Editorial Manager, ATTN: Duang Prateep Foundation, 136 Na Ranong Road, off Sunthorn Kosa, Khlong Toey, Bangkok 10110. Her telephone number is 240-3700 ext 3224-5.

Please include your name and address with your cheque so we can send you a receipt.

- "We care" is a fortnightly series honouring people who believe in giving. In addition to supporting these causes, you can let us know about people who unselfishly help others so we can make more people aware of their efforts. Fax "We care" on 240-3668 or call 240- 3700 ext 3208 or 3212. Email can be sent to sanitsuda@bangkokpost.net.

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Wanphen Sreshthaputra

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TAKE SOME **WEIGHT** OFF

Tuesday March 27, 10:21 AM

UN to highlight Asia's drugs crisis with "Traffic" preview in Bangkok

BANGKOK, March 27 (AFP) -

The United Nations plans to draw attention to Asia's drugs crisis with a charity premiere here Thursday of "Traffic," the gritty docu-drama that earned Steven Soderbergh an Oscar for best director.

With traditional anti-narcotics strategies proving increasingly ineffective, campaigners must adopt new tools to highlight the perils of the narcotics trade, UN officials said.

"Nowadays people are mobilized by the movies, and nowadays the policies of governments are no longer sufficient. A note given by a government on drugs doesn't work," said Sandro Calvani, UN International Drug Control Program representative for East Asia and the Pacific.

"There are not many ways for the UN to reach out for a civil society, and the entertainment industry is one way."

Although "Traffic" is set on the US-Mexican border, the themes it examines are relevant to similar problems plaguing Asia, he said.

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"The movie is related to another drug problem that is radically different -- on the Mexican border -- but there are some issues that are extremely important for Asia."

"The issue of not losing face is being challenged by the drug issue. The drug issue requires talking, which sometimes means losing face. People do not apply this to the drug issue in Asia," he said.

"Traffic" takes on the complex subject of the war against international drug trafficking and its impact on supplying countries, but above all the profound effects of the demand on society.

One of the stories the film tells is that of a top anti-narcotics official, played by Hollywood stalwart Michael Douglas, whose fight turns personal when he discovers his own daughter is caught up in drug addiction.

As well as earning the Oscar accolade for Soderbergh, who shot to fame with "Sex, Lies and Videotape," Benicio Del Toro was also honoured as best supporting actor for his role as an honest Mexican cop.

The unflinching look at the world of drugs uses documentary techniques that give it a realistic appearance, making it a powerful tool for anti-narcotics campaigners.

Calvani said he was impressed by the reception the film garnered from the United States senate, which convened a meeting after a screening of the film.

Thursday's premiere screening in the Thai capital will be co-sponsored by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP) and proceeds will go to a local drug rehabilitation program.

"We want to highlight drugs as a threat to human security in the

region. There's been a shift from state security to individual security," said chief of human resources and event organizer at

ESCAP Nanda Krairiksh.

"The authorities are losing the war on drugs, and youth are the main consumers. We want to convey that to the public."

Nanda said the film is "reflective of some of the situations that are taking place in Asia with young people using drugs."

Thailand's new government has vowed to take action against the massive narcotics industry on its northern border in Myanmar, one of the world's main centres for heroin and methamphetamine production.

More than 700 million amphetamine pills churned out in the jungle refineries flood into Thailand every year, feeding a huge addiction crisis estimated to affect six percent of the population of 62 million.

"This movie is very clear. Nobody who gets into drugs gets out clean. Drugs, the sex trade and other illicit activities go hand in hand on the Mexican-American border, and on other borders," Calvani said.

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UN to highlight Asia's drugs crisis with ``Traffic'' preview in Bangkok

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``Traffic'' takes on the complex subject of the war

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Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): 3 *(Home)*
Date: 10 June 2001



DRUG CYCLE

Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan joins a caravan of bicycles in an anti-drug campaign on Rajdamnoen avenue yesterday. The activity was organised by the ministry in conjunction with the Prime Minister's Office and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. — APICHART INAKUL

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

Press/Media: **Thai Rath**	Date: 11 June 2001
Page(s): 4	

Summary



จักรยานต้านยา พล.อ.ธรรมรักษ์ อิสรางกูร ณ อยุธยา รมต.ประจำสำนักนายกฯ, สุดารัตน์ เคยุราพันธุ์ รมว.สาธารณสุข และ ลัดดาวัลย์ วงศ์ศรีวงศ์ รมช.แรงงานฯ ร่วมกิจกรรมปั่นประกบเปิดโครงการรณรงค์ต้านยาเสพติดในโอกาสวันต่อต้านยาเสพติดโลก วันก่อน ที่หน้าตึกสหประชาชาติ

Bicycle campaign on "Traffic against Drugs 2001"
H.E. General Thammarak Isarangkura, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, H.E. Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister for Public Health, H.E. Laddawan Vongsrivong, Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, and Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP were at the opening ceremony of bicycle campaign on "Traffic against drug 2001" in front of the United Nations Building, Bangkok.

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

Press/Media: Daily News	Date: 13 June 2001
Page(s): 4	

Summary



รวมพลัง พล.อ.ธรรมรักษ์ อิศรางกูร ณ อยุธยา รมต.ประจำสำนักนายกฯ เป็นประธานเปิดโครงการ "จักรยานรวมพลังแผ่นดินต่อต้านยาเสพย์ติด" โดยมี สุดารัตน์ เกยุราพันธุ์ ลดาวัลลิ์ วงศ์ศรีวงศ์ และศิลปินค่ายแกรมมี่ ร่วมงานด้วย ที่ สนง.สหประชาชาติ

Join Force -- UNDCP, ESCAP, Thai Ministers and singing artists are together on Bicycle Campaign on "Traffic Against Drugs 2001" at the United Nations, Bangkok.

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST**
Page(s): 2 (*Outlook*)
Date: 19 June 2001



Minister of the Prime Ministe Office Gen Thammarak Isarangura (centre), Minister Public Health Sudarat Keyuraphan (centre left), Escap's Executive Secretary Ki Hak-Su (centre right), and Ol Planichaya (left, wearing a ca with Thai Airways International logo), deputy director of THAI s Public Relations Office, officially launched "Traffic Against Drugs 2001" cycling campaig at the United Nations Buildin Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue recently. The bicycle rally will take cyclists along the road to 14 provinces in Northeast and Northern Thailand before it returns to Bangkok on June 26

NEWS CLIPPING FOR TRAFFIC AGAINST DRUGS 2001

Publication:	Daylinews	***Date:***	13 JUNE 2001
Section:	Social	***Page:***	39



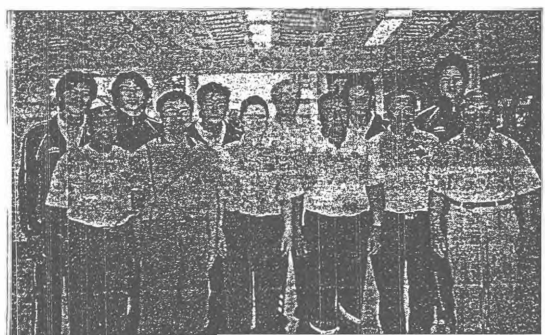
NEWS CLIPPING FOR MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Publication:	Ban Meaug	***Date:***	13 JUNE 2001
Section:	Calender News	***Page:***	4



NEWS CLIPPING FOR TRAFFIC AGAINST DRUGS 2001

Publication:	Daylinews	***Date:***	17 JUNE 2001
Section:	Social	***Page:***	31



NEWS CLIPPING FOR TRAFFIC AGAINST DRUGS 2001

Publication:	Matichon	*Date:*	19 JUNE 2001
Section:	Woman	*Page:*	13



NEWS CLIPPING FOR TRAFFIC AGAINST DRUGS 2001

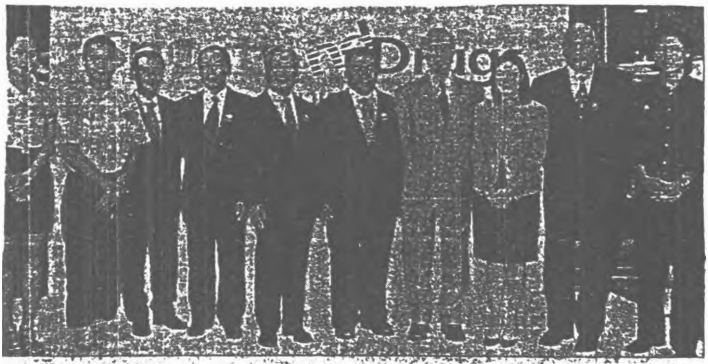
Publication:	Krungtep Business	***Date:***	26 JUNE 2001
Section:	Social	***Page:***	5



พลโทธรรมรักษ์ อิศรางกูร ณ อยุธยา นางสุดารัตน์ เกยุราพันธุ์ นางสาวลลิ วงศ์ศรีวงศ์ และ มร.คิม ฮัคซู ผู้แทน สหประชาชาติ ESCAP รับมอบเงิน 1,000 ดอลลาร์ จาก โอม พลาณิชย์ รองผู้อำนวยการสำนักประชาสัมพันธ์การบินไทย เพื่อสนับสนุนโครงการจักรยานรวมพลังแผ่นดินต่อต้านยาเสพย์ติด ณ สำนักงานองค์การสหประชาชาติ

NEWS CLIPPING FOR ROYAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

Publication:	Khao Sod	*Date:*	28 JUNE 2001
Section:	Social	*Page:*	4



คลิกที่นี่เพื่อใส่พิคส์ พล.อ.ธรรมรักษ์ อัครวงศ์ ณ อยุธยา ร่วมกับคุณประสาน มาลยนันท์ ถ่ายภาพร่วมกันหลังงาน เนื่องในวันคล้ายวันสถาปนากรมฯ ซึ่งจัดโดยสำนักงานโครงการควบคุมยาเสพติดแห่งสหประชาชาติ ประจำภูมิภาคเอ ตะวันออกเฉียงใต้ จีน และแปซิฟิก (UNDCP) ร่วมกับสยามดิสทิลเลอรี่ จำกัด (มหาชน) สยามดิสทิลเวอรี่เซ็นเตอร์

NEWS CLIPPING FOR ROYAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

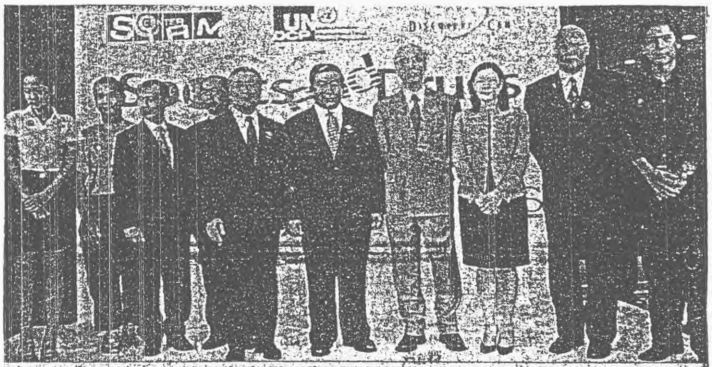
Publication:	Khao Sod	*Date:*	30 JUNE 2001
Section:	Social	*Page:*	4



● เปิดงาน – พล.อ.ธรรมรักษ์ อัศรางกูร ณ อยุธยา รมต.ประจำสำนักนายกรัฐมนตรี เป็นประธานเปิดกาญจนี่องในวันต่อต้านยาเสพติดสากล ที่แกรนด์ฮอลล์ สยามดิสคัฟเวอรี่ เซ็นเตอร์ เมื่อวันก่อน

NEWS CLIPPING FOR TRAFFIC AGAINST DRUGS 2001

Publication:	Daylinews	*Date:*	1 JULY 2001
Section:	Social	*Page:*	4



ดาบเสพย์ฯ พล.อ.ชวลิต อัครางกูร นำคณะ ร่วมประจานนักค้ายาให้เกียรติเป็น ประธานเปิดงานนิทรรศการต่อต้านยาเสพย์ติดสากล ร่วมกับโครงการควบคุมยาเสพย์ติด ระหว่างประเทศ (UNDCP) ที่สยามดิสคัฟเวอรี่เซ็นเตอร์

NEWS CLIPPING FOR TRAFFIC AGAINST DRUGS 2001

Publication:	Daylinews	*Date:*	16 JULY 2001
Section:	Social	*Page:*	12



▲เดียวศิกุล ย.ส.ว. ประธานคณะกรรมการป้องกันและปราบปรามยาเสพติดแห่งชาติ ร่วมกับ พล.ต.อ.วัชรพล ประสารราชกิจ ผู้บัญชาการตำรวจแห่งชาติ ร่วมกันกดปุ่มเปิดตัวโครงการต่อต้านยาเสพติดของคนไทยทั่วประเทศ

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST**
Page(s):3 *(Society)*
Date: 17 August 2001



Minister of the Prime Minister's Office General Thammarak Issarangura (3rd left), presents an honorary award to Sathit Sathirasrind, marketing communications manager of Nike (Thailand) Co, Ltd, for his support of the "Sport Ends Drugs" campaign during International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, organised by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme's Regional Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific and Siam Discovery Centre, recently. Also in the picture are Escap's Executive Secretary Kim Hak Su (2nd left) and Sandro Calvani, UNDCP representative.

3.3 World Habitat Day
3 October 2000

Press/Media:
Page(s): 2

POPULATION HEADLINERS

Date: September-October 2000

ESCAP observes World Habitat Day

The majority (55 per cent) of the population in the Asian and Pacific region will be living in urban areas by the year 2025, according to a statement made by Mr Kim Hak-Su, ESCAP Executive Secretary, at a meeting held in Bangkok to observe World Habitat Day 2000 on 3 October.

"This is equal to creating a new city of about 3.5 million people every month for the next 25 years", he told the gathering of about 600 people. "It is also a sad fact that 13 of the 15 'dirtiest' cities in the world are in Asia", he added.

According to Mr Kim, an increasingly urban Asia badly needs women in positions of power. "Women leaders often focus more on the environment, human development and building and sustaining communities. Moreover, they are often more transparent, consensus-oriented and inclusive in their styles of governance". The theme of the meeting was "Women in Urban Governance".

Also speaking at the meeting, jointly organized by ESCAP, Thailand's Gender and Development Research Institute, the Building Together Association and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, were Bangkok Governor Mr Samak Sundaravej and a number of figures prominent in advancing the cause of women.



Mr Kim Hak-Su (right), Executive Secretary, welcomes the Governor of Bangkok, Mr Samak Sundaravej, to the United Nations Conference Centre where both men gave speeches in observance of World Habitat Day. The theme of the event on 3 October was "Women in Urban Governance".

According to Nathaniel von Einsiedel of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), it was now widely accepted that bad governance and poor policies are the main reason for urban poverty.

10/03/2000 06:50:29

Few Asian women able to attain government positions: UN

BANGKOK, Oct 3 (AFP) - Few Asian women are able to reach positions of power in local government despite making up more than half of the population in the region's cities, a senior UN official said here Tuesday, World Habitat Day.

Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), said that women in decision-making positions in government provided "transformative leadership by redefining political priorities."

Kim was speaking at a conference on "Women in Local Governance."

Women were able to focus on the environment, human development and building sustainable communities, he said.

But "patriarchal social systems, social and cultural prejudices, financial dependence of women, lack of ... training opportunites for women, family and childcare responsibilities and the criminalization of politics," are all hindering their progress, he added.

Thirteen of the world's dirtiest cities are in Asia, Kim said, adding that the rapid pace of urbanization is leading to more people being forced to live in overcrowded and unhygenic conditions.

Women suffer disproportionately in these "dysfunctional" cities, because they have to "confront the consequences of other people's decisions," Kim said.

Yet women are least able to affect or bring about change because they are marginalised when it comes to government, Kim said.

There are only 81 female mayors in Thailand, in a total of 1,100 cities and only 209 female city clerks, said Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan of Thailand's Building Together Association.

According to UN estimates, the urban population in Asia Pacific will increase by almost 1.28 billion.

By the year 2055, 55 percent of the region's population would be living in urban areas, equal to creating a new city of about 3.5 million people every month for the next 25 years.

Local government is the only level where women can enter political life with relative ease, as the costs of mounting election campaigns are relatively low and issues at the local level tend to motivate women to enter politics, Kim

said.

"Local governments also are good training grounds for women politicians who want to reach higher levels of elected or appointed office in government," he added.

Suteera Thomson Vichitranonda of the country's Gender Development and Research Institute said that public recognition of women's contribution to the country's economic, social and political development was limited.

"As a consequence in Thailand, women represent about 6 percent of MPs and 10 percent of Senators. Elected women in local administration ... are even smaller in number, representing less than 10 percent," Suteera said, highlighting the fact that women make up half of the population.

Chamniern said World Habitat Day 2000 was a call for more equal and efficient partnership with women and more balance between men and women in managing cities.

"Women make especially good urban managers in the development of clean and healthy, equitable and prosperous, sustainable communities and cities," Chamniern said.

Although Thailand had made a good start in this direction there was still a long way to go, he said.

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KEYWORDS: Asia-UN-women

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BC-ESCAP-EVENT-MARKS, sked,0361 ESCAP Event Marks Women's Role in Local Governments, XINHUA

xfdws **ESCAP**-EVENT-MARKS sked Emerging Markets Datafile October 03, 2000 XINHUA CHINA ENGLISH

ESCAP Event Marks Women's Role in Local Governments, XINHUA

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BANGKOK, October 3 (Xinhua)--A Bangkok-based United Nations regional agency organized a special event here Tuesday to mark women's role in local governments, which has re-defined political priorities and focused more on the environment, human development and building sustainable communities.

The event, under the sponsorship of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), is to observe the UN World Habitat Day 2000 with the theme of ``Women in Local Governance,'' and was attended by 650 participants representing all the female officials in Thailand's local governments.

Speaking at the event, **ESCAP** chief Kim Hak-Su said that in most places of the Asia-Pacific region, due to multiple social, cultural, political and financial reasons, women who make up more than half of the urban population in the region have few chances to reach positions of power in governments, and local government is now the only level for them to enter political life with relative ease.

However, he said local governments also provide good training grounds for women politicians who want to reach higher levels in government. Participants also urged to increase the role for women in the decision-making process of the local governments, which they said would help to develop clean, equitable and sustainable communities and cities.

ESCAP, which has been working on the issue of women in local governments since 1977, is preparing for the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councilors scheduled for early 2001. As part of its preparation for the summit, it is preparing reports on the situation of women in urban local governments in 14 countries in the region.

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION UNWIRE
An Independent News Briefing about the UN

Tuesday, 3 October 2000

10 GOVERNANCE: World Habitat Day Focuses On Women's Role

In observance of World Habitat Day 2000 at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok today, 650 women from throughout Thailand gathered to discuss the "transformative leadership" that women in local government provide, helping to redefine political priorities and focus more closely on the environment, human development and sustainable communities.

The event was organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Gender and Development Research Institute, the Building Together Association and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (UN release, 3 Oct).

Calling women the "unsung heroes of poor urban areas," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned that "unless women are involved in the governance of their neighborhoods and until women's concerns become the concerns of entire communities and the larger body politic, the urban crisis will only grow worse." He added that all decision-makers, male and female, need to address the issues affecting poor women.

President of the UN General Assembly Harri Holkeri of Finland pointed out that only about 7% of all ministers worldwide are women and "most of them are in the social areas, not in the economic development or finance areas of decision-making." He said that the full involvement of women in decision-making is crucial in furthering opportunities for women and girls (UN Newservice, 2 Oct).

ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su said that while women make up more than half the population in the region's cities, very few women actually reach positions of power in urban local governments. "The reasons are multiple: patriarchal social systems, social and cultural prejudices, financial dependence of women, lack of media support, exposure to political processes and training opportunities for women, family and childcare responsibilities, the high cost of seeking and holding office and the criminalization of politics," he said.

Local government is often the only level where women can enter political life with relative ease, since the costs are lower and issues at the local level tend to motivate women to get involved politically, he said.

While women have become involved in urban governance in 1,100 cities in Thailand, Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan of the Building Together Association said that more women need to be involved in urban governance, especially with issues like urban poverty being the number one problem in Thai cities. He said that women "make especially good urban managers in the development of clean and healthy, equitable and prosperous, sustainable communities and cities."

ESCAP says it has been working on the issue of women in local urban governance since 1977, and is currently preparing for the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councilors to be held early next year. In preparation for that summit, ESCAP is overseeing reports on the state of women in urban local governments in 14 countries in the region (UN release).

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Asia

Tuesday, October 3 6:50 PM SGT

Few Asian women able to attain government positions: UN

BANGKOK, Oct 3 (AFP) -

Few Asian women are able to reach positions of power in local government despite making up more than half of the population in the region's cities, a senior UN official said here Tuesday, World Habitat Day.

Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), said that women in decision-making positions in government provided "transformative leadership by redefining political priorities."

Kim was speaking at a conference on "Women in Local Governance."

Women were able to focus on the environment, human development and building sustainable communities, he said.

But "patriarchal social systems, social and cultural prejudices, financial dependence of women, lack of ... training opportunites for women, family and childcare responsibilities and the criminalization of politics," are all hindering their progress, he added.

Thirteen of the world's dirtiest cities are in Asia, Kim said, adding that the rapid pace of urbanization is leading to more people being forced to live in overcrowded and unhygenic conditions.

Women suffer disproportionately in these "dysfunctional" cities, because they have to "confront the consequences of other people's decisions," Kim said.

Yet women are least able to affect or bring about change because they are

marginalised when it comes to government, Kim said.

There are only 81 female mayors in Thailand, in a total of 1,100 cities and only 209 female city clerks, said Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan of Thailand's Building Together Association.

According to UN estimates, the urban population in Asia Pacific will increase by almost 1.28 billion.

By the year 2055, 55 percent of the region's population would be living in urban areas, equal to creating a new city of about 3.5 million people every month for the next 25 years.

Local government is the only level where women can enter political life with relative ease, as the costs of mounting election campaigns are relatively low and issues at the local level tend to motivate women to enter politics, Kim said.

"Local governments also are good training grounds for women politicians who want to reach higher levels of elected or appointed office in government," he added.

Suteera Thomson Vichitranonda of the country's Gender Development and Research Institute said that public recognition of women's contribution to the country's economic, social and political development was limited.

"As a consequence in Thailand, women represent about 6 percent of MPs and 10 percent of Senators. Elected women in local administration ... are even smaller in number, representing less than 10 percent," Suteera said, highlighting the fact that women make up half of the population.

Chamniern said World Habitat Day 2000 was a call for more equal and efficient partnership with women and more balance between men and women in managing cities.

"Women make especially good urban managers in the development of clean and healthy, equitable and prosperous, sustainable communities and cities," Chamniern said.

Although Thailand had made a good start in this direction there was still a long way to go, he said.

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Associated Press

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BC-WOMEN-STILL-SHY, sked,0486 Women 'still shy' about politics, NATION

xfdws WOMEN-STILL-SHY sked Emerging Markets Datafile October 04, 2000 NATION THAILAND ENGLISH

Women 'still shy' about politics, NATION SAOWALAK TANGSANGPRATEEP ASIA WorldSources, Inc. 209 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, S.E., 2nd Floor WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003 COPYRIGHT 2000 BY WORLDSOURCES, INC., A JOINT VENTURE OF FDCH, INC. AND WORLD TIMES, INC. NO PORTION OF THE MATERIALS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE USED IN ANY MEDIA WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION TO WORLDSOURCES, INC.

AN increase in female community leaders would help eliminate corruption in Thai politics because women are essentially honest, a talk suggested yesterday.

"I've never seen a female leader face a no-confidence debate," Nakhon Ubon Ratchathani Major Penpak Srithong said at the talk, called ``Strengthening the Roles of Women for the Improvement of Urban Life".

Penpak, saying most women would make good leaders and managers because they handled their family's affairs so efficiently, called on women to take a more active role in politics and prove their abilities in the public eye.

However, others said the traditional role women have played as followers, rather than leaders, was so deeply ingrained in Thai culture that few had the confidence to enter public office or professional management.

Bangkok Governor Samak Sundaravej said that although there was no law against women entering the political or professional arena, few women pursued such ambitions because they were told all their lives their role was to stay at home.

"Men and women enjoy legal equality, but their roles differ when it comes to social conditions," he said.

Samak said the current level of political participation by women was in line with social values and that it was thus impossible for any party to impose gender quotas ensuring equal representation between male and female political candidates. ``We should let it develop naturally, because political candidates should be judged by their abilities, not by their gender," he said.

Samak said any movement calling for women's rights should be ``cautious'' and ``proper'' to ensure that men and women lived happily together in society. Premrudee Charmpoonot, mayor of Nakhon Phitsanulok, said she had pushed hard for women's involvement in community management by establishing housewives' groups but faced several problems from both sexes.

"As for women, I find that they normally do not make their own decisions. They often say they need to consult their husband or father first," she said.

And Premrudee said many men were unwilling to encourage female participation in community development roles. Women eager to enter the field have to work harder than the men because people of either sex were watching their performance closely, she said.

The talk, jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**Escap**) and various women's organizations, was attended by about 500 female public officials, including provincial councilors and district directors.

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RIGHTS-THAILAND: WOMEN EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC LIFE, ACTIVISTS SAY

BANGKOK, (Oct. 4) IPS - The organizers of a meeting here on giving women a greater say in public life were embarrassed when the chief guest, a charismatic Thai politician, insisted that a woman's place was in the home.

Known for his outspoken views, Bangkok Governor Samak Sundaravej told the about 650 women public officials at the U.N. Conference Center here yesterday that traditionally, Thai women had followed their men.

Thai culture encouraged women to place a priority on "harmony of the family," Sundaravej told the conference, Women in Urban Governance, organized on the occasion of the U.N.'s World Habitat Day yesterday.

This is why, Sundaravej said, his daughter "sacrificed" a career in diplomacy so as not to block her the progress of her husband, who was her colleague in the country's foreign service.

Those campaigning for the advancement of Thai women in public life say that it is views like those held by one of Thailand's most popular political leaders that are making their job so difficult.

Thai women are still way behind the men, although women play a big role in Thailand's export-led industrial growth and have made a mark in local politics. For instance, there are female mayors in 81 of the country's about 1,000 cities.

"They (women) have contributed to the economic, social and political development of the country not less than men but yet, their recognition has been rather limited," said women's rights campaigner Suteera Thomson Vichitranonda.

According to Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the Bangkok-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), which helped organize the event, an increasingly urban Asia badly needs women in positions of power.

Thai women leaders, ranging from heads of slum communities to members of parliament attended the meeting, jointly organized by **ESCAP**, Thailand's Gender and Development Research Institute (GDRI) and Samak's Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

"Women leaders often focus more on the environment, human development and building and sustaining communities. Moreover, they are often more transparent, consensus-oriented and inclusive in their styles of governance," Kim said.

Penpak Srithong, the mayor of Thailand's northeastern Ubolrajathanee province, agreed with the **ESCAP** chief's view that women leaders are capable of "redefining political priorities...and providing new perspectives on mainstream issues."

Penpak pointed out that women leaders are more honest and their greater presence in public life would help eliminate corruption from Thai politics. She said women would be good at managing public affairs because they handled the domestic sphere so well.

Other speakers stressed that giving women a greater say in city governance would help tackle growing urban poverty, which Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan of the Building Together Association described as "the number one problem to be resolved in Thai cities."

According to Nathaniel von Einsiedel of the U.N. Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS), it was now widely accepted that bad governance and poor policies are the main reason for urban poverty.

Chamniern noted that women are "especially good urban managers in the development of clean and healthy, equitable and prosperous, sustainable communities and cities."

But it is not easy for women to reach positions of authority in Thailand, activists say.

According to statistics compiled by GDRI, women have no more than 6.3 percent representation in elected local governments in Thailand. They hold just 2.7 percent of provincial governor posts.

On average, women constitute less than 10 percent of decision- makers at the national level. They make up less than 6 percent of elected members of parliament and 8.1 percent of senators. Only one woman has occupied the top bureaucrat's job in the government.

Political parties too have been reluctant to encourage women to step into public life. Of the seven national elections held between 1983 and 1996, the last one had the highest proportion of women candidates at about 15 percent.

Bangkok governor Samak said that political parties find it difficult to meet the demand of women's rights groups for gender quotas because women themselves are reluctant to contest in elections.

He found backing from an unexpected quarter when Premrudee Charmpoonot, the female mayor of Phitsanulok province, said it was not easy to persuade women to step into the limelight of public life.

"I find that they normally do not make their own decisions. They often say

they need to consult their husband or father first," she said. However, the men were also unwilling to encourage the women, she added.

Suteera Vichitranonda urged the governor to set an example by giving women a greater role in decision-making in the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

Her group, the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women, is also lobbying with political parties ahead of the national election later this year to encourage them to give more attention to women's concerns.

The association has identified some issues for the forthcoming campaign, she said. These include the decentralization of government decision-making down to the 70,000 villages in Thailand.

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Women 'still shy' about politics

SAOWALAK TANGSANGPRATEEP
The Nation

AN increase in female community leaders would help eliminate corruption in Thai politics because women are essentially honest, a talk suggested yesterday.

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And Premrudee said many men were unwilling to encourage female participation in community development roles. Women eager to enter the field have to work harder than the men because people of either sex were watching their performance closely, she said.

The talk, jointly organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) and various women's organisations, was attended by about 500 female public officials, including provincial councillors and district directors.

VENDOR EPIDEMIC

BANGKOK Governor Samak Sundaravej yesterday complained that too many people had taken advantage of his policy that favours street vendors who set up illegal new stalls.

Samak said his plan to register vendors and regulate street vending zones, aimed at allowing sellers to run their small businesses smoothly without facing extortion gangs, had backfired.

"I only intended to enable old-hand street vendors to continue their honest jobs, but now a lot of people have established new stalls in the city and claim I allowed them to do so," he said.

Samak said this was a serious problem because the number of street stalls had increased significantly in recent months. "The number of street vendors in the Silom area has doubled," he noted.

According to Samak, if every area in Bangkok experienced the same increase in street stalls, the number of street vendors would rise from the previous 25,000 to at least 50,000.

In a bid to stop the epidemic, he urged city police to take drastic action against illegal street vendors.

"The newcomers must be wiped out," he added. - *The Nation.*

Samak boosts bonds for building

SAOWALAK TANGSANGPRATEEP
The Nation

BANGKOK Governor Samak Sundaravej yesterday proposed that bank bonds be issued to raise funds for large construction projects in the city.

Speaking on his return from China, where he attended a meeting of city administrators, Samak said he had proposed the idea to the Bank of China and the Bank of Shanghai, both of which had agreed in principle.

He proposed that banks offer bonds to Thai investors with an interest rate of 5.5 per cent a year, which would be attractive with the current rate at less than 3 per cent. He said the banks might lend the money at an interest rate of 6.5 per cent a year.

The governor said the funds raised from the bond sale should be invested in large projects such as the extension of the skytrain routes, the construction of the new City Hall in Din Daeng and the building of apartment blocks for low-income residents. Those projects would require an investment of several billion baht. Samak said bonds were a source of cheap funds for the Bangkok Transit System, the skytrain operator.

He added the low interest rate would mean lower construction costs, which in turn could result in lower fares. He also encouraged local banks to issue bonds to Thai investors.

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Breaking

Samak causes stir at meeting on women

Bangkok governor says the traditional view of women's position still holds in Thailand at a UN meeting to discuss ways to increase their political role

By JAMES EAST
STRAITS TIMES
THAILAND BUREAU

BANGKOK -- Hundreds of women attending a United Nations meeting here on how to boost their political involvement were told by city governor Samak Sundaravej that Thai society preferred men to work and women to be housewives.

The outspoken governor told the conference that Thailand traditionally dictated that women were ""the hind legs of the elephant".

""You talk about equal status. But I ask you, if a husband and a wife hear a noise downstairs in the middle of the night, isn't it the man who takes the torch and goes downstairs?" he asked women district councillors, MPs, and rights workers meeting at the UN Conference Centre for World Habitat Day.

In typical Samak style, he implied that Thailand favoured a society in which women did not fight in the frontlines and where they were the ones expected to make the sacrifices.

Citing his daughter, he said she could have had a career in the Foreign Ministry but gave it up

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to follow her husband.

""In this society, they choose for a man to work and for a woman to be a housewife," said the veteran politician who was recently elected to the top job at the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

Despite the title of his keynote address Strengthening The Roles Of Women For Improvement Of Urban Life, he left his prepared text to talk about what Thai society deemed appropriate for the sexes.

Although Mr Samak is considered an unreconstructed chauvinist by many, others say he is doing his bit for women.

He has a women deputy governor, and during his speech, he praised women for their administrative skills and their attention to detail.

Many women delegates said they had voted for him as governor even though three other women candidates contested the seat.

""He is outspoken and sincere, and sometimes, he is dangerous to himself," said conference moderator Nitaya Mahaphol.

""But we can learn that his sincerity is unique for a politician even though he is a dinosaur politically."

Unlike most other Thai politicians whose political convictions bend with the wind or with the wallet, Mr Samak is seen as remaining true to himself.

The conference was jointly organised by UN agency Escap (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), the city authority and several women's organisations to mark World Habitat Day, which promotes women in urban politics.

However, some UN officials privately admitted they were somewhat embarrassed by Mr

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Samak's tone.

""This guy is politically incorrect. There is no doubt about it," one said, while others were left wondering whether or not to translate his speech into English for media release.

Dr Suteera Thomson Vichitranonda, president of the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women and a friend of the governor, said: ""I think what he said reflects the belief of people in society that women are probably better suited to domestic affairs."

Unlike their more vocal Western sisters, most Thais in the women's movement do not consider themselves out-and-out feminists and take seriously their role as home-makers and mothers, fighting hard to balance a career with a home life.

Ms Nitaya, a public health engineer with the Ministry of Public Health, said: ""Everyone knows what Mr Samak believes and if he had said otherwise, then we would have been shocked."

Escap's new executive secretary Kim Hak-Su also spoke to the 650 delegates about how very few women were able to reach positions of power in urban local govenment.

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PRESS CLIPPINGS
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me/Media: THAI RATH
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Date: 5 October 20000

Samak blames the bureaucracy, society for women's under-representation in high-level positions

สมัคร โทษระบบราชการและสังคม กีดกันสตรีไทยขึ้นสู่ตำแหน่งสูง

ผู้ว่าฯสมัครรับเชิญปาฐกถาพิเศษในกลุ่มสตรี ยกชีวิตในบ้านเป็นเคสตัวอย่าง ชูลูกสาวให้เสียสละยศตำแหน่งเพื่อสร้างครอบครัวที่มีความสุข พร้อมประกาศกับกลุ่มสตรีว่า สตรีไทยไม่เคยถูกกีดกันมันแต่อดีต แต่ที่มีอยู่ในระดับผู้บริหารไม่มากนัก เพราะเป็นเรื่องของสังคมและระบบราชการ

หลังจากรับตำแหน่งผู้ว่าฯ กทม.ได้ไม่กี่เดือน นายสมัคร สุนทรเวช ก็รับเชิญ ดร.สุธีรา ทอมสัน วิจิตรานนท์ สถาบันวิจัยบทบาทหญิงชายและการพัฒนา ปาฐกถาพิเศษเรื่อง จากนโยบายสู่การปฏิบัติ : การส่งเสริมบทบาทสตรีในการพัฒนาคุณภาพชีวิตของคนเมือง ในการประชุมผู้หญิงในการบริหารจัดการชุมชนเมือง ที่ศูนย์ประชุมสหประชาชาติ โดยกล่าวว่า โลกนี้มีจำนวนหญิง-ชายใกล้เคียงกัน แต่ทุกสามีไป แทนที่จะแยกกันออกไปประจำในประเทศต่างๆ แต่ก็คนเคยเห็นก็มีหลายคที่พี่น้องฝ่ายสามีและภริยาแยกกันออกไปเป็นทูต แต่ส่วนใหญ่ผู้หญิงมักไม่มีสาเลือกมาแต่ แต่ก็เคยพบที่เมื่อฝ่ายผู้หญิงได้ตำแหน่งผู้ดูแลนักเรียนไทยสหรัฐอเมริกา แล้วสามีก็ตามออกติดตามภริยาไปงานที่กระทรวงต่างประเทสหรัฐอเมริกา อยากจะถามว่าในโลกมีกี่คู่ที่สองสามีเช่นนี้ คนไม่หราบว่าจะมีพ่อสื่อ





ได้ว่าหญิงไทยไม่เคยถูกกีดกันเลยนับแต่อดีต ซึ่งอาจคิดว่าในอนาคตมาเอาอย่างบ้างก็ได้ ทุกประเทศมีความไม่เท่าเทียมกันแน่นอน แต่สตรีไทยได้รับสิทธิเสรีภาพโดยเฉพาะสิทธิทางการเมืองที่ได้ไปใช้สิทธิลงคะแนนเสียงเลือกตั้งมานับแต่ยุคแรกของการเลือกตั้ง ประเทศเรามีผู้หญิงสัดๆ มีผู้หญิงที่ได้รับการเคารพนับถือ แต่ผู้หญิงที่เข้าที่ให้ลูกและโอกาส แล้วให้เลือกการมีครอบครัวที่ดี เหมือนที่คนที่เลือกให้ลูกมีครอบครัวที่ดีมากกว่ามีตำแหน่งที่ดี

นายสมัครกล่าวด้วยว่า ต่อไปสังคมจะเปลี่ยนแปลงจะมีผู้หญิงเล่นการเมืองมากขึ้น ถ้าเขาเห็นว่าการเมืองไม่สกปรก น่าสนุก แต่เราไม่สามารถประกาศได้ว่าให้เลือกผู้หญิงหรือชายคนละครึ่ง ตามความจริงมาพูด และคิดว่าสิ่งที่เกิดขึ้นนั้นสตรีมีสิทธิเสรีภาพ แต่สังคมได้กำหนดบทบาทเอาไว้แล้ว เราไม่สามารถกำหนดลงตัวว่าผู้หญิงจะออกไปบริหารบ้านเมืองครึ่งหนึ่ง และในการปฏิบัติก็กำหนดไม่ได้เพราะเป็นเรื่องของระบบความคิดและระบบราชการ "หรือผู้หญิงที่เป็นนายกรัฐมนตรีในศรีลังกา บังกลาเทส หรืออาณาจักรอิสราเอล แอสเซอร์ ที่เป็นนายกรัฐมนตรี ๑๐ ปี คนหลังนี้ระบบการเมืองเปิดให้และมีความโดดเด่นในตัว หรือถ้าถามว่าบ้านเราจะมีนายกรัฐมนตรีหญิงหรือไม่ ก็ต้องถามว่า ถ้าพรรคประชาธิปัตย์มีผู้หญิงต่อคิวเป็นหัวหน้า หรือพรรคไทยรักไทย ถ้าคุณหญิงพจมานเป็นหัวหน้าพรรค บอกได้ว่าอีกไม่นานเรามีนายกรัฐมนตรีหญิงแน่นอน คนคิดว่าการเรียกร้องของสตรีต้องมีขอบเขต มีความพอดี ก็จะทำให้หญิงชายอยู่กันอย่างราบรื่น

ภายในราชการมีผู้หญิงที่ได้ดิบได้ดีหลายส่วนน้อยกว่า ตนเองก็ด้วยข้าพเจ้าเป็นปลัดกระทรวง กทม. ที่ตนเองมีผู้หญิง 3 คน หัวหน้าสำนักงานเขตนั้นมีอยู่เป็นข้าราชการซี 8 แต่ปัญหาคือ มีผู้หญิงซี 8 มีอยู่มาก เพราะเข้าเป็นผู้หญิงที่ซี 8 ทั้งหมด ทุกคนล้วนได้เป็นหัวหน้าสำนักงานเขตแน่นอน การเข้าเป็นข้าราชการ กทม.นั้น มีการสอบการใส่เข้า มีการสอบตามระบบ สำหรับการเลื่อนตำแหน่งข้าราชการระดับ 1 มีคนสมัคร 29 คน มีคนสอบแข่งขันประมาณ 80 กว่าคน ที่ตนพูดนี้เพราะเราไม่สามารถเกรงใจ

ได้ว่าต้องให้ชายหญิงมาสมัครในอัตราที่เท่ากันแล้วเลือกในอัตราที่เท่ากันได้ หรือยกตัวอย่างในการเลือกตั้งครั้ง 2 เดือนที่ผ่านมา คนไม่เข้าใจว่า ทำไมจะต้องมาตกลงกันเป็นผู้หญิงให้เลือกผู้หญิง แต่ผลเลือกตั้งเขาว่าการเลือกตั้งครั้งนี้เป็นการชั่งน้ำหนัก และไม่ใช่เป็นผู้หญิงเข้าต้องเลือกผู้หญิง แต่เขาวัดที่คุณภาพและความสามารถ

นายสมัครยังได้ยกตัวอย่างลูกสาวของตัวเองเป็นเคสตัวอย่าง โดยกล่าวว่า ลูกสาวเข้าทำงานอยู่ในข้าราชการที่กระทรวงการต่างประเทศ แต่เมื่อแต่งงานแล้วไม่ยอมลูกสาวว่าอย่าเลยนะ โอกาสเป็นหญิงแล้วมีลูกมีงาน

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Women's Groups protest Samak saying women have physical limitations

สตรี

กลุ่มสตรีต่อต้าน 'สมัคร' ยกสรีระเป็นข้อกำจัดผู้หญิง

"สมัคร" ชี้หญิงก้าวสู่ระดับการบริหารยังมีความสามารถ ปัญหาหญิงชายเทียมชาย มุมมองที่สนองตอบต่อความเชื่อแบบผิด ๆ ยกวัฒนธรรมบูชาคำพูดชายเหนือหญิง-ชายเท่าเทียมกัน แต่บางสถานะทำไม่ได้ดั่งสรีระเป็นตัวปัญหา หยอดคำหวานตบท้ายหญิงไทยไม่เคยถูกถีดถัน หญิงที่เข้าร่วมรับฟังนายสมัคร ผู้ว่าฯ กทม. เป็นปี้นี้ผู้นำยังปิดหูปิดตาไม่ยอมรับสิทธิที่หญิงพึงได้ 2 เทศมนตรีหญิงพ้อถึงความยากลำบาก ดูทีดคนทำงานหนัก เพื่อพิสูจน์ให้ชายถอยสามศอกยอมรับว่าหญิงมีทั้งความรู้ ความสามารถพัฒนาได้

เนื่องในโอกาสฉลองวัน " HABITAT DAY, 2000" หรือ "วันที่อยู่อาศัยโลกปี 2000" ซึ่งตรงกับวันที่ 2 ต.ค. ของทุกปี ทางวัฒนธรรมแห่งการเสวนาธุรกิจและสังคม สำหรับภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก (เอสแคป) ร่วมกับสถาบันวิจัยและพัฒนาสตรีหญิงชายและการพัฒนา จัดประชุมในหัวข้อ "ผู้หญิงในการบริหารจัดการชุมชนเมือง" เมื่อวันที่ 3 ต.ค. ที่ผ่านมา ณ ห้องประชุมใหญ่ เอสแคปเลดลส์ ศูนย์ประชุมองค์การสหประชาชาติ

ภายในการประชุมดังกล่าวเริ่มด้วยการแสดงปาฐกถาพิเศษจาก นายสมัคร สุนทรเวช ผู้ว่าฯ กทม. ในหัวข้อ "จากนโยบายสู่การปฏิบัติ...การส่งเสริมบทบาทสตรีในการพัฒนาคุณภาพชีวิตของคนเมือง" แต่ผู้ว่าฯ กทม. มิได้พูดในหัวข้อโดยให้เหตุผลว่า ไม่อยากพูดตามหัวข้อที่จัดให้เพราะเป็นการบังคับให้คนพูดในทางเดียว จึงขอนำความเป็นจริงมากล่าวว่า บทบาทของผู้หญิงในประเทศไทยไปเกือบถูกกีดกัน แต่การที่ผู้หญิงมีส่วนร่วมในการบริหารมากหรือน้อย ขึ้นอยู่กับศักยภาพของผู้หญิงมีบางคนมีแต่ไหน รวมถึงฐานะที่จะส่งผู้หญิงขึ้นสู่ตำแหน่งสูงมีบางคนน้อยเพียงใดด้วย เห็นได้จากการแข่งขันคัดเลือกผู้นำในเรื่องต่าง ๆ มักจะไม่มีการส่งรายชื่อผู้หญิงเข้าเป็นผู้ร่วมด้วย อาทิ การเลือกสมาชิกวุฒิสภาประชาชนที่ผ่านมา ผู้เข้าเชิงเป็นผู้ชายทั้งหมด

"เมื่อเป็นเช่นนี้จะทำให้มีผู้หญิงขึ้นเป็นผู้บริหารได้อย่างไร ซึ่งปัญหาดังกล่าวส่วนหนึ่งมาจากวัฒนธรรมและทัศนคติดั้งเดิมของสังคม ที่ปลูกฝังมานานว่าผู้หญิงมีความสามารถน้อยกว่าผู้ชาย ผู้ชายเป็นผู้นำในครอบครัว ส่วนผู้หญิงเป็นแม่บ้าน ถ้าผู้หญิงเข้ามาสู่การบริหารจะทำให้ความเป็นแม่บ้านสูญหายไป ประเทศไทยมีเสรีภาพที่จริง แต่สังคมเป็นตัวกำหนดบทบาท"

ผู้ว่าฯ กทม. กล่าวต่อว่า ถึงแม้รัฐธรรมนูญกำหนดให้ผู้หญิงผู้ชายเท่าเทียมกัน แต่ในความเป็นจริงเป็นไปไม่ได้ เพราะบางสถานะต่อนต่างความเท่าเทียมกันไปได้ เช่น ให้ผู้ชายท้องแทนผู้หญิงไปได้ ในทางกลับกันเมื่อเกิดสงครามไม่สามารถส่งผู้หญิงออกไปรบก่อนได้ ในบางครั้งจึงต้องมีความไม่เท่าเทียมกันบ้าง ความเรียกร้องอะไรต่อมีเหตุผล ขอบเขตและความบังควร ยอมรับรู้ว่าอะไรเหมาะหรือไม่เหมาะหรือฉุดควรหรือไม่ สังคมไทยอยู่ได้ทุกวันนี้เพราะทั้งผู้ชายผู้หญิงรู้ในสิ่งที่ควรทำ และเว้นในสิ่งที่ควรละเว้น ซึ่งปัญหาดังกล่าว ส่วนหนึ่งมาจากวัฒนธรรม และทัศนคติดั้งเดิมของสังคม ที่ปลูกฝังมานานว่าผู้หญิงมีความสามารถน้อยกว่าผู้ชาย

ภายหลังที่นายสมัครกล่าวจบและเดินทางกลับไปแล้ว ได้มีผู้ที่เข้าร่วมประชุมซึ่งส่วนใหญ่เป็นผู้หญิงให้วิพากษ์วิจารณ์คำกล่าวของนายสมัครว่า ยังไม่เปิดใจรับความสามารถของผู้หญิงเท่าที่ควร น่าสงสารว่างกายผู้ชายและผู้หญิงมาเปรียบเทียบกัน ซึ่งเป็นคนละประเด็นกับสิทธิความเท่าเทียมในที่ดำลังพูดถึงกันอยู่ เนื่องจากพูดหนึ่งสิทธิความเท่าเทียมในเรื่องของความสามารถในการทำงาน ทำให้รู้สึกแค้นใจว่าระพันผู้นำยังปิดหูปิดตาไม่ยอมรับในสิทธิของผู้หญิง

การสัมมนาในวันเดียวกันเป็นโอกาสให้ผู้หญิงที่มาจากการเลือกตั้งในการบริหารจัดการชุมชนเมือง ขึ้นบรรยายถอดประสบการณ์ นางมาโรมดุลี ชามพูนท นายกเทศบาลตำบลพิมพลุโกก กล่าวว่า การทำงานที่ผ่านมาค่อนข้างหลายคณะ ในเมื่อประชาชนให้การสนับสนุนเด็จไปทำให้ผิดหวัง และให้ประชาชนแหล่านั้นมีส่วนร่วมในการบริหารด้วย และพยายามส่งเสริมสถานภาพสตรีให้มีบทบาทมากขึ้น แม้สังคมเปิดโอกาสให้ผู้หญิงมากขึ้นก็ตาม แต่ด้วยวัฒนธรรมความคิดแบบเดิม ที่คิดว่าผู้หญิงมีความสามารถน้อยกว่าผู้ชาย ทำให้ผู้ชายไม่ยอมเปิดใจรับความสามารถของผู้หญิงด้วยเหตุนี้ เมื่อคนมีโอกาสจำเป็นทำงาน จึงพยายามอย่างเต็มที่และทำงานหนักมาตลอด เพื่อพิสูจน์ตัวเองให้ทุกคนที่เคยดูถูกในความสามารถยอมรับและเห็นว่าผู้หญิงก็สามารถทำงานได้เท่าผู้ชายเช่นกัน ซึ่งปัจจุบันนี้ได้รับการยอมรับจากผู้ชายมากขึ้น ถือเป็นความสำเร็จในระดับหนึ่ง

นายกเทศมนตรีนครอุบลราชธานี นางเพียงพักตร์ ศรีทอง กล่าวว่า เทศบาลมักถูกมองข้ามจากหน่วยงานรัฐ เพราะปล่อยให้ปกครองกันเอง โดยให้งบประมาณส่วนหนึ่งจำนวนไม่มากนักมาจัดการ ทั้งที่เทศบาลมีปัญหาในชุมชนเกิดขึ้นบ่อยมาก การเป็นนายกเทศมนตรีที่ดี ต้องรู้จักประสานงานกับหน่วยงานที่เกี่ยวข้องให้เข้ามาช่วยแก้ไขในส่วนที่เทศบาลต้องการ เพราะการประสานงานที่ดีเป็นผลให้เทศบาลมีความเจริญ ส่วนการทำงานมีการรับฟังความคิดเห็นของกันและกัน ชุมชนใดมีความเข้มแข็งต้องการสิ่งใด ให้เสนอมาได้ที่เทศบาล โดยจะทำหน้าที่เป็นตัวกลางในการประสานงาน.

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Date: 9 October 2000

Redefining roles

In a recent seminar on strengthening female representation across all sectors of Thai society, the 'weaker sex' proved their strength

WANPHEN SRESHTHAPUTRA

Thailand is ranked 10th in Asia for its female representation in governance. Out of more than 1,100 towns, 81 have female mayors in a population of 31 million women. Yet the representation of women last week in the Escap Hall of the UN Conference Centre easily outdid that of men.

Some 650 women from throughout Thailand and from all strata of local governance, ranging from leaders of slum communities to members of Parliament, gathered to observe the UN World Habitat Day 2000 under the title of "Women in Local Governance."

Co-organised by Escap, the Gender and Development Research Institute, Building Together Association and the BMA, the one-day seminar intended to support women in decision-making positions, and launch a call for more equal and efficient partnership across the board.

"Local government is the only level of government where women can enter political life with relative ease. Women in decision-making positions in governments and legislative bodies provide 'transformative leadership' by redefining political priorities, often focusing more on the environment, human development, building and sustaining communities. Moreover, they are often more transparent, consensus oriented and inclusive in their styles of governance," Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of Escap, said in his opening speech.

The ability of women in helping to tackle the endemic problem of corruption was brought forward by many speakers.

Basing his argument on a report from the World Bank, Nathaniel von Einsiedel, regional coordinator for Asia and the Pacific United Nations Urban Management Programme, declared: "The greater women's rights and the more women's participate in public life, the less public sector corruption there is. However women have to be in a position to access, interpret and comment upon local government performance."

"Women are often more transparent, more consensus-oriented and inclusive in styles of governance. They can make especially good urban managers in the development of clean and healthy, equitable and prosperous, sustainable communities and cities," stated Dr Chamnlern Vorratnchaipan, from the Building Together Association.

Later in the day, Ubon Ratchathani mayor Penpuk Srithong, went further: "Women are more honest. I have never seen a female leader face a no-confidence debate. If women get a chance to be more involved into decision-making levels, for sure there would be less corruption."

"Women are often more transparent, consensus oriented and inclusive in their styles of governance.

KIM HAK-SU
Executive Secretary of Escap

Throughout the day, speakers took turns giving examples of how resourceful and dynamic women from different walks of life have managed to get out of difficult situations, for their own sake or others'.

"Women can make desirable changes in communities and in society as a whole. And this is not only women in the formal organisational structure, but women in the community who play essential roles.. They can also be a catalytic to a better quality of life in their community," explained Dr Suteera Thomson Vichitrananda

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST**
Page(s): 3 (*Features*)
Date: 9 October 2000

from the Gender and Development Research Institute, which has been campaigning for greater participation of women in decision-making positions for many years.

In the afternoon, living proof assembled to back up the theory of women's underrated capacities, who, explained Phitsanulok mayor Premruedee Chaimpoonod, had usually to work much harder to prove to people of both sexes that women could do it.

The Slum Women Network, represented by Orawan Jamraschai, Benjawan Chintrae and Pramon Mingkhwan, explained their ways of pulling themselves and their peers through very difficult situations. "Since the economic crisis, women in slums are enduring a lot of suffering, especially when their husbands are jobless. As women, loving and feeling responsible for the whole family, we are the first affected. We go all-out to try and maintain the standard of living of the family," commented Orawan Jamraschai, who explained how the community managed to create a collective fund to help the members with medical expenses or to lend money with no interest.

Their joint efforts also earned them some great achievements in order to solve housing problems. "Following eviction or fire, for example, some people might face the problem of having nowhere to stay. We have gathered money in order to rent a large place to accommodate all members [some 370 people]," explained Slum Women Network leader, Benjawan Chintrae.

The energetic Pramon Wingkwan exposed typical daily worries of life in the crowded slums, 'where picking up of garbage doesn't exist and where insects, filth and insalubrity are rampant.

"I have gone to school only up to Prathom 4 level, but I have dedicated 13 years of my life to helping needy communities. When I hear that 'women would be better staying at home', it shocks me. Women can do anything," she said, reacting strongly to the message delivered by Bangkok's Governor Samak Sundaravej earlier that day.

In the seminar's key speech, Samak darkened a little the bright picture of a strengthened role of women in urban life. Citing the example of his two daughters, the governor explained that women often had the opportunities to pursue great careers, yet most of the time, Thai society favours supporting men's work, while women are told their role is at home.

'Since the economic crisis, women in slums are enduring a lot of suffering, especially when their husbands are out of a job.

ORAWAN JAMRASCHAI
Representative of the Slum Women Network

"Thai values tend to support this family structure. It should change little by little, and what matters the most is the quality of relationships between men and women," he said, commenting that the involvement of women in politics should be considered on an individual basis.

"We should let it develop naturally. Political candidates should be judged by their abilities, not by their gender," Samak said.

Patriarchal social systems, social and cultural prejudices, financial dependence, lack of media support, family and child-care responsibilities, are amongst the many reasons that women find it hard to be equally represented.

"To get rid of problems such as environmental, one has to join hands all together. But

ress/Media: **BANGKOK POST** Date: 9 October 2000
age(s): 3 (*Features*)

- 3 -

this collective effort is something hard to obtain. Women usually have to ask permission from their husbands and sometimes even from their fathers," commented Phitsanulok mayor Premruedee, whose great achievement was succeeding in cutting by half the amount of garbage disposed every year in her province (from 162 tonnes a year, to 70 tonnes at present), quite an exceptional feat, considering that the amount of garbage is steadily rising in today's consumer society.

"When it comes to casting their ballots, women are more active. Yet when it comes to electing women leaders, everyone disappears. One goes rather for a man. I think women's abilities are not widely accepted," the mayor said.

"Women in their own ways are leaders anyway. They have usually succeeded in holding their family together. When they have a mind to do something, they can do it," added Mayor Penpuk of Ubon Ratchathani, calling for less jealousy and pettiness in women's decisions.

"The experience of women in being spouses and mothers is extremely valuable. Their strengths lie in empathy for society, working with their hearts, sensitivity and brains," commented Duangnuan Tamrangsi, representative of Banglampoo's River Front Project.

With all these good resolutions in mind, and their heads still full with the brilliant and comprehensive talk given by Nathanon Thavisin, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration deputy permanent secretary, the 650 or so women scattered back into Bangkok's urban jungle.

In a country where women represent only about six percent of MPs and 10 percent of senators, the issue of women's representation should continue to attract attention. And soon, as the Asia-Pacific Summit for Women Mayors and Councillors organised by Escap, is scheduled for early next year.

3.4 Third Asia-Pacific Integovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth Bangkok, Thailand 4-8 June 2001

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

Press/Media: **Thai Rath**	Date: 6 June 2001
Page(s): 24	

Summary

Thai Rath reported on page 24 Thursday, 7 June 2001 regarding the meeting organized by ESCAP entitled " 3rd Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, 4-8 June 2001".



This article reported the statement of Miss Sujira Aroonpipat, Miss Thailand 2001, who came to the meeting and launched the website named "Asian Youth Zone" www.Youthzone.un.org.th She told the young people that they should develop and guard themselves against the danger of drugs. They should get more information from the website.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S): 1

Press/Media: **Thai Rath**

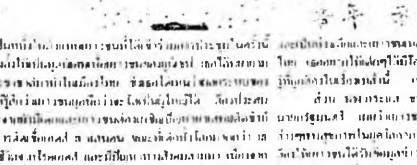
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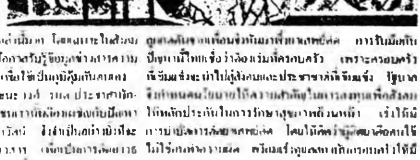
Date: 6 June 2001

Summary

Thai Rath reported on page 24 and Wednesday, 6 June 2001 regarding the meeting organized by ESCAP entitled " 3rd Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, 4-8 June 2001".

ห่วงเยาวชนไทยเสี่ยงติดยา-เอดส์ เร่งป้อนความรู้ข่าวสารเป็นภูมิคุ้มกัน





The article focused on the statement made by Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP who had told young delegates and policy makers that it was time to break the silence imposed on these issues (HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and sexual abuse and exploitation of young people) and discuss them openly.

The newspaper also reported the statement made by Ms. Kathaleeya Mc Intosh, UNICEF Youth Envoy for Thailand, who made a wish that all children would have access to correct information so that they could protect themselves and be immunized to all the situation and problems arising from HIV/AIDS and drug abuse.

The same article also reported the statement made by Dr. Krasae Chanavong, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand, who emphasized on the role of family in strengthening the society as a whole.

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The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 5, 2001, Tuesday

SECTION: South-East Asia, Pg. A4

LENGTH: 486 words

HEADLINE: Youngsters out to break taboos over Aids

BYLINE: James East, Straits Times Thailand Bureau

BODY:
A brave Singapore girl is among those gathering in Bangkok this week who say it is time for the world to talk openly about HIV-related illnesses

BANGKOK -- She is young, beautiful and determined to tell people about the dangers of sex and drug-taking.

But her HIV status means that, back at home in Singapore, few know that she is infected with the virus that can lead to Aids.

Her business card says Natashya Yong, but this is not her real name.

The 21-year-old worries about photographers taking her picture.

In Singapore, her two siblings have no idea their older sister is HIV positive.

She has shared her secret with only a few trusted friends, yet she travels the world urging governments and their agencies to talk openly about sex and drugs.

"If I did not have my family obligations, I would not mind my real name being used," she said.

"People in Singapore have a stereotyped view of those with HIV."

This week, Natashya is in Bangkok where more than 100 young people from across the Asia Pacific have been meeting at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific **(Escap)**.

They are sharing their stories and telling governments what they think should be done to halt the spread of HIV, drugs and teen pregnancies.

Escap's executive secretary Kim Hak-Su told them: "We must break the silence that we have imposed on these issues and discuss them openly, without being judgmental."

Natashya, who is studying for a business degree at the Open University, does not know how she contracted HIV, whether through sex or as a result of a visit to a dentist.

But she learnt of her HIV status three years ago when she went to give blood.

As a representative for the Asia-Pacific Network for People Living with HIV/Aids in Singapore, she is off to conferences abroad almost every month, most recently to Malaysia.

She worries that the natural conservatism of Singaporeans means the message is not getting home.

She says most people associate HIV infection with homosexuals, transvestites and businessmen using prostitutes abroad, believing it has little to do with "normal" people.

In reality, she says, young heterosexuals are having unprotected sex.

She says there are now about 330 people aged 10 to 29 with HIV in Singapore.

For some, the drug-cocktail treatment is prohibitively expensive at S$1,200 a month.

Others have had to move out of their homes -- or have been thrown out -- because they are thought to have brought dishonour upon their families.

Plans to build an Aids hospice have also met with difficulties.

These are the sorts of issues that 29 members of Singapore's Youth Challenge are also learning about in Bangkok, where they are sharing their ideas.

National Junior College student Serene Woon, 18, said she believed many young people did not think the issue was of relevance to them.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2001

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BANGKOK POST

May 30, 2001

LENGTH: 94 words

HEADLINE: Inbrief: Regional meeting

BODY:

Kathaleeya McIntosh, an actress and Unicef youth envoy for Thailand, and Miss Thailand Sujira Arunpitat will next week take part in a regional meeting on youth health.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Japanese government, the UN International Drug Control Programme, Unesco and Unaids are co-sponsoring the June 4-8 meeting in Bangkok.

Kim-Hak-Su, **Escap** executive secretary, Anand Panyarachun, Senator Mechai Viravaidya and Marina Mahathir of the Malaysian Aids Council are among the prominent participants.

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2001

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June 10, 2001, Sunday 6:45 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; OTHERS

LENGTH: 729 words

HEADLINE: Profile: A Brave Girl Breaks Taboo Over AIDS by Yuan Li

DATELINE: BANGKOK, June 10

BODY:
She is young, beautiful and vigorous. And most of all, she is brave enough to tell people she is HIV positive and it is dangerous to be as ignorant of HIV/AIDS as she used to be.

Shortly after her 18th birthday three years ago, Singaporean girl Natashya Yoon was told she was infected with HIV when she went to donate blood.

"I would never forget the day July 21, 1998 when doctor told me I was HIV positive. I was totally shocked. All my dreams were shattered," Yoon told Xinhua in an interview recently when participating in the Asia-Pacific youth health forum organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) in Bangkok.

The eldest child of a strict Chinese-Singaporean family, Yoon expected to be a career woman, independent and successful.

"I never thought that I would contract HIV. It was something totally out of my arena, out of my knowledge that it could happen to somebody as young

as I was."

Until now she still doesn't have a clue how she contracted the virus.

Yoon believes if she had known more about HIV/AIDS, if she was told how to protect herself from falling victim of the fatal virus, she would not be infected.

However, she never gave up the belief that she can be useful to the society. In 1999, when a friend asked her whether she was interested in speaking up at an international AIDS conference in Kuala Lumpur, she didn't hesitate, not less worrying about misunderstanding and prejudice she might confront as a person living with HIV.

"At that time, all I wanted to do was to go out and tell people how to protect themselves and their loved ones because nobody helped me to protect myself. I wasn't afraid of anything. In fact I was really eager to (do it)," said Yoon.

As co-chair and Singapore representative of Asia-Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, she attended many international meetings and seminars in the following two years, urging people to learn more about HIV/AIDS and knowledge of prevention.

Misconception of HIV/AIDS stands in the way for better prevention, she noted. "In many countries, if you have HIV, it was something like a sin. (People would think) you must have done something wrong in your past life, and it was retribution. But this is not true."

She wants people to know what happened to her can happen to anybody. The virus not only spreads through unprotected sex and needle sharing among drug addicts, it can also spread through unsterilized anti-virus drugs and dental equipment, body piercing, tattooing, blood transfusion and many other ways.

"I had good education. I was given opportunity to excel in life. But I still contracted HIV. It really can happen to anybody," Yoon said.

By helping others, she rediscovered the meaning of life. She said her goal of life now is to be able to help and educate as many people as possible about HIV/AIDS and to tell them how to protect themselves and their loved ones from contracting HIV.

"I'm still young, I'm still healthy and I can still stand up and tell everybody about it."

Her youthfulness strengthens her persuasion, Yoon said, because people tend to associate innocence with young age. When people, especially young people, see somebody as young as her is infected with HIV, they will "sit up and take notes".

This makes her happy because over 50 percent of new HIV infections occur in young people below 25-year old.

"Youth are usually very unchallenged. They don't think anything can happen to them. I want them to know this can happen to them as well."

She also wants to tell young people to really take life seriously and to learn to appreciate life because "there are a lot of things around that you don't know you have until you lose them".

However, Yoon said even given the chance, she will not regret about her life. "I would not look back and remorse anything and say I don't want to be here right now because I have helped a lot of people and I feel happy about that. There are always two sides of a coin."

Studying business at an open university in Singapore, Yoon wants to graduate as soon as possible so she can devote more time to helping people.

"I'm not scared of death because everybody has to die. I'm just afraid that if I die too early, too soon I cannot help enough people to realize how serious this thing is."

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2001

3.5 Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors, Phitsanulok, Thailand 19-22 June 2001

02/19/2001 13:24:06

RIGHTS-NEPAL: URBAN GOVERNANCE NO LONGER MALE MONOPOLY

KATHMANDU, Feb 19, 2001 (Inter Press Service via COMTEX) -- With two children to look after, Sangita Manandhar would never have run for a seat in the local council in the Nepali capital, if it were not for the quota.

"I don't think many women would have done so," says Manadhar who was elected to a Kathmandu municipal council, defeating two other women candidates.

She is one of the 40,000 women who have entered public life in the small Himalayan nation by being elected to seats reserved for them in local government bodies. The quota was created by a law enacted in the year 1999.

The Local Self-Governance Act has earmarked one seat for women in each of the District Development Councils in Nepal's 75 districts. In addition, one-fifth of seats in each of the wards in Nepal's 58 municipalities, are now reserved for women.

Manandhar is the only woman in the five-member council in one of 35 municipal wards in Kathmandu, which covers some 1,200 houses.

Her presence has encouraged women in the area to come to her with problems of domestic violence and divorce. She also oversees a program run by the council, which is teaching local women various income-earning skills.

The quota law was badly needed in a nation where men dominate social, economic and political life. No more than three out of every 10 women can read and write compared to a national male literacy level of 66 percent.

Women, on average, do 10.9 hours of economically productive work a day -- 3.1 hours more than men. They are estimated to contribute about 27 percent to the total annual national income.

Women have little presence in political life. While the deputy speaker of Nepal's Parliament is a woman, women make up less

than five percent of the house. There are slightly more women than men in Nepal, but more men than women, are registered as voters.

A beginning toward changing this situation is now being made with women like Manandhar getting elected to decision-making positions in urban and rural governance bodies.

It will be women like her who are to be honored at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors.

The summit, organized by the Bangkok-based United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**), will be held in Thailand in mid-2001.

According to the Nepal country report for the summit, though Nepal's decade-old Constitution guarantees social, economic and political equality to women, the reality is different.

The document praises the 20 percent quota in local self-government as a "very positive step." However, it is not going to be easy for the newly-elected women to work as equals.

"The reality is still that women rarely participate in the field of community related development work. The government bodies, be it central or in the local level, are still 'Male Dominated' rather than shared with women," adds the report.

According to a study, titled, 'State of Women in Urban Local Government', more than half of 20 newly-chosen women councillors, who were quizzed, did not face discrimination in the allotment of work or from their male colleagues.

Sukmaya Gurung, a member of the municipal council of Pokhara, said the only hurdle she has faced is her illiteracy.

Similarly, Sushma Sakya of the Lalitpur municipal council has faced resistance from male councillors not because she is a woman, but because she belongs to a different political party.

Woman councillor Manandhar says she has got full cooperation of her male colleagues who also belong to the same party on whose ticket she contested the council election.

However, some women councillors said they did not get equal treatment at work and that local people preferred to go with their problems to male councillors.

These women also said senior male councillors had less confidence in their junior female colleagues.

One of these women said she had to move out of her husband's joint family household because her parents-in-law disapproved of her entering public life.

But as they enter decision-making positions, the women are gaining confidence. Shriju Pradhan is young and educated and knows she can hold her own in a man's world. She is one of Kathmandu Metropolitan City's few women officers.

Though most metropolitan city workers are women, they are mainly in lower level administrative jobs. At the lowest rung, women make up the huge band of sweepers hired to keep Kathmandu clean.

Twenty six-year-old Pradhan heads the Community Mobilization Unit of the city's Environmental Department.

"I do consider myself a leader in my scope of work," says Pradhan. "Women need to be encouraged to leave the confines of the home. Usually, people focus on what women are lacking. But the focus must be on their strengths," she adds.

Hari Devi Ranjitkar, who was appointed head of the capital city's Social Welfare Department, three years ago, agrees.

"It's essential that we work on building the confidence and the capacity of local women representatives. Their presence needs to be felt and their voices heard," she says.

Ranjitkar should know. The only woman to head one of the 12 departments in the city government, she often finds herself the sole voice stressing the importance of treating women as equal in planning local development strategies.

"My male colleagues tell me that as long as women are visible their impact will be felt. Experience has shown that this is not true. An environment needs to be created where they can make themselves heard," she points out.

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): 4 (*Home*)
Date: 20 June 2001

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

Regional mayors meeting in North

Gender equality at top of the agenda

Wanphen Sreshthaputra
Phitsanulok

If the road to gender equality is "long and filled with many obstacles" as averred by Escap executive secretary Kim Hak-Su, some important milestones are undoubtedly being overcome.

About 200 delegates from 24 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region are here until Friday to address issues faced by women in local government.

Presented as the first-ever Asia-Pacific summit of women mayors and councillors, the four-day seminar is intended to increase awareness of the role women can play in local government, while highlighting the challenges and constraints they face.

The objective of the summit, described as more practical and focused than the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women, is also to discuss follow-up strategies and actions to promote women's participation and representation.

"The summit is particularly relevant and timely to Asia and the Pacific," said Kim Hak-Su, of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

"This is because it highlights three major issues of the region: urbanisation and problems of cities, the status of women and their role in decision-making, as well as the importance of decentralisation and strengthening of local government institutions."

It was precisely at this local level that women were encouraged to assume a greater role in local government as it was a good training ground and easily accessible in terms of election costs.

The Phitsanulok city mayor, Premrudee Champunot, is the longest serving woman mayor in Thailand.

Along with six other women mayors, councillors and an executive deputy mayor from the Asia-Pacific region, Ms Premrudee will be granted an award of recognition for outstanding service.

"Phitsanulok is a historic province that has been at the forefront of the struggle for independence in Thailand," said provincial governor Vicharn Jayanandana.

"And with that same spirit we are striving to achieve gender equality.

"With mayor Premrudee, we are committed to achieving gender equality in local government," said the governor of Phitsanulok.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: THE NATION
Page(s): 7A (*Local & Regional*)

Date: 20 June 2001

Women politicians improve Asian cities – UN

■ *Associated Press*

CITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC region would be cleaner, healthier and friendlier places to live if women had a bigger role in running local governments, the United Nations said yesterday.

Kim Hak-su, executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, said female decision-makers brought fresh perspectives and redefined political priorities.

Kim awarded seven women mayors and councillors from China, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand for helping to smash the gender barrier.

The awards were given at the first Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors, hosted by Thailand's longest-serving female mayor Premrudee Charmpoonod in Phitsanulok.

However, there are few places in the region where women have been given a chance to lead. "Nowhere in the region are women equally represented in local government," Kim said.

In Asia-Pacific countries where equal representation is not mandated by quotas, women make up between 10 and 15 per cent of elected local government officials. The conference, which lasts until Friday, is intended to significantly increase the number of women in local government, with follow-up activities in selected countries to push for change, Kim added.

Two Thai women in government said women had to cope with more interference than men in similar positions.

"Initially I did face some resistance when I began my political career," said Phitsanulok mayor Premrudee. "However, now people look at me as a human being doing a public service."

Another successful Thai woman politician, Krasae Chanawongse, minister at the Prime Minister's Office, said: "Women in local government are the real fighters. You are bound to encounter more pressure and obstacles than men in the same position."

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June 22, 2001, Friday

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; POLITICAL

LENGTH: 343 words

HEADLINE: Women Urged to Share Power in Local Governments

DATELINE: BANGKOK, June 22

BODY:
A declaration adopted at the closing session of the first-ever summit of Asian-Pacific women mayors and councilors Friday in Thailand called for breaking barriers for women to take greater share of power in local governments, according to a United Nations news release.

The Phistanulok Declaration was a major achievements of the meeting, which was held between June 19 and 22 in Phitsanulok, 377 kilometers north of Bangkok, said Kim Hak-Su, Executive-Secretary of the Bangkok-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**).

"I firmly believe that without gender equality in governments we can not have a just society. And I regard the declaration as a milestone on a long journey," he said.

The declaration said that the high cost of electioneering, harassment and intimidation of women trying to enter the political process, entrenched

cultural and social norms, and unequal division of household responsibilities were some of the barriers identified by the participants of the meeting.

And the calls for barrier-breaking, election reform and a goal of 50-50 representation between men and women in local governments are the same issues facing women in the region, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographical origin, it noted.

"We have to be alert and collaborate with each other to improve the role of women at every level in political organizations," said the declaration.

It also said that participants committed themselves to increasing the numbers of women in local governments and aimed to achieve this by working to change personnel system and build networks of peer women leaders.

The conference was attended by over 120 mayoresses and female councilors from 14 countries in the region. **ESCAP,** the organizer, plans to hold national summits of women in local governments so that country-level strategies and networks can be developed. **ESCAP** also wishes to become a regional information center for supporting women's political efforts at the country and regional levels.

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2001

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Press/Media: BANGKOK POST

Date: 28 June 2001

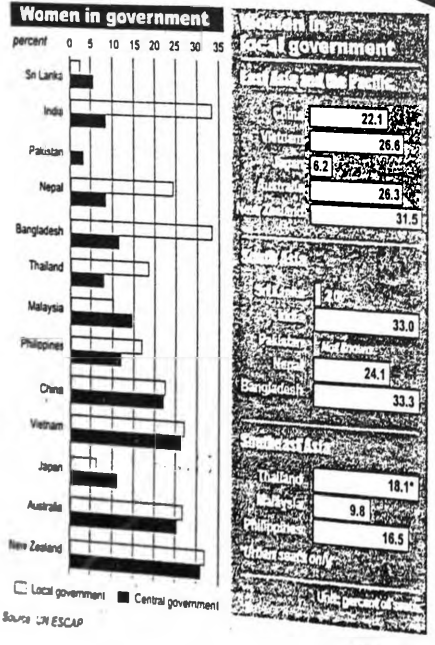
Page(s): 3 (*Outlook*)

Putting women on top

Although Mother Nature has seen fit to ensure there are just as many women as men, the fairer sex lags far behind in 'man-made' institutions — but that is changing, as reflected in the summit held in Phitsanulok last week

Story by
WANPHEN SRESHTHAPUTRA





PRESS CLIPPINGS

Press/Media: **BANGKOK POST**

Page(s): 3 (*Outlook*)

TOTAL PAGE(S):

Date: 28 June 2001

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Nature is a great equaliser: In a world population of over six billion people, for example, roughly 50 percent are women. According to figures available from the Population Reference Bureau for 1998, there were 2,941,000,000 females in a world population of 900,054,000.

But when it comes to small-scale, man-made institutions, this principle of equality is less meticulously applied. Women around the world represent today only about 13.7 percent of parliaments worldwide and 14 percent of heads of states, according to data collected by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In the Asia-Pacific, women account for about 14.9 percent of national legislatures.

This widespread abnormality is increasingly being addressed and regarded as incompatible with the principle of good governance. Activists and women's rights advocates around the world are working relentlessly to move the situation of women to the forefront of national and international policy debates, trying hard to shake up the six percent annual rate of increase in female representation worldwide — which, if it persists, would mean that gender balance in government would be reached sometime in the year 2075.

In the wake of momentous conferences such as the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women, the "Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors", organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) last week in Phitsanulok, tried once again to make a difference and hasten the levelling process.

Over 200 participants from some 24 countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region came together to discuss barriers to women entering politics, in particular at the local level, and to devise solutions.

The local level was identified as the only level where women could enter political life with relative ease, which serves as a good training ground for women wishing to reach higher levels in government.

This emphasis on the role of women in local government was hence the core of the summit.

Describing female leadership as "more inclusive, collaborative and consultative, more tolerant of different points of view and more people oriented", the panel reached a definite consensus on women's ability in decision-making government positions to provide "transformative leadership" by redefining political priorities, placing new items on the agenda and providing new perspectives on mainstream issues.

"The exciting thing is that even in repressive systems, we see women making a difference, even if only in small ways," commented Jean Drage from the School of Political Science and International Relations, Wellington, New Zealand.

She added: "Women have a greater sense of social issues and the well-being and welfare of their communities.... They have a commitment to improving the environment within their communities.... They have different priorities and are prepared to spend time on issues that some men find trivial, such as family issues, dowry problems and violence against women and children.

"They focus on change, preferring a more democratic and transparent approach to governance in an effort to move away from the adversarial and, sometimes, corrupt image of politics."

For all these good reasons and more, The Phitsanulok Declaration on the Advancement of Women in Local Government adopted at the end of the four-day summit called for equality in local government and for various measures which could help bring about the ultimate goal of 50-50 representation between women and men in local governments.

Recalling the various global and regional mandates such as The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995, and reaffirming their commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cedaw), the participants emphasised that "women's rights are human rights" and that those equal human rights, duties and responsibilities as citizens shared both by men and women should include "the right to participate equally in the process of governance, including the right to vote, to hold both appointed and elected office and to participate in decision making at all levels of government".

"Women's equal participation in political life plays a pivotal role in the betterment of society. Without the active participation of women at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved," notes the resolution.

The long list of significant barriers to representation and participation of women include, among other concerns: entrenched cultural and social norms

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Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP: "The beginning of vital initiatives..."



Khunying Supatra Masdit: "Greater involvement of women at local level is the solution."

and practices, attitudinal and structural barriers to economic, social and political resources, reproductive and domestic responsibilities and the unequal division of labour within the household, the domination of men in politics, the high cost of election campaigns, and the harassment and intimidation of women participating in the political process.

Varying from country to country, the strategies and actions required range from time-bound targets, to quotas, electoral reforms — "that promote gender balance such as proportional representation incorporating party lists" — and caps on campaign spending.

These actions are seen as "necessary to break existing barriers to increased representation and participation of women in local government" and as "the beginning of vital initiatives", according to Escap's Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su.

"I firmly believe that without equality between men and women, we cannot be a just or healthy society. We regard the Summit as a milestone on a long journey," commented Kim Hak-Su, hoping the conference would give rise to a cascade of networks, the recommendations and resolutions pouring down to other stratas of society, with the UN Escap holding a pivotal role in the follow-up of the conference.

Well-worded, meticulously prepared and reviewed by the Summit participants, the Phitsanulok Declaration seems to be aimed at helping women join the fray. And surely that is what is needed in a region where, as acknowledged by Kim, women are "nowhere equally represented in local government".

In Asian-Pacific countries, where representation is not mandated by quotas, women indeed account for some 15 percent of elected local government officials. According to a comparative analysis of 13 countries of the region prepared by Jean Drage, women in the region "are under-represented in local government" with "even fewer women in management positions in local government".

"Statistics show the percentage of women in local government seats range from a high of 33 percent to a low of two percent," reads the report.

Diversity was thus another keyword of the summit.

The broad spectrum of participants, ranging from representatives of women-friendly environments such as French Polynesia to the most repressive, Afghanistan — touched upon by Regional Programme Manager for the UN Habitat Afghanistan Teresa Poppelwell— and various groups, networks and associations of disabled women, could only testify in favour of these prevailing disparities.

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"As representatives from French Polynesia, which is the first territory in the world to have applied the 50-50 parity law — following the passing of the bill in France concerning the principle of parity in all elections — we are very honoured to be here," commented Beatrice Vernaudon, former minister of Solidarity and Family and deputy mayor of the city of Pirae in Tahiti.

"It is our duty to come and share our experience, Tahitian women having benefited from this extraordinary evolution through the status of French Polynesia (an overseas territory within the French Republic)," she said.

"The number of elected women rose from 12 to 45 percent and even reached 49 percent after the government was composed.

"This was an awesome challenge for Tahitian women as some were not fully ready to embrace a political career or were lacking the appropriate vision. Yet until then they always had been up to their responsibilities and men recognised that the country would benefit from their expertise and background," she added.

The crucial training to support women in the process and to ensure quality was also on everyone's lips.

"We need to equip women with the proper information, training and mechanisms to deliver for the good of the people. No doubt they still have to be trained a lot, all the more so in higher levels of government or in law-making bodies, where, for example, they are even fewer," commented Dr Rita B. Joshi, former mayor from Allahabad (UP), India, who along with six other participants (including Premrudee Charmpoonod, mayor of Phitsanulok, the longest serving woman mayor in Thailand) was granted an Escap Award of Recognition for Outstanding Service and Breaking Barriers Against Participation in Local Government.

"The world is opening for women. Thanks to two sets of amendments to the Indian constitution implemented since 1992-1993, the stage has been set, but it is not enough.

"There are still many drawbacks, such as their financial situation or the very patriarchal society," Rita said, bringing out India as a trend-setter for the world in reference to their initiative of reserving 30 percent of seats for women in all decision-making institutions, including district councils (*panchayats*).

With 33 percent of women in local government seats, India was looked on as one of the best pupils in the region, way ahead of Thailand, where, as acknowledged by the National Commission on Women's Affairs, "the participation of women at the decision-making level in government and politics is very small compared to men".

Yet with 10.5 percent of female senators in the Upper House and 9.2 percent of female representatives in the Lower House of Parliament, the situation of women in Thailand is progressing.

"Although it still hasn't reached a satisfactory level, the number of women at decision-making levels gradually increased during the last decade," notes a report prepared by the National Commission on Women's Affairs.

No doubt this ascending trend will continue in the future and will benefit greatly from the impetus created by the Summit.

"We have already been working a lot towards creating a strategy for greater female participation at all levels of political life. But the Summit gives us an even greater motivation and emphasis on the importance and the role woman can play," said Prisna Pongtadsirikul, director of the National Commission on Women's Affairs.

She added: "Although I feel it is impossible for Thailand to comply with the global campaign (launched in New York in June 2000 by the Women's Environment and Development Organisation) calling for 50-50 gender balance representation by 2005, we are going to come up with a proposal that there should be at least 33 percent of women in every committee in order to reach a critical minority."

Khunying Supatra Masdit, of the Democrat Party, also had a clear platform in mind: push for direct elections, perhaps a quota system, and emphasise the local level.

"The grassroots level is the solution. If each village could already have one leader of each sex, that would already be a good starting point. More than relying on the passing of new bills, or on international bodies, we need to train women at the local level — higher levels would follow."

"This is actually a sensitive issue. The situation won't change overnight but it will, little by little, by means of formal and informal ways. We are already moving towards the right direction but we all need to move together — that is, women in politics, women outside [politics] and men," said Pusadee Thamthai, member of the National Council on Women's Affairs.

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HEADLINE: INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR KATE

BODY:

OLONGAPO City Mayor Katherine Gordon is motivated and inspired these days after she was honored recently by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**Escap**).

Gordon, who was reelected on May 14, flew to Phitsanulok, Thailand, last week to receive her public governance award from Kim Hak Su, **Escap** executive director, during the UN Asia-Pacific summit for women mayors and councilors.

"I was very honored. I didn't know this was coming but I know I deserve it because I worked very hard for this award. We worked (hard) for this," she said.

The lone Filipino among the seven awardees, Gordon was cited for her exemplary governance in public and community services that led to the development and progress of Olongapo, which once hosted a United States military base.

"I feel this is a lesson I ought to share with the whole country and with officials of all levels," she said.

"I would like people to know that anything is possible in life. I used to be an ordinary housewife myself. It all boils down to personal commitment-to make life better for people, something each Filipino should do, whether in a position of power or just a homemaker trying to raise a family."

In commending her performance, the UN agency noted Gordon's successful campaigns to upgrade the facilities of Olongapo City in preparation for its integration into the Subic Bay Freeport.

Gordon's pioneer work in mass skills training and education, resettlement for victims of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption, computer literacy programs for city residents and her beautification projects were also cited by **Escap.**

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Mayor Premrudee Charmpoonod of Phitsanulok was one of seven women in local government from the Asia-Pacific region to receive an Escap Award of Recognition for Outstanding Service and Breaking Barriers Against Women's Participation in Local Government at the recent summit of women mayors and councillors organised by Escap in Phitsanulok. Picture shows Escap's Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su (left) presenting the award to Mayor Premrudee, watched by (from left) Birgit Jensen of Escap, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Dr Krasae Chanawongse, and Phitsanulok Governor Vicharn Chayananda.

4. Others

4.1 General

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Page(s): 3 (*Perspective*)

Date: 1 October 2000

Soul-searching

Imtiaz Muqbil

Same grail, different dogma

The quest for peace seems to engender as much conflict between religions as their diverse beliefs

One of the hallmarks of global religions is that their goal remains the same while their paths are different. Nowhere did this become more apparent than when leaders of Thailand's majority religion, Buddhism, and two minority religions, Islam and Christianity, came together to discuss the pursuit of peace.

The event was World Peace Day on September 19. The venue was the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the regional arm of the UN which has held a range of high-level meetings this year to bring all the stakeholders — religious, political and corporate leaders — into the task of alleviating conflict.

This, on the grounds that development at any level is impossible without peace, and that there are only so many fires that UN peacekeepers can put out without burning themselves first.

Making religions join the search for peace is inevitable because religions were founded to do precisely that. However, the event showed clearly that each religion has its own unique way of addressing the issue, a way that originates both in philosophy as well as the personalities and lives of their founders.

The fundamental fact that came through in the various messages is that not a single one of these religions has succeeded in making their own adherents practise what their founders preached.

On the contrary, more conflict has resulted in trying to convince others that their way is the "right way".

The theme for the day was set by Mr Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP who said, "Today, we the peoples of the Asia and the Pacific region, who represent 60% of the world population, have assembled here to commemorate UN Peace Day with a commitment to promote the culture of peace.

"While we denounce war, parochialism and racism, which resulted in massive destruction and human suffering in our peaceful region, I feel that we must accord priority to resolve conflicts and divert our energies towards development activities, alleviation of poverty and illiteracy. I earnestly believe that with the mission of peace alone, we can achieve these goals and march towards progress, welfare and prosperity of humanity."

He said the world was a stage where it had to "look at peace from many different perspectives. It obliges us to look to the past and the present but even more to the future. It should deepen our determination to give succeeding generations what the UN was created for 55 years ago: freedom from fear, freedom from want, and the means to sustain our future and this planet."

Buddhist Somdej Mahathiracharn Wat Chanasongkram, representative of the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, noted that Buddhism considers inner peace as the fundamental of external peace — that means those who have a peaceful mind will not create conflicts within society.

"Peace is the best happiness. Peace also means 'serenity', a condition of no conflict which is composed of two aspects: Inner peace is a condition of no conflict in the mind; and external peace is a condition of no conflict within the community, family, village, tambon, district, province, country and nation.

"Conflicts, quarrels and war stem from selfishness and materialism. Today, people are prisoners of materialism, they worship objects and become more and more materialistic. This is a source of more conflicts and quarrels.

"The way to reduce conflicts in society is to wean people away from materialism and selfishness, encourage them to abide by the principles of Buddhism such as forgive each other, to have mercy, support and help each other, to understand each other, teach them to be self-sufficient and to be content with what they have."

As for peace of mind, Somdej Mahathiracharn said it will come from four values: Metha, or mercy; Karuna or compassion; Muthita or sympathy and Ubekha or equanimity.

"If each and everyone in society at every level respects the others, there will be no conflict. If there is no morality, there will be disagreements, which can lead to wars. The Lord Buddha taught that conflicts can be solved with the power of wisdom, that is through negotiations in order to reach harmony.

"The Lord Buddha himself did that when encouraging two rulers to end a war over water flowing in the same river, noting that they were wrong to fight over something which had no monetary value for either of them.

"This is a good example of a conflict solved in a peaceful way. Buddhism aims at eliminating conflict by teaching how to develop inner peace through Dharma principles. It teaches that in

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case of conflict, force should never be used, but that only peaceful means should be sought. This also happens to be the UN way."

Bishop Michael Bunluen Mansap, Bishop or Ubon Ratchathani, shared reflections on peace focussing on the Christian principles of forgiveness and gratitude.

"In today's world of divisiveness, acute competition and awful revenge, there exists a consciousness of the common aspiration towards being one family: a family in which God the Creator is recognised as the Father who cares and loves all His children, a family in which the dignity and rights of all and individual children are respected and accepted.

"Love, therefore, is the dynamics of forgiveness and its fruits are repentance, reconciliation, gratitude and peace.

"Forgiveness, then, and gratitude in this sense, should give rise to a sense of solidarity which would motivate the change of the economic, social and cultural structures so as to enable all members of our human family to share in the fruits of development and to enjoy the material goods which are meant for all."

Bishop Michael said that in this Jubilee Year, "the Catholic Church is trying to commit itself to pray and work for peace and justice. We are promoting forgiveness and reconciliation amongst ourselves, our churches and in the world community, we have been campaigning for the cancellation of international debts, we have asked for forgiveness of our past sinful actions and we have also forgiven those who have done wrong to us.

"We hope to inaugurate this new millennium in the spirit of love, which has been preached and practised by our Lord Jesus Christ, so that the love and peace of God's Kingdom may prevail."

Imam Prasit (Husbullah) Amincen, President of the Ulama Council and chairman of the Islamic Eminent Persons group, noted that the word Islam itself means "peace" and that the Islamic greeting Salaam conveys that.

He acknowledged that while "Islam wants peace for everybody... the perfect Islamic way is not fully or very little applied in our lives and our world. Ideal Islamic principles are not used by our families, our sisters and brothers, our friends, our colleagues, our neighbours, our country fellows and our world co-dwellers.

"And we have to admit that we ourselves may forget to treat others according to the teaching of our religion and of our Prophet."

He noted that conflicts, like life itself, can be ideological, social, cultural, economic, and political. But they are, after all, conflicts. The youngest of all religions, Islam recognised that violence and conflict was a reality of life — despite all the teachings of the previous prophets — and had to be dealt with in different ways.

Muslims were forced to deal with the world of real politics.

Though there were pacifists, they had to defend themselves. While they were allowed to fight for the cause of Islam, the Prophet also used diplomacy and information strategies for winning over the people, plus peaceful negotiations and treaties.

"Our prophet and Muslims of that time are good examples of non-violent people though sometimes they had to fight the battles. They used a combination of gentleness, forgiveness, inclination and wise polices to avoid bloodshed. War and violence are treated as evil which sometimes cannot be avoided.

"Non-violence does not mean submission to all like we do to God. On the contrary, Muslims are encouraged to be against or even fight those who are wrongdoers. Evil rulers can be deposed by the people. Oppressors of the people are to be gotten rid of."

He said Islam allows battles to be fought in numerous non-violent ways: diplomacy, publicity, propaganda, non-co-operation, mass civil obedience, boycotts, strikes, peaceful demonstrations, negotiation, etc. If violence has to be used, it must be governed by rules prescribed in the Qur'an and the Hadith, which means no violence against civilians and no wanton destruction of homes and natural resources.

In a way, all three approaches are correct.

There is room for cultivating inner peace, for forgiving and understanding as well as for defending against wrongdoers and oppressors.

They are all part of the same package.

And they are all unfolding today in different shapes and forms, further underscoring the fundamental truth that no religion is greater than any other, and that only by merging their synergies, rather than focussing on their differences, will real peace be achieved.

Peace for all

A recent UN Peace Day seminar underlined the fact that peace in our time will remain elusive until all stakeholders are heard at the negotiating table

LANCE WOODRUFF

Last week peace was on the UN's official agenda. In New York, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for "the bell of peace (to) ring loud, clear and true in our conscience," to "ring out a century of cruelty and destruction, and ring in a millennium of hope and peace."

Good words, good ideas. And a peace seminar organised by the United Nations Information Service and the United Nations Association of Thailand produced light and hope for intending peacemakers in a three-stage process of conflict resolution reported by the Humanities for Society Centre of Chulalongkorn University.

Some peacemakers build mechanisms and processes for local people to resolve their differences before they come to physical conflict. Prof Mark Tamthai, director of the centre, said that in Mindanao and Burma those who have chosen to militarily resolve differences with the central government believe that "justice must come before peace" and that "peacemaking might compromise struggles for social justice."

Prof Mark, who also advises the National Security Council's Institute of Strategic Studies Office, told the audience of military and



Escap Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su (far left) reflects as Somdej Mahathiracharn of Wat Chanasongkram (second right) quotes a Buddhist proverb, "No happiness is better than peace". Peace, he said, is inner peace, a condition of no inner conflict, and external peace, no conflict within communities: the family, village, tambon, district, province, nation and world. Christian representative Bishop Michael Bunleun Mansap (second left) and Muslim representative Imam Prasit Amincen also addressed the UN Peace Day seminar.

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UN staff that while a common understanding makes the task of peacemaking clearer, each country must find its own reason for peace.

"Peaceful resolution of conflict (thus) includes as part of its meaning a 'just' resolution, (and that) there can never be two opposing movements, one aiming for justice, the other aiming at peace," he said. "Mechanisms that ensure human dignity and mechanisms that work toward peace are in theory and in practice, inseparable."

Peace can only come about through addressing the real causes of conflict. Sometimes in Asian settings, he said, people at local levels either cannot or will not recognise their own biases.

Conflict prevention results, he said, when government publishes conflict-specific documents naming the fears, angers and wrongs committed, real or perceived, that have been found to be at the root of the conflict.

Most development and modernisation programmes assume a melting-away of ethnic and cultural differences with progress, according to Rodolfo Stavenhagen of the United Nations University in Tokyo.

But Indonesia's attempted absorption of Timor did not lead to a melting away of ethnic desire for autonomy and independence, thus the violence that brought both the United Nations and the Royal Thai Army to Timor.

"The underlying premise of all military training is to train for war," said Col Kampanart Ruddit, deputy commander, 31st Infantry Regiment, Royal Guards. Training for peacekeeping, he said, is an addition to training for combat, not a dilution.

Earlier, locally based UN staff were grieving the loss of compatriots in Timor when Escap Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su raised the blue United Nations flag and took the salute from a contingent of blue-clad UN security officers.

It was a thin blue line, undermanned and unarmed; perhaps it was a metaphor for the United Nations itself as it tries to enter West Timor to investigate death and responsibility, not to mention lingering complications in the larger investigation regarding events in East Timor.

At the flag ceremony, the Bangkok UN family — and friends of the family — observed a minute of silence for those who died in the line of UN duty, particularly for those who died this month in Timor. Royal Thai Army buglers played the Last Post and reveille in honour of the departed.

No doubt the lives of those who continue to serve were much in mind, because before the week's end Mr Kim joined a reported 500 international civil servants in a demonstration on Rajdamnoen Road, calling for increased UN Security Council (military) protection for peacemakers and peace keepers in Timor and West Africa.

Not present at the flag raising, perhaps due to convention, were representatives of the leaders of Thailand's major religious communities who did join the opening ceremonies of a peace seminar at the UN Conference Centre. In that setting Mr Kim asked the region's national governments to commit to what the UN calls "the culture of peace".

"We must accord priority to resolve conflicts and divert our energies towards development activities, (and the) alleviation of poverty and illiteracy," he said.

For some, particularly those in grief, this might not seem the most direct route to peace. Perhaps that was why only two days later Mr Kim and his colleagues at the world body's regional centre took to the streets themselves.

RELIGION BOWS OUT

The forum for peace itself received statements of appreciation and encouragement from the leaders of religion.

From a Buddhist perspective, community peace can only come after individuals change, said Somdej Mahathiracharn of Wat Chanasongkram, representing Thailand's Supreme Patriarch.

Calling for personal transformation and the achievement of inner peace as necessary for peace in the wider community, he said, "Conflicts, quarrels and war stem from selfishness and materialism."

Following messages on "Forgiveness and Gratitude" from a Christian perspective delivered by Bishop Michael Bunleun Mansap on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church in Thailand and on "Islam and Non-violence" from Imam Prasit Amincen, representing the Office of Sheikul-Islam, the three religious leaders and Mr Kim departed, leaving the official peacemakers — two

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U.N. Peace Day, 19 September 2000

Bishop Boonluen Mansap, representative of Cardinal Michael Michai Kitbunchoo of Catholic church delivered a speech on "Forgiveness and Gratitude" during the U.N. Peace Day ceremony organized by ESCAP



พระคุณเจ้าบุญเลื่อน มนัสทรัพย์เป็นตัวแทนพระคาร์ดินัลกล่าวสุนทรพจน์ วันสันติภาพของสหประชาชาติ

วันสันติภาพสหประชาชาติ

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Date: 9 October 2000

The trouble with Escap

I read with interest Anuraj Manibhandu's interview (*Bangkok Post*, Oct 3) with the new executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), Kim Hak-Su, who is also a UN under-secretary-general and thus the highest UN authority in Asia and the Pacific.

It is true that many people see Escap as one of the most predictable talk-shops and bureaucratic fat cows in the region. The idea of "taking it beyond the talking" and "making it produce tangible options, or models for regional governments to solve their problems" is therefore a sound and welcome one. No doubt Escap will benefit in that image-enhancing process from Kim Hak-Su's substantial experience as the former secretary-general of the Colombo Plan Bureau.

Apart from indifferent leadership, the major problem which Escap has suffered over the past decade is a loss of identity: Escap is not and should not behave like another regional organisation.

Its terms of reference, approved by the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) in 1947, make it clear that it is not an independent regional organisation free to establish its own agenda, but a subsidiary organ of Ecosoc with the main functions of facilitating concerted development action and collecting and disseminating economic and social information for use by member governments in making their policy decisions. Incidentally, the terms of reference also specifically provide that Escap should deal with appropriate social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors. Surprisingly, in the course of the interview only an indirect allusion was made to human rights — obviously an important social aspect of that interrelationship from a UN standpoint.

What happened over the years? Escap, under the dual onslaught of the UN financial crisis and of an unrelenting campaign waged in order to weaken UN influence on world affairs, has been adopting a low-lying attitude and attempting to mimic the mottos and practices of the private sector.

It is time for it to go back to its terms of reference and stick to its mandate. Let it leave to UN specialised agencies and the regional organisations, often better equipped in this respect, the execution of projects and concentrate on its real mission: the collection and dissemination of reliable and timely information and the study of regional policy aspects. If the current terms of reference were fully and creatively adhered to, this would suffice to occupy 700 people and even more with great advantage to the region and without the need to find "niches".

While intergovernmental meetings in several languages may seem cumbersome and costly, this is not the real question, the real question is: do they serve the region well? If so, given the essential information collection and dissemination function of Escap and the assurance of productive meetings, operating in four languages should be seen not as a hindrance but as an opportunity. The argument could be even be made that expanding the local language operations of Escap would improve its effectiveness and visibility for the benefit of all concerned (who, for instance, would question the advantages of disseminating a good agriculture or trade manual in Hindi, Urdu, Thai, etc?). This would fit nicely with the oft-repeated statements by the UN General Assembly to the effect that it is of the essence of the United Nations to be and remain a multilingual and multicultural organisation.

Finally, efficient leadership requires a clear and effective chain of command. At the UN the current market-inspired, laissez-faire philosophy has meant that "decentralisation" has become the order of the day. One perceptible result is considerable operational fuzziness easily detectable in dealings with the UN Secretariat. It is therefore encouraging to hear that Kim Hak-Su is aware of the dangers of empire-building and apparently willing to restore the position of executive secretary to its former status as the principal policy-making office at Escap.

No doubt the results of those good intentions could be apparent to all in two or three years.

Emilia von Katz

Press/Media: THE NATION
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Date: 24 October 2000



Message to the Peoples of the United Nations from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan

My dear friends,

Seven weeks ago your leaders, heads of state and government from all over the world, gathered in New York for the Millennium Summit. They came together to consider the challenges we all face in the new century, and they set out their aims in a Millennium Declaration.

They pledged themselves to free their peoples -- from the scourge of war, from abject and dehumanising poverty, and from the threat of living on a polluted planet with few natural resources left. They undertook to promote democracy and the rule of law, to protect children and other vulnerable people, and to meet the special needs of Africa. And they promised to make the United Nations itself more effective, as an instrument for pursuing all those aims.

These pledges give us cause for hope. But they will change nothing if they are not followed by action. Even since the Millennium Summit, renewed bloodshed in the Middle East has reminded us all how dangerous it is to leave political and social grievances unresolved.

That is why, while I and others have been struggling to pull the Middle East peace process back on track, my colleagues at the United Nations have been hard at work, developing detailed plans with which we can help the world's leaders carry out their commitments.

But the biggest responsibility falls on the leaders themselves -- and on you, the peoples.

National leaders have hard and sometimes unpopular decisions to take. They need to remember the priorities they set in the Millennium Declaration, when they come to allocate among competing needs and demands, the resources that you, the peoples, have entrusted to them.

They need to remember the pledges they made to each other. They need to continue working together, and also to work with other partners at home and abroad -- parliaments, local authorities, think tanks and universities, voluntary groups and private corporations.

In short, they need to show leadership, and they need your support -- the support of you, the peoples of the United Nations.

The Charter was written in your name, and your leaders spoke for you when they issued the Millennium Declaration. In the end, only you can ensure that the Declaration is more than fine words. It is up to you to see the pledges honoured, and so to make the new century better than the old.

Working together, we can succeed. All we need is courage, imagination and perseverance. Let us pray that we will find them.









Message from the Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Kim Hak-Su



We observe the 55th United Nations Day today in the wake of the historic Millennium Summit held at United Nations Headquarters last month. The Millennium Summit served to reaffirm the commitment of the member states to the ideals of peace and tolerance that have characterized the work of the United Nations since its founding fifty-five years ago.

Indeed, as noted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, the commitment to peace should " deepen our determination to give succeeding generations what the United Nations was created for 55 years ago: freedom from fear, freedom from want and the means to sustain our future on this planet "

In order to create the necessary conditions for peace, we need to focus our efforts on laying a firm foundation for economic and social progress. We need to move away from spiralling military expenditures towards a greater allocation of resources to activities aimed at alleviating hunger, poverty and disease. We need only look at our region, Asia and the Pacific, to affirm the validity of this argument.

In this new century, we have a collective responsibility to ensure that no man, woman or child goes to bed hungry at night or is denied access to medical treatment.

For those of us serving in the United Nations family in Bangkok, this is a day of rededication to the principles of the United Nations Charter and to the promotion of economic and social progress in our region.



PRESS CLIPPINGS

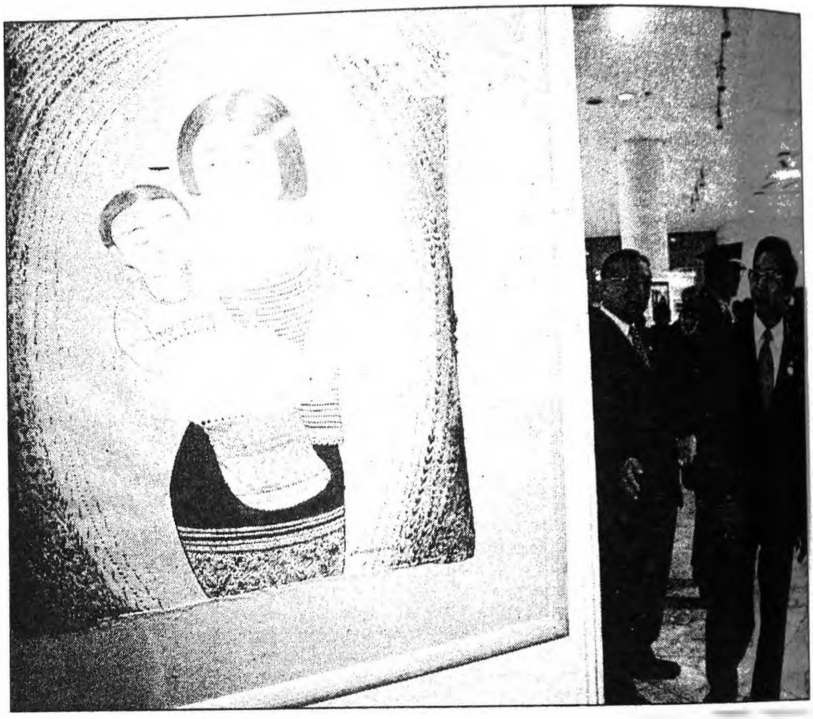
TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: THE NATION

Date: 25 October 2000

Page(s): A6 (*Local & Regional*)

COLOURFUL ARRIVAL



Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai admires a painting on display at the United Nations office in Bangkok when he arrived yesterday to deliver a speech marking United Nations Day.

PRESS CLIPPINGS
TOTAL PAGE(S):
Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): 5 (*Home*)
Date: 25 October 2000



UNITED NATIONS MARKS 55TH YEAR

Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai views a board displaying various activities of the United Nations at the UN Building on Ratchadamnoen road yesterday. The United Nations marked its 55th anniversay yesterday. — APICHIT JINAKUL

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST Date: 26 October 2000
Page(s): 2 (*Outlook*)

UN to celebrate 55th anniversary

More than 8,000 runners to take part in the 10 kilometre-marathon

A variety of activities have been organised to mark the 55th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. This Sunday the 18th annual UN Day 10-kilometre-International Run will start and finish in front of the UN Building on Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue.

Athletes in wheelchairs will start at 6:25 am. The 10-km run commences at 6:30 am.

Over 8,000 runners are expected to participate in the event that attracts the largest number of athletes, both local and foreign, of any road race in Thailand. The run covers the Marble Temple, Chitralada Palace, Dusit Zoo, the National Library, and the streets of old Bangkok.

A special "Marafun for Kids" will also be conducted with the kind permission of the Royal Thai Army. The Marafun starts at 6:30 am in the Royal Thai Military Headquarters adjacent to the UN Building. The Marafun is open to all children below the age of 12 years.

All proceeds from the UN Day Run will be donated to charities.

For more information, contact: David Lazarus, Chief, United Nations Information Services on 288-1866-67; fax 288-1052; email <unisbkk.unescap@un.org>

HELP ?

BANGKOK POST: UN DAY RUN: Chiba and Boonchu set course records; Over 200,000 baht raised for charity

The Bangkok Post; Bangkok; Nov 5, 2000;

Start Page: 1

Abstract:
All proceeds from the UN Day Run have been donated by the organisers to Thai charities, particularly those devoted to helping people with disabilities, especially children. These include the Pakkred Home for Children with Disabilities (100,000 baht), Outward Bound Thailand (55,000 baht), and the Special Olympics Thailand (50,000 baht). Over 7,000 men, women and children completed in the annual run organised to celebrate United Nations Day (October 24).

Full Text:
Copyright Financial Times Information Limited Nov 5, 2000

New course records were set by Olympian Masako Chiba of Japan and Thailand's Boonchu Chantadaecha at the 18th annual UN Day 10- kilometre International Run in Bangkok last weekend.

Chiba, who finished fifth in the Atlanta Olympics 10,000 metres, finished in a women's best time of 34min 49sec.

Boonchu set a men's record with a time of 30:28.

All proceeds from the UN Day Run have been donated by the organisers to Thai charities, particularly those devoted to helping people with disabilities, especially children. These include the Pakkred Home for Children with Disabilities (100,000 baht), Outward Bound Thailand (55,000 baht), and the Special Olympics Thailand (50,000 baht). Over 7,000 men, women and children completed in the annual run organised to celebrate United Nations Day (October 24).

The executive secretary of **ESCAP**, Kim Hak-Su, started the race and awarded the trophies to the winners. The event attracts the largest number of athletes, both local and foreign, of any annual road race in Thailand. The UN Day Run encourages people with disabilities to participate in the event and attracts wheelchair athletes and blind runners. Over 15 nationalities were represented this year. A special "Marafun for Kids" was organised with the kind permission of the Royal Thai Army and held at the Royal Thai Military Headquarters adjacent to the UN Building. Over 150 children under the age of 12 competed.

RESULTS

Men under 39: 1. Boonchu Chantadaecha 30:28; 2. Suthat Karayanakitti 30:49; 3.

Pitat Thatjun 31:04; 4. Sargent Rungruenchai 32:35; 5. Supachai U-basing 32:40

Men over 40: 1. Niwat Oythip 34:22; 2. Boonma Rungmanochai 35:29; 3. Sampas Nakrod 35:49; 4. Jay Cooley 36:10; 5. Suvit Pungpanich 36:54

Women under 34: 1. Masako Chiba 32:49; 2. Minori Hayakari 34:02; 3. Saifon Pienwong 38:00; 4. Chutarat Inthornvichien 41:01; 5. Kanchana Rithlert 41:26

Women over 35: 1. Nantawan Kuttakapan 44:20; 2. Nicha Methanawin 44:44; 3. Lawan Kundee 44:59; 4. Saowanit Kamoldathum 45:10; 5. Urai Sudeerana 47:57

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Media:
s): 2 (*Outlook*)

BANGKOK POST

Date: 5 December 2000



The United Nations Women's Club held a "Millennium Dinner" to raise funds for scholarships and for Thai charity at the Rembrandt Hotel recently. Picture shows Escap's executive secretary Kim Hak-Su (centre), with Mrs Kim (7th right), and club members.

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST Date: 17 December 2000

Page(s): 2 (*Home*)

UNITED NATIONS

Celebrations to mark 54th anniversary

Thailand active in peace-keeping role

Post reporters

The Foreign Ministry will step up public relations work about the United Nations in commemoration of the 54th anniversary of Thailand's joining the organisation, a senior official said.

On Dec 16, 1946 Lt-Gen Prince Narathip Pongpraphan, head of the Thai delegation, signed an Instrument of Adherence at UN headquarters in New York, making the country the 55th member of the organisation, said director-general of the International Organisations Department Laxanachantorn Laohaphan.

As part of this year's celebrations, the ministry plans 13 "outreach" activities, particularly targeting youth and the media, she added.

Thailand has been active in supporting UN peace-keeping operations by sending five soldiers to the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission since 1991, five police officers to the UN mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina and five soldiers early this year to the UN mission in Sierra Leone.

Since May last year, Thailand has been active in East Timor, with the UN mission. Lt-Gen Boonsarng Niempradit has headed the UN peace-keeping effort since August, to which Thailand has contributed 700 soldiers.

UN Commission Launches Video S Promoting Development As Human

United Nations (New York)
PRESS RELEASE
April 27, 2001
Posted to the web April 27, 2001

Email
Print

United Nations

The first-ever video film series aimed at explori development as a human right was launched t Bangkok, the United Nations Economic and S Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) announced.

According to ESCAP, the series -- "A Matter of looks through the prism of Asian and Pacific e and social issues to explore different facets of to development, from the basic provision of saf water to healthy lifestyles for older persons, in attempt to explain and popularize it as a conce fundamental message of the series is that the ordinary citizens to the basics of life, such as n and adequate income, is as much a part of hu as the right to liberty or freedom of opinion, " s ESCAP's Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su at t

As for UN High Commissioner for Human Righ Robinson, she expressed her conviction that " without hesitation, commit to promoting the rig development, to achieving better clarity and br consensus on its requirements for implementa reducing the politicization that has surrounded past, and to working for its realization for all pe ESCAP's videos are an important step in educ people and sensitizing the media to this import

Tuberculosis Cases
Set to Double

Topics
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Currencies

Sport
Soccer
Athletics
Olympics

Health & Medicine
AIDS

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Books
Music
Children
Education
Environment
Press & Media
Pan-African Issues
Religion
Science &
Technology
Travel
U. S. & Africa
Women & Gender

"A Matter of Rights" -- which comprises 52 five features -- was a collaborative effort by ESCA Worldview International Foundation and YA*T Asia Television), with the support of the Gover Norway.

The series will be broadcast throughout Asia a Pacific and made available to non-government organizations and educational programmes.

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The Synergos Institute is helping build foundations and leadership in Southern Africa.

4.2 Executive Secretary of ESCAP

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):
Press/Media: THE NATION Date: 1 May 2001
Page(s): 2c (Focus)

Focus on quality of life

After nearly two years of collaboration, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Worldview International Foundation, and Young Asia Television, with the generous support of the Government of Norway, have produced a ground-breaking television series entitled *A Matter of Rights*.

Through the prism of social and economic issues in the Asian and Pacific region, the series explores different facets of the Right to Development, from the basic provision of safe drinking water to healthy lifestyles for older persons, in an attempt to both explain and popularise it as a concept.

This series brings to audiences images that make it clear why development is a fundamental right to which all human beings are entitled. It interprets the Right to Development in day-to-day terms. The fundamental message of the series is that the access of ordinary citizens to the basics of life, such as nutrition and adequate income, is as much a part of human rights as the right to liberty or freedom of opinion.

The series has been made available to public broadcasters and selected NGOs throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and details on its airing in Thailand are being arranged.

For more information, write to United Nations Information Services/ESCAP UN Building, Rajdamnoen Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, call 288-1234, or e-mail unisbkk.unescap@un.org

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST

Page(s): 13 (POSTBAGS)

Date: 7 May 2001

There's a human rights role for Escap

The just-taken decision by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights not to re-elect the United States, an exceptional move, is bound to draw a few comments. It might save valuable space in your newspaper if, from the start, the following premises are agreed upon:

Human rights as proclaimed by the United Nations are universal — ie, they apply in respect of every human being everywhere in the world. They are also indivisible: a government is not justified in retaining one and discarding the other — for instance, trading economic and social rights for civil and political rights, or vice versa.

Those countries where universal human rights are infringed upon and where state authorities have not condemned such infringements and clearly committed themselves to their eradication have no business being members of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Included on the list are those countries that officially approve of and practise the judicial putting to death of minors and demented persons, that dehumanise women (and men) on the basis of religious beliefs, for which the welfare of the planet must axiomatically come second to their national interests, and who forbid the free expression of opinion and non violent political action on the basis that the government knows better. Allowing such countries to sit on the UN Human Rights Commission, except as observers, is not conducive to a sound development of universal human rights.

On May 2, the executive secretary of Escap (the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) was laudably and arrestingly pondering in your newspaper a rejuvenated course of action for his organisation. Here, it seems, is a field which has been sadly neglected in the past, in which Escap enjoys a definite comparative advantage (for who better than the UN has defended and promoted human rights and is in a position to educate governments in this respect?).

I suggest that among the new offices to be established at the Escap secretariat, there should be one dealing with human rights issues and that any new Escap-business community council should deal with those issues.

Emilia von Katz

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s):
Date: 3 October 2000

MISC

Hopes for Escap

Kim Hak-Su of Korea, the new man at Escap, hopes to put some spine into the Bangkok-based UN office. He sees Escap as an observer at Asean meetings. He wants closer ties with development agencies, and less bureaucracy within Escap itself.

INTERVIEW PAGE 14

PRESS CLIPPINGS

TOTAL PAGE(S): 2

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): 14

Date: 3 October 2000

INTERVIEW / KIM HAK-SU

New man keen to inject new life into UN agency

Escap, for many the epitome of bureaucracy, has a new executive secretary. And he plans to make the UN agency more relevant.

ANURAJ MANIBHANDU

Many people think the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is the region's most boring talk shop. Others think the 53-year-old organisation, whose 61 member states together hold $1 trillion in foreign exchange reserves, is one of the fattest cows for bureaucrats and experts around the world to milk in the name of development.

Kim Hak-Su, Escap's new executive secretary, intends to dispel both these perceptions by focussing on the "operational" side of the commission's work, and by making it cost effective. He also plans to build strategic alliances with the Asian Development Bank, which is a product of Escap, and the United Nations Development Programme, which is not.

In addition, he seeks a more practical partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and observer status with other regional organisations and processes like the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum, the Asia-Europe Meeting and the Asean-Plus-Three, most of whose participants are also members of Escap. Mr Kim also wants linkages with regional think-tanks.

The first Korean to hold the top job at Escap has five years to accomplish this mission, and the taxpayers of the member countries, who include the world's richest and poorest, have as much time to make sure that they benefit from it.

Mr Kim's predecessors have been P.S. Lonakathan and Chakravarthi V. Narasimhan of India, U Nyun of Burma, J.B.P. Maramis of Indonesia, S. Kibria of Bangladesh, Rafeeuddin Ahmed of Pakistan and Adrianus Mooy of Indonesia.



Kim Hak-Su — ESCAP/UNIS PHOTO

In the three months since assuming office in July, Mr Kim has concentrated on putting Escap's house in order. High on his hit list is the so-called empire building within the organisation which started life in 1947 as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

"The divisions have their own feudalistic empires," he said, pointing to the 15 newsletters that seven separate divisions produce on a regular basis, in different sizes, designs and depths.

Mr Kim, a trained economist who has held executive positions with Daewoo and Acwoo, plans to halve the number of newsletters and to insist on a single design to project a "corporate identity".

Overall, his aim is to "revitalise" the agency, which he stresses means maximising "given resources", rather than to "restructure" it, which would mean cutbacks in the 700 staff. To this end, he recently invited the United Nations Office for Project Services to spend a week engaged in a pre-evaluation exercise before a longer, functional analysis is conducted later this month.

Mr Kim does not deny that Escap is a talk shop but argues that the meetings are "mandatory". The 10 existing global conferences, on subjects ranging from youth and women to climate change and bio-diversity, for example, demand that Escap as a regional UN organisation conduct follow-up consultations among ministers and experts, he said.

Escap devotes "tremendous resources" to the formal, ministerial meetings in terms of interpreting services in the four official languages — English, French, Russian and Chinese, as well as translation of official documents into these languages, he said.

The four languages are spoken by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the US being the fifth, who are also members of Escap.

Mr Kim promises to shorten the meetings and, more importantly, to take Escap beyond the talking to producing "tangible options", or models for regional governments to solve their problems.

Many of the staff still think that work ends after a workshop is conducted and proceedings are published, he said. "We must provide member countries with something tangible."

Towards proving his point, on Saturday he visited two slum communities in Bangkok that are part of the "human dignity initiative" launched in March.

"I will concentrate on poverty alleviation in a practical way." This means

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST | Date: 3 October 2000
Page(s): 14

transferring the "proven best practices" of the region — like South Korea's *saemaul undong* (new village movement) development strategy, and the micro-credit system of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh — to Escap's poorer countries.

Before adopting a model, Escap has to establish its effectiveness on a region-wide basis. Member states do not always appreciate Escap's initiatives — for instance, Burma's opposition to a recent bid to sensitise the Mekong sub-region countries to the problems of sexually abused and exploited children.

But an Escap resolution is an "obligation" on member states and that is the "good thing" about the commission, he said. He was however lost for words when reminded of Burma's defiance of several UN resolutions.

As for Escap's adoption, at Thailand's instigation, of the coming decade as the Mekong Development Decade, Mr Kim stressed the need to avoid work duplication.

Escap would assist trade and investment facilitation, and transport, but would steer away from human resources development as Asean is already engaged in this, with Singapore giving English language lessons to former Francophone countries in the sub-region.

In the transport sector, Escap is not duplicating the work of the ADB, which is more interested in infrastructure. Instead, Escap is proposing wide ranging connections from Asia to Europe by land, rail and sea.

But duplication clearly is a sore point and a main reason why Mr Kim wants Escap to establish alliances with regional think tanks.

"We must know what others are doing. From there we can find our own niche. Without knowing, if we make our proposal, maybe somebody else is already doing that. Then there is duplication possibility. That's why Escap is often said to be duplicating many things.

"Other agencies have more money, better political support. If we compete with them without knowing what they are doing, Escap will always be second or third class. That's why I want to make Escap first class."

Mr Kim plans to do this by gathering Escap's thinly spread resources and narrowing them to core competences, which now include transport and statistics, where Escap is now the only agency developing a poverty indicator, and environment and energy.

To these, Mr Kim wants to add poverty alleviation and the quick detection and tackling of emerging social issues, like population ageing.

Mr Kim regards Apec, Asem, and the Asean-Plus-Three (China, Japan and South Korea), as "emerging glamorous organisations" towards which Escap must be 'assertive".

"We cannot make alliances or partnerships with them. They have their own agenda. But so far we are totally left out," he said, noting that Asem was holding its third summit in Seoul, the capital of his own country.

"We want to pursue observer status and follow up what they are doing. We must know what they are doing first, then we propose our proper role. How? We can say to these new Asian bodies that we can reflect your ideas to the UN system."

But perhaps the UN system, with all its encumbering rules and procedures, is exactly what these Asean bodies want to avoid. That heavy luggage of the UN might be Mr Kim's biggest hindrance as he tries to shape a regional commission and make it relevant to the community.

국문기사 키워드 상세 조회 본문을 에디터로 출력 인쇄

◆ 김학수 ESCAP사무총장, 여성 정치참여 확대 촉구

발생부서 국제뉴스부 작 성 자 김성경 송고일 20001004

발 생 처 방콕 기사번호 09-20001003-063-00

(방콕=연합뉴스) 김성경 특파원= 김학수 아시아.태평양 경제사회위원회(ESCAP) 사무총장은 3일 현대사회에서 여성들의 역할이 점점 중요시 되고 있기 때문에 여성들은 행정이나 정치에 적극 참여해야 할 것이라고 촉구했다.

김학수 ESCAP 사무총장은 방콕의 유엔회의장에서 '유엔인간거주회의의 날'을 맞아 열린 '도시행정과 여성의 역할' 세미나에서 여성은 세계 인구의 반이상을 차지하고 있으면서도 도시행정에 참여하는 숫자가 극소수에 지나지 않는다면서 여성들의 행정기관이나 정계 진출이 급속히 늘어나야 할 것이라고 강조했다.

그는 여성의 도시 정부 진출을 늘이기 위해서는 우선 지방정부 지출을 그 말단으로 삼을 것을 권고했다.

지방 정부는 여성이 상대적으로 들어가기가 쉽고 선거운동 비용이 적게 들 뿐만 아니라 지방정부 차원의 이슈들은 여성의 정치 참여를 독려하는 경우가 많기 때문이라고 그는 지적했다.

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여성 지도자들은 상대적으로 인간개발, 사회건설, 환경친화적 개발에 더욱 초점을 맞추게 될 뿐만 아니라 정치적 스타일에 있어 더욱 투명하고 합의지향적이며 포용적일 수 있을 것으로 지적됐다.

김학수 사무총장은 ESCAP은 일본정부의 지원아래 2001년 아시아 태평양 여성시장과 각급 의회 여성의원 정상회담을 개최할 예정이라고 밝힌다.

Press/Media: UN BRIEFING AT UN HQs IN NEW YORK	Date: 16 October 2000
Page(s):	

PRESS CONFERENCE BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCAP

Kim Hak-Su, recently-appointed Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), told correspondents at a Headquarters press conference this morning that during his tenure he would concentrate on transmitting and transferring proven best practices in poverty alleviation in the region to other developing countries.

Mr. Kim, a national of the Republic of Korea, pointed to the success of the "new village movement", an initiative which had contributed to the alleviation of poverty in his country during the 1970s and 1980s. Could that programme be replicated in other countries? he asked. The ESCAP must try to experiment in new environments, such as landlocked Viet Nam, Nepal and Central Asia. His programme managers would determine the efficiency of the practice after a one-year trial period and, if it did not work, further analysis would be required.

A second objective of ESCAP must be to help developing countries deal with globalization, particularly in improving: their relationships with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); their trade negotiation skills and tactics; and their environmental negotiations, with regard to the numerous protocols and conventions.

Developing nations had to contend with both the digital and biotech divides, to mention two major issues, he said. The ESCAP had developed electronic-related programmes, specifically "e-poverty alleviation", "e-wireless" and "e-smart village", so that rural people could benefit from the Internet technology revolution.

The importance of detecting and tackling emerging social issues in the Asia Pacific region was a third area of concentration that he wanted to stress. Population aging, sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth, and labour migration were other matters of concern for ESCAP.

In addition to stressing the need to address those issues, he called on ESCAP to become more efficient and productive. Given adequate resources, manpower and budget, the Commission should do better. He said the United Nations Office for Project Service (UNOPS) was invited to evaluate ESCAP's strengths and weaknesses.

There were many agencies, including the Asian Development Bank, which were doing work similar to ESCAP and efforts must be made to better cooperate and avoid duplication, he said. The establishment of a "Bangkok consensus" with the heads of the 16 agencies based in the ESCAP building there would be a positive step.

During his three months as Executive Secretary, he had attended high-level meetings in Jakarta on financing for development and in Kitakyushu, Japan, on environmental issues. The meeting in Kitakyushu had been especially symbolic as the city had endured the effect of 80 tons of industrial pollution, but was now the cleanest city in Japan. Today 13 of the world's 15 dirtiest cities were on the Asian continent and ESCAP was playing a leading role in making clean cities a priority. The member countries of ESCAP had adopted measures to improve the urban environment, as well as taking action on transboundary air pollution, coastal pollution, biodiversity and climate change.

He noted ESCAP's work in the area of transport, particularly in the design of Asian railways and highways. At present, the Commission was involved in linking the trans-Siberian railway, the trans-China railway and the Asian highway. The ESCAP's expertise and experience in that area could not be matched. Statistics was another field in which ESCAP had done "pioneering work". Also, ESCAP's disability programme had achieved international recognition.

A correspondent wanted to know whether Mr. Kim had a plan to assist the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its new relationship with the United States and the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim noted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a member of ESCAP, which entitled it to help from the Asian Development Bank. If normalization occurred, soft loans from the Bank would automatically accrue to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The ESCAP could also help in microeconomic and statistical processes. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea would also benefit from ESCAP's transport efforts.

In closing, Mr. Kim said ESCAP had assumed a leading role in: financing for development, supporting the mobilization of domestic resources, as in the case of the Bangladesh micro-loan scheme; foreign direct investment, as had occurred in China's economic boom; and traditional official development assistance, which had been declining.



Associated Press

KIM HAK-SU

United Nations under-secretary-general and executive secretary of the Bangkok-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Breaking the Poverty Cycle

Cut arms spending, learn from others — and use reserves

Over 37 rich and poor countries met in Jakarta in August to discuss how to finance development. They had waited seven years for this regional United Nations consultation. On the second day, a bomb exploded in a plush diplomatic enclave. The media's attention was diverted away from the pressing agenda of how to help the region's poor break the cycle of poverty. Pity, because the U.N. participants deserved a hearing. They were, after all, trying to find ways to break the shackles of poverty, to prevent those bombs that are the result of anger and frustration.

Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh and internationally known for extending micro credit to the poor, often tells development experts: "Poverty is not created by poor people. It is produced by our failure to create institutions to support human capabilities." I could not agree more.

Poverty figures seem daunting, almost impossible to overcome. Over 1.3 billion people, about 22% of the world's population, survive on less than one dollar a day. Another 1.6 billion live on $2 a day. "The combination of extreme poverty and inequality between countries, and often also within them, is an affront to our common humanity," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Millennium report bluntly states. Leaders have been urged to take action to at least halve the number of the world's poor by 2015. Add other challenges such as controlling population, meeting health needs, and providing safe drinking water and education, and clearly we have our work cut out.

Turn the poor into a living asset by recycling foreign exchange reserves in our region. A "swap" system should lower high interest rates, which limit growth

There is no magic formula to reduce these dismal figures. We can continue to think intelligently, however, and draw inspiration from how some countries have overcome their problems while we work toward solutions that will benefit all. What else can we do? The obvious, for one thing, such as cutting military spending, which according to a recent U.S. study is at a historic high for developing countries — $232 billion in 1997 — accounting for 28% of world military expenditure.

We can also use the power of ideas by learning from each other. For instance, I was recently in Kitakyushu, a coastal city in Japan, for a U.N. conference on environment and development. The citizens of Kitakyushu — one of four industrial centers that fueled Japan's post-war reconstruction — were proud that they had turned their "sea of death" into "a sea of plenty." They cleaned up the pollution by ensuring that local government, society and industry worked together. Women had led the Blue Sky brigade, as the city's grassroots movement was dubbed.

In South Korea, another "best-practice" initiative is the *saemaul undong* (new village movement) development strategy. This encourages rural people to assume a pioneering attitude and leadership and responsibility for their actions. From an economic point of view, this strategy lays the foundation of agricultural production and contributes to an increase in farm income through the introduction of scientific methods.

We have a duty to strengthen the weakening positions of developing countries in the face of globalization. ESCAP was formed in 1947 to help in post-war construction and has 61 members ranging from wealthy countries to tiny Nauru in the South Pacific. All of them need to be alert to the coming changes and — not least to reap the benefits of information technology in health and education — to learn about development from their neighbors. And we need to see how well our communities are structured to detect and tackle social problems such as human trafficking, the care of the disabled and elderly, and education for girls. We must listen to local voices while maintaining our global vision.

Can wealthy nations help bridge the poverty divide? One idea is to turn the poor into a living asset — not as preposterous as it may sound. There are about $1 trillion in foreign exchange reserves in the region, invested mostly in New York and London. Could we recycle these reserves within our region so that poor countries benefit? One of the top priorities should be to bring down interest rates in developing countries. This can be done by cautiously developing capital markets and introducing risk management strategies and guarantee systems. High interest rates kill investment opportunities and lower economic growth.

Let's consider a "swap" system under which rich nations would transfer some of their foreign exchange reserves to central banks in poor nations facing capital shortages. Instead of these nations borrowing from lending institutions such as the International Monetary Fund when they are short of foreign exchange, they can undertake a kind of swap as a form of risk management. Several banks can share the risk, and consequently interest rates will drop.

With official development assistance well below the U.N. target of 0.7% of GDP — it was less than 0.3% last year — this is an urgent matter. The poorest countries depend on ODA. Setting goals to reduce poverty is an essential part of the way forward. Goals cannot be imposed but can be adopted. We may not have found a formula to prevent bombs from being thrown in desperation, but at least we can try. ■



유엔 서열 5위 고위직에 오른 한국인

金學洙

유엔 사무차장 겸
아시아 태평양 경제사회
이사회 사무총장

1938년 경북도 안동출생 1950년 안동초등학교 졸업 1956년 경기중고등학교 졸업 1974년 동국대학교 대학원 경제학과 졸업 1977년 미국 사우스 캐롤라이나주 대학원 졸업(MBA)

조국을 떠나니 위대해졌다!

●경제관료→大宇총지 사장→商대통령 설 나리 경제고문→귀국→UNAIS무차장역 국제인 경력

●한국인은 까리까리한 돌대기는 다른 고차이 큰개 희된다니

級 相 益 편호식

「지금 유엔에서 재미있는 프로젝트가 진행중이야」

유엔 아시아 태평양 경제사회이사회(ESCAP:Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific 유엔 경제사회 이사회의 한 부분으로 설치된 ECAFE의 후신. 본부는 방콕. 年1회 총회가 열린다)에 파견 근무중인 반동석 부이사관이 알려주었다. 그는 나의 오랜된 친구였다.

「뭐가 재미있는데?」

「에스컬레이터 아시아에 거미줄같이 설치되어 있는 철도망을 한반도와 연결시키는 작업을 하고 있는거지. 성공하면 부산에서 중국이나 러시아 몽골 그리고 유럽 어느 나라도 마음대로 여행 다닐 수 있는거지」

철의 실크로드가 열린다는 소리였다.

「유엔에서는 원래 아시아 남부노선을 개발하려고 중점을 두었었지. 그런데 그게 한국인이 치음으로 사무총장이 되니까 개발계획도 방향을 바꾸는 거야」

한국인의 주도로 아시아 철도의 밀그림이 그려진다는 소리였다. 유엔 아시아태평양 경제사회이사회의 책임자가 한국인이라는 말에 강한 호기심이 일었다.

「어떻게 한국인이 그런 영향력 있는 자리에 올랐지?」

나는 되물었다. 40년 후반인 내게

주요경력	
1960.4	한국은행 조사부 금융조사실장
1966.2	한국은행 조사부 금융제도실장 조사역
1969.1~1979	상공부 차관 · 장관
1969.10~1970	한국은행 조사부부 국민경제연구소장
1971.1~1973.1	한국은행 총재 겸 금융통화위원회 의장
1977.8	재무부 국제협력관실장 역임
1978	대한무역진흥공사 사장 역임
1979.4~1981.9	한국능률협회 회장 역임
1981.3~1985.3	국제연합 UNDP 개발능률국 경제고문관
1981.9~1983	한국경제연구원 원장 역임
1989.10	대한상공회의소 산업연구원 초빙연구위원 겸 국제경제부
1990	한국종합금융주식회사
1993	세종연구소 객원연구원
1994	대한민국 국제자구 협력단 초대 사무총장
1998.6~2000.4	한국상공회의소 명예회장 역임
2002.4~2011	별세하실 때까지 한국경제사회발전연구회 이사장 역임

있어 유엔이란 항상 가난한 우리에게 한 조를 주는 존재로 인식해 왔기 때문이다.

「한국인이 유엔사무차장 겸 아시아대평양 경제사회이사회의 책임자가 된 것이 우리 앞의 세계로 나라 안에서 같투해온 연연하는 사람들에게는 이해석인 일이기.

우리 정부가 유엔 회원국을 설득로 외교 교섭을 벌인 결과 2000년 7월1일 유엔 사무차장 겸 아시아태평양 경제사회이사회의 사무총장직에 한국인 송상석(김학수 63세)씨가 임명됐다. 그 자리는 유엔서열 5위의 고위직이다.

송상석씨란 인물은 유엔 전체의 경제성장에 관해 이익익을 제안하는 로라이닌 유엔 사무총장의 참모이며 동시에 엑스캡(ESCAP)의 사무총장으로서 60여명의 각국 브레인들을 거느리고 아시아 61개 회원국의 경제 사회문제를 지휘조정하고 있다는 것이다. 특히 최근에는 아시아 경제 사업과 고속도로 그리고 해운개방에 관한 역직품기자로 추진중이라는 것이었다. 또 동시 부이사관이 관련된 소개를 덧붙였다.

「외국에서 오래 살아서 한국에는 별로 알려지지 않은 학이한 인물이야. 환갑이 된된 님은 경제학지인데 혼자서 남태평양 신흥독립국들로 가서 그 나라의 경제개발을 담당했던 분이야」

진이 세계인이 되어 국제적 경험을 많은 그에게 강한 호기심을 느꼈다. 나는 술잔을 사무총장의 축근 참모노릇을 하는 민동식 부이사관의 도움을 받아 술잔을 권하기로 했다.

곧난 초 나는 아시아태평양 경제사회이사회(ESCAP) 본부가 있는 방콕으로 날아갔다. 유럽과 대륙식으로 지은 웅장한 본부 건물이었다.

세계인이지 한국인

「어서 오십시오」

최관 유학길발 입에서 배달의 老신사가 부드러운 목소리로 나를 맞아 주었다. 갈색얼굴에 흰색 와이셔츠를 받쳐입은 산뜻한 차림이었다. 검색의 치은 적상이 소박하게 실물 속으로 놓여 있었다.

나는 그의 안내를 따라 옆에 있는 회의실 소파로 가서 앉았다.

1분을 조개 쓰는 그의 시간을 아끼기 위해 나는 그의 참모인 민동식 부이사관으로부터 이사아 참모장 구축 등 관련 자료를 받았다.

—유엔 사무총장이자 아시아태평양 경제사회이사회의 사무총장으로 한국인이 된 의미는 큽니까?

「한국도 작년만 보다가 이제는 국제기구의 분담금을 유엔이는 나라가 됐습니다. 돈을 내는 만큼 국제기구의 지배도

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에동맹는 축분이 있습니다. 유럽이 많은 분담금을 내는 일본은 국제기구의 고위직 진출을 오히려 권부터 해왔습니다.

마쓰우라라는 분이 유네스코 사무총장을 했고, 니시시미씨가 세계보건기구 사무총장을 했습니다. 경제력을 비상으로 일본은 엄청난 숫자의 자리를 배정받았어요. 그에 비하면 한국인에게 할당된 부분은 아직 너무 미약하지요.』

그는 한국의 젊은 브레인들이 국제기구에 오지 않는 것을 아쉬워했다. 많은 시험들이 이이들 교육문제와 필요한 국제기구에서의 업무 제문제 오기를 꺼린다는 것이었다.

金大中 대통령이 말이하…

그가 날개 된 에스캡 사무총장도 일본인이 그동안 주로 맡아왔다고 했다. 그 말은 아시아 주요 정책을 일본이 실질적으로 주도했다는 의미였다.

『국제기구에 인상을 끼친 나은 한국인은 누가 있습니까?』

『한승대 박사가 WHO의 서대평양지역 본부장을 하셨고 김학주 박사가 유네스코 사무총장을 했습니다. 김철수 장관이 WTO 사무차장을 했습니다. 국제무대에서 한국의 별인권을 강화하기 위해서는 좀 더 국제기구의 고위직으로 진출들을 해야 할 것 같습니다.

유엔 사무제 상임기도 한 그는 아시아의 경제사회문제를 유엔에 전담하는 역할도 했다. 그것은 유엔의 실질적 기능을 강화하는 건설적인 것이다.

『한국의 경우에는 남북의 대치상황이기 때문에 엄청난 손해를 많이 보았습니다. 북한과 경쟁하는 입장이라 이번에도 비상임 자리를 빨래이시아에 빼앗긴 뼌했지요. 남북이 서로 상대방을 헐뜯으면 그 피해가 서로에게 가는 겁니다.』

북한에 대한 그의 태도는 아주 조심스러운 듯했다. 그가 설명을 계속했다.

『유엔 코피아난 사무총장이 세계의 정치역학관계자들가 자신의 친소관계를 계산해서 사무차장을 임명합니다. 제가 이 자리에 오르게 된 이면에는 金大中 대통령께서 부탁을 해 주신 게 큰 도움이 됐습니다.』

얘기하는 도중인데도 수시로 외국인들이 조심스럽게 그의 눈치를 살폈다. 아마도 업무결재나 의논을 위해서인 듯했다. 나는 먼저 그에게 아시아 전도망 인간에 대한 소망을 부탁했다.

『지금 남북정도 인권문제가 국내에서 논의되고 있습니다. 저는 그 문제도 조금 시각을 넓히서 아시아문제의 일환으로 논의하면 더 쉽게 큰 일을 해 낼 수 있다고 생각합니다. 아시아는 중국, 러시아, 동남아 나라라다 권역체계도 다르고 철도의 복도 차이가 나요.

유럽으로 가는 철도문제도 한국 정부의 차원에서 알일이 천도가 지나는 국가와 협의하더면 시간도 걸리고 체제문제도 걸리 일이 한들죠. 그랬지만 유엔 아시아대평양경제사회이사회에서 아시아 61개국의 교통관련부처들 열이 동의를 얻으면 일기에 해결될 수 있을 거 아니겠습니까?』

그가 유엔의 장점을 얘기했다. 특히 사회주의권이 붕괴되고 개방되면서 효력이 의제된 기존의 조약이나 협정에 대처되는

새로운 가시적인 시도를 해야 한다는 것이었다. 이런 아시아 사회주의국가 간에는 오랜 전에 맺은 철도협정이 있었다. 그러나 점점 실효성이 적어지는 그런 협정에 우리가 새로이 가입할 가치는 없는 편이 있다.

金學珠 사무총장은 금년 11월 서울에서 60여 개국의 인프라 각료회의를 개최하여 각국의 교통상황이 모여 새로운 세계를 구축하려고 준비중이었다. 이번 러시아의 중국은 발빠른 움직임을 보이고 있다. 러시아의 알렉산드로 철도차관은 우리나라를 방문해서 중국횡단철도를 사용하지 말고 시베리아 철도를 앞으로 사용할 것을 권고하고 있다. 그는 부산에서 함부르크까지 물자수송에서 시베리아 철도를 이용할 경우는 중국 철도를 활용하는 경우보다 컨테이너당 455달러가 싸다고 기자회견에서 발표했다.

이에 대해 중국도 소련철도의 독주를 묵견하고 있지 않은 한국과 철도교류협정을 체결한 바 있다. 金日成을 199X년 벤치에 노동당 중앙위원회 의장과의 회견시에 이런 말을 했다.

「北과 南이 한치만 허물 틈을 많이 할 수 있습니다. 예를 들면 산의주의 개성 사이의 철길을 한 선 더 건설하여 북신으로 만들고 남조선으로 들어가는 중국상품을 남한의 주가만 하더도 기차에서 1년에 4억 달러 이상의 돈을 벌 수 있습니다」

金日成은 너무너무의 구체적 계산도 했던 것 같다. 金日成 저작선집에서 대략적인 이익을 계산해서 결한 내용은 아래다.

「초보적인 계산으로 해 본 다 하더라도 우리가 러시아나 중국 혹룡강성에서 수출하는 물자를 두만강역에서 넘겨받아 동해안에 있는 철길로 날라다 주면 거기에서도 한 해에 10억 달러 이상의 돈을 벌 수 있습니다. 심지 우리는 기반이 없어도 한 해에 15억 달러 이상의 돈을 벌 수 있습니다」

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한국 철도를 아시아 대륙 철도망과 다각적으로 연결

제스캡의 金學珠 사무총장은 남북간의 강의선 복원을 계기로 중국횡단철도, 몽골횡단철도, 만주횡단철도, 시베리아 횡단철도 등과 한국 철도의 다각적인 연결을 추진하면서 그 경제성을 체면하게 분석하고 있었다. 金學珠 사무총장의 머리에는 이러 가지 복잡한 실계도가 이미 그려져 있는 것 같았다. 그의 분석은 이렇다.

「러시아가 시베리아 철도의 활성화를 위한 노력하고 있습니다. 이미 100년의 역사를 가지고 있는 철도지만 사회주의

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เลขาธิการบริหารเอสแคปคนใหม่

นายโคฟี่ อันนัน เลขาธิการสหประชาชาติ แต่งตั้ง นายคิม ฮัค ซู เอกอัครราชทูตในกิจการด้านเศรษฐกิจระหว่างประเทศของสาธารณรัฐเกาหลี เป็นเลขาธิการบริหารของคณะกรรมาธิการเศรษฐกิจและสังคมสำหรับภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก (เอสแคป) ต่อจากนายอาเดรียนุส มูย จากอินโดนีเซีย ซึ่งหมดวาระเมื่อวันที่ ๓๐ มิถุนายนที่ผ่านมา

นายคิม ฮัค ซู เป็นนักเศรษฐศาสตร์ที่มีชื่อเสียงและมีประสบการณ์เรื่องธนาคารกลาง การวางแผนพัฒนา และมีบทบาทด้านการจัดการภาคเอกชนตลอดจนองค์กรระหว่างประเทศ อาทิ เป็นเจ้าหน้าที่ระดับหัวหน้าฝ่ายวางแผนและที่ปรึกษาระดับหัวหน้าฝ่ายวิชาการของฝ่ายความร่วมมือทางวิชาการและการพัฒนาของสหประชาชาติ , ประธานสถาบันการธนาคารฮานิล และเลขาธิการของแผนโคลัมโบประเทศศรีลังกา

New ESCAP Executive Secretary

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed Mr. Kim Hak-Su, the Ambassador for International Economic Affairs of the Republic of Korea, as the new Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, replacing Mr. Adrianus Mooy of Indonesia whose term expired on June 30 this year.

Mr. Kim Hak Su is a well-known economist with noted experience in central banking, development planning and private sector management, and has also played a significant role in international organisations. He had worked as Chief Planning Officer and Chief Technical Adviser under the UN Department for Technical Cooperation and Development and had served as President of the Hanil Banking Institute and Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan based in Sri Lanka.

"A good political leadership always follows good economy"

■ By MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN
Subeditor

KIM HAK SU of Korea, is the new executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap)—a regional arm of the United Nations which deals with issues of economic cooperation, environment and sustainable development, and poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development.

Kim, Korea's ambassador for international economic affairs, has replaced Adrianus Moor of Indonesia whose term expired in June.

Kim was in Manila for a brief visit to meet with officials of the Asian Development Bank and discuss Escap's programs for Asia-Pacific region.

In an exclusive interview with TODAY, Kim discussed Escap's visions and his observations of the economic and social situation of Asia. Excerpts:

What is the purpose of your trip here?
I'M here to meet with [Asian Development Bank] president Tadao Hiyoshi and to promote close collaboration in the area of poverty. I will propose that Escap and ADB exchange staff for about two weeks to find out what both agencies are doing. From there, we can promote a common program and joint research.

The second item that we will discuss is in the area of "electronic-poverty alleviation." Our idea is to help developing countries in terms of information technology, we want to narrow the digital divide between advanced countries and developing countries. We don't want developing countries to stay far behind. We want to build e-rural village economy where people can use the Internet to sell their products. Most rural communities lack electricity and telephone service [which are the basic requirements for Internet connection]. My idea is the wireless type of technology such as solar energy. Instead of telephone cable, we can use microwave in the rural areas. We also want to build an information center for every rural community. This will also serve like e-rural government. If they need to get their birth certificates or other documents they can get them through the Internet.

During the 56th session of Escap, UN secretary-general Kofi Annan underscored Escap's catalytic role in the management of globalization. Will you explain this catalytic role?
AT the recent Millenium Summit, the main discussion was about globalization and poverty alleviation. As Mr. Annan said at the summit, globalization is an irreversible trend. We cannot go back. All countries should be better prepared and benefit from globalization through partnership with the private sector. He is asking me to explore partnership with the private sector.

Many international institutions have noted that the countries which are supposed to benefit from globalization have actually found themselves in the vulnerable position. What lesson has Escap learned from this? Is Escap prepared for the challenges ahead with respect to globalization?
OUR goal is to help the weakening position of the developing countries arising



KIM HAK SU

from globalization. Developing countries don't know how to deal with big organizations such as the [World Trade Organization], the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. They don't know how to best utilize the development of the system; their negotiation strategies are weak. This is why Escap is trying to develop a training program on trade negotiation tactics for developing countries.

What do you mean by "weak strategies?" What exactly are the tactics that developing countries are missing?
THERE are many trading negotiations going on and in so many new areas. Traditionally trading negotiation means tariff cutting. But now negotiation involves service sectors such as financial services, tourism, shipping and insurance. Service sectors are weak in developing countries. They don't know what they can negotiate with trading partners.

Now, it's not only the traditional merchandise trade that can be found in the negotiation scene. Information technology is one category where developing countries have a weakening position. There's a wide spectrum of negotiations that officials of developing countries should learn and Escap can sensitize developing countries by offering training programs. That way we can help them in a meaningful and substantial way.

International institutions have noted that the IMF-World Bank and their prescriptions are becoming increasingly irrelevant to poor countries. Does Escap undergo some soul-searching to find its relevance to the poor countries in Asia?
IT is widely known that IMF-WB conditions imposed on developing countries are very tough. They were tough in my country, Korea. They have asked for all kinds of reforms such as corporate, labor and public sector reforms.

A critical view has emerged in the academic community that the IMF and World Bank tend to overkill the Asian crisis. Many economists and professors agree that developing countries should be given enough liquidity. The IMF-WB should not get too involved in local reforms. Some of the reforms [dictated by IMF-WB] in North Korea have caused high unemployment and the collapse of social safety network, and even lower middle class suffering.

The question of to what extent the IMF and WB can get involved in reforms in sovereign countries is still the subject of debate among economists.

Personally, what do you think?
I THINK the IMF and World Bank should keep [their] role as an orthodox central bank, i.e. they should provide the last resort of liquidity shortage rather than getting involved too much in refdrm package. The central bank's role is to manage enough liquidity within the country as a sovereign nation instead of setting conditionalities.

Asiaweek came out with a report last week predicting that the collapse of the peso will trigger another Asian crisis, like what we had in 1997. Do you agree with this?
THERE will only be a temporary adjustment because of high oil prices. Currency speculators are moving around so much money; they are moving at least one billion dollars a day, and this is what will affect us tremendously. But, generally speaking, the second Asian financial crisis will not happen.

Internal violence makes the market nervous and causes industries to lose confidence in the government. But once the political situation stabilizes, everything will be fine. [The conflicts in the Philippines and Indonesia] should be sorted out as soon as possible.

Recently, a local business group here came up with a resolution that says something like "the business community will no longer allow politics to affect the course of the economy." Do you think it is possible for the economy to be independent from politics?
IT'S hard to separate politics from economy. A good political leadership always follows good economy.

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Escap chief allays fears of another Asian crisis

By MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN
Subeditor

A UNITED Nations official said the present instability of currencies in Asia will be temporary, allaying fears of another regional crisis in the near future. Kim Hak-Su, the new executive secretary of UN's Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), disputed Asian economists' prediction that the volatile performance of Philippine peso due to instability of the local politics would trigger another Asian crisis.

Kim, who was in Manila for a brief visit, said the political crisis in the Philippines and the violence in Indonesia would not have much effect on the neighboring countries. But, he said in an interview, "[The conflicts in the Philippines and Indonesia] should be sorted out as soon as possible."

Kim said the instability of regional currencies may be attributed to the oil-price increase in the world market and the focus shift of many Asian countries to the information technology industries. "In the US market, the IT-related Nasdaq collapsed so the IT industry in Asia also went down. But it is not so serious because in the semiconductor industry, a temporary shortage of supply and excess in demand will eventually balance out in the long run."

As for the oil price factor, he said Asia will only have to deal with price adjustments.

"So generally speaking, the second Asian financial

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New ESCAP exec

Kim Hak-Su of the Republic of Korea was recently appointed Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. Mr. Kim replaces Adrianus Mooy of Indonesia, whose term expired.



He has been the ambassador for international economic affairs of the Republic of Korea. A prominent economist, he has vast experience in central banking, development planning, government think-tanks and private sector management, as well as international organizations.

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ESCAP to Focus on Regional Poverty, Globalization Issues

BANGKOK (Nov. 16) XINHUA - The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (**ESCAP**), the regional arm of the United Nations in the Asia-Pacific area, will focus on reducing poverty and helping developing countries cope with globalization in the new millennium, Kim Hak-Su, the **ESCAP** chief said here Thursday.

"We will, in the new millennium, transfer and transmit the proven best practices in poverty alleviation in the region to inspire developing countries to emulate and adapt those practices to their own advantage," he told a group of teachers and students during a speech in the Commerce Faculty of Thailand's prestigious Chulalongkorn University early afternoon.

In various parts of the Asia-Pacific region from South Korea to Bangladesh, he noted, the **ESCAP** poverty-eradication programs have already created some "best practices," such as the Saemual Undong (new village movement) in his native country of South Korea, the Human Dignity Project in Thailand and the Grameen Bank (Bank for Poor) plan in Bangladesh.

"These successful programs will be used as models for **ESCAP** members who are keen to replicate these interesting and innovate practices," he said.

Meanwhile, the **ESCAP**, which is the only inter-govermental forum in the Asia-Pacific region and consists of 52 members and 9 associate members, will adopt strategy to strengthen positions of its developing member states and economies arising from the globalization process.

As the largest U.N. regional organization ranging from the powerful developed countries such as United States and Japan, to tiny South Pacific nations, Kim said he is sure that **ESCAP** can help developing countries deal with globalization particularly in improving their relations with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

He also promised that the organization will continue to enhance its monitoring role to alert countries in the region about the emerging social problems such as population aging, sexually abused children and labor migration.

Finally, the U.N. regional chief said that under its title, the **ESCAP** will go on to play a leading role in the economic and social development of the region by improving and fine-tuning its services with the assistance from the governments, nongovernmental organizations and the general public in the region.

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NewsEdge

ESCAP Works to Eradicate Poverty

(Xin Hua News Agency, Bangkok, 16 November)

Executive Secretary Kim Hak –Su of the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said here on 16 November that in the coming new century ESCAP will focus on resolving the issue of poverty and implications of globalization, so as to further promote steady social and economic development of the region.

Kim Had-Su made the above statement in his speech delivered at Chulalongkorn University. He said, over the past few years, ESCAP has implemented some pilot projects on poverty alleviation in countries of the region, such as the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Bangladesh, and the projects were a complete success. In the coming new century, ESCAP will further duplicate these success stories of poverty alleviation in other countries and areas in Asia and the Pacific and help the countries and areas concerned explore their own path to poverty eradication according to the local conditions.

Kim Hak-Su said that at the same time, ESCAP will help the countries of the region, the developing countries in particular, enhance their capacities to cope with the process of globalization through coordination of relations between these countries and international trade organizations. In addition, ESCAP will continue to play its role of social monitoring and surveillance at the regional level and sound timely warnings about emerging social problems.

Established in 1947 and with its headquarters located in Bangkok, ESCAP has at present 61 members and is the only UN general intergovernmental economic and social organization in the Asian and the Pacific region. It has become an important channel for Asia-Pacific countries and areas to enhance exchanges and cooperation among themselves in the field of economic and social development.

Note by the translator:

This report was filed by Xin Hua News Agency correspondent Yang Qingchuan from Bangkok on 16 November 2000 and was carried by the People's Daily, the most important newspaper in China, on its November 17 issue, on page 7 which is the page for world news.

国　　际

亚太经社会致力脱贫

新华社曼谷11月16日电　（记者杨晴川）联合国亚洲及太平洋经济社会理事会（简称亚太经社会）执行秘书金学洙16日在这里说，亚太经社会在新世纪将着重帮助解决本地区的贫困问题和全球化带来的问题，以进一步促进地区经济和社会的稳定发展。

金学洙是在朱拉隆功大学发表演讲时作上述表示的。他说，近年来，亚太经社会已经在本地区的韩国、泰国和孟加拉国等国开展一些扶贫试点工程并取得了圆满成功。在新的世纪，亚太经社会将进一步向其他亚太国家和地区推广这些扶贫工程的成功经验，并帮助有关国家和地区有针对性地结合当地情况探索自己的脱贫之路。

金学洙表示，亚太经社会同时将通过协调本地区国家特别是发展中国家与国际贸易组织的关系，增强这些国家适应全球化进程的能力。此外，亚太经社会将继续发挥地区性的社会监督功能，对本地区出现的社会问题及时提出警告。

亚太经社会成立于1947年，总部设在曼谷，现有61个成员，是联合国在亚太地区唯一的政府间综合性经济社会组织，它已经成为亚太国家和地区在经济社会发展方面加强交流与合作的一个重要渠道。

Energizing Asia's Growth



By Kim Hak-Su

The writer, a United Nations under-secretary-general, is executive secretary of the Bangkok-based United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The issue of cleaner energy has great significance in developing countries as the way energy is harnessed and consumed can take a terrible toll on the environment. It is in developing countries that the opportunities for the application of sustainable energy options are the greatest, but where the barriers are also numerous. How can Asia fuel its growth with least cost to the environment? That is a question that may be answered in Bali this month at a conference on energy for sustainable development, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Without a doubt governments, businessmen and non-governmental organizations meeting in Bali will have one thing in mind: how to finance the big bill that cleaner energy entails. As one expert wrote in a preconference paper: "A sustainable energy future is the optimist's answer to the pessimist's view of the future of energy and the environment. While the pessimist tends to view an energy future in which energy consumption levels are increasing unabated and environment-polluting fossil fuels continue to dominate the energy fuel mix, the optimist envisions continuing innovation in energy technologies that will enhance efficient use of energy and promote carbon-free energy sources."

Developing countries must view energy problems with urgency. Between 1987 and 1997, energy consumption in the Asia-Pacific region grew 4.5% annually, compared to a world average of 1.5%. It is estimated that energy demand will grow 3.4% annually from 1997 to 2010. At this rate of growth, our region will become the largest energy-consuming region in the world by 2010.

> *"The poor in rural areas suffer from a lack of access to cleaner energy . . . and many urban poor also lack access to modern energy services"*

The poor in rural areas are suffering from a lack of access to cleaner energy. Between 1970 and 1990, almost 800 million people in the Asia-Pacific region's rural areas gained access to electricity. At the same time, however, the rural population grew by almost 700 million people. In spite of the efforts made, 1.3 billion people in rural areas of the region are still without access to the most basic, modern energy service. Many urban poor also lack access to modern energy services.

Noncommercial energy consumption among the poor consists mainly of biomass, such as wood, agricultural waste and animal dung, and is therefore based on renewable energy sources. This does not mean, however, that it is used in a sustainable way. In many cases, this energy is used inefficiently, resulting in deforestation and desertification. It also causes indoor air pollution affecting women and children. The time spent collecting fuel represents a further loss in effort and hence retards rural development. As such, our region has a huge potential for increased utilization of modern renewable energy. The transfer of energy-efficient technologies is vital to further this process.

Beyond this, one-third of the energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region currently is met by oil, and prevailing high oil prices certainly are having an impact on economies struggling to recover from the Asian Crisis. Fuel diversification is one way to reduce dependency, and by that the vulnerability to price fluctuations. Indeed, increasing the share of indigenous, renewable energy resources in the energy mix will also reduce the dependency on imported fuels.

According to a United Nations Development Programme publication, Asia-Pacific governments' subsidies for conventional energy, mainly oil and electricity, amounted to $250-300 billion per year in the mid-1990s. The subsidies may help to ensure disadvantaged groups' access to energy services, but in general they do not support low-level consumers such as the poor (who don't use much energy), nor do they present an incentive to improve efficiency.

By 2005, the annual investment requirement of the energy industry in East Asia alone will be between $150 billion and $200 billion. It is not enough for Asia-Pacific leaders to call for help from the international community to attain sustainable energy development goals. They need to take steps to strengthen their strategic energy-sector policies, and integrate them into their overall economic, social and environmental policies. For poorer parts of Asia, the key is to focus more intensely on the efficient use of renewable energy. Hence, we will all do well to call for a level playing field, in terms of financing, between renewable-energy technologies and heavily subsidized conventional fuels. Moreover, we need to look into a more supportive institutional legal framework to ease market penetration and expansion of renewable-energy technologies. ■



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Interview: Prospect fo Asian Economy "Very Optimistic:" ESCAP Chief (1)
By Yang Qingchuan

BANGKOK, December 9 (Xinhua) -- Although the Asian economy "hiccuped" recently as continues to recover from the crisis which slashed the regio three years ago, its long-term prospect in the new century wil certainly be very optimistic, a senior United Nations official said here Saturday.

"With high saving ra s, sound education system, open market, business-orientated pol ies and other fundamental advantages, the region is set to achiev sustainable growth in the future and eventually become the ma n engine of the world economy," Kim Hak-Su, executive-secretary f the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and acific (ESCAP), told Xinhua during an interview.

"However, recently th region-wide stock market plunge and currency depreciation ha e abated Asian optimism for the economic recovery, which has been oving forward smoothly and quickly until the beginning of the sec nd half this year," said Kim, who is in charge of the main econo ic and social development center within the U.N. system in the A a-Pacific region.

"As a result, some ec omists began to doubt if the recovery is a real one, or are we go g to face another recession?" he said.

Brushing away such wor ies, he said the recent stumble can be explained as a so-called third-year syndrome" which usually happens in the third year after a major economic recession.

"When we look back at he Latin America crisis in 1980s, we will find that there were also some kind of mental hazards in the third year of recovery af r the crisis as people began to take it easy after some tension. he slow-down of the recovery usually happens at this time," Kim noted.

"And that maybe the sa e case for Asia after it has recovered smoothly through 1998, 199 and the first half of this year," he said.

Citing a four-staged "C isis Theory," the U.N. official and economic expert said when n economic crisis breaks out, the first stage is "shock," as peopl did not expect this kind of sudden turmoil. For Asia, that is the scene of 1997.

"Then it is followed by the 'pain' stage. In case of Asian crisis, it was a period of massive bankruptcies, high unemployment rate, huge losses of forei reserve, as what we saw in 1998," he said.

"After that comes the ' ake-up' stage, when all crisis-hit countries in Asia began to earrange and restructure their economy. Finally in 2000 and beyond, the economy will enter the '

readjustment' stage, whe it is recovering more solidly and ready to embrace a splendid fut re," he said.

However, the U.N. offi ial said, in the preliminary period of the "adjustment" stage, w ich is from the second half this year to first half next year, the recovery pace may slow down a little bit due to some external fact rs, notably the U.S. economic soft-landing and the world oil price surge.

"The U.S. economy grew very fast in the first half this year, but since it entered the hird quarter, its hi-tech sector and stock market plunged and its economy growth began to decline. This caused negative effects t Asian economy, which depends heavily on exports to the U.S.," he tated.

"Secondly, the hiking of l price has hurt the balance of payments of Asian countries as well as their economic growth, since most of them are oil-importers," he said.

Despite these difficulties, Kim said the Asian recovery has showed more positive signs this year as various reforms in financial, corporate, public sector and employment and other sectors in most countries of the region are smoothly under way.

The U.N. official stressed that among all the reforms, the restructure of Asia's ailing banking sector is the most crucial factor for fueling a sustainable economic development in the long run.

"The Asian crisis started from financial sector in 1997 when the shortage of capital liquidity could not support the economic expansion. But if the banking sector had injected enough money into the economy, the 'Asian miracle' could continue," he said.

'Up to now, many Asian banks are still weak because they had made excessive loans to property, industry and other sectors during the fast-growing period from 1980s to mid-1990s. Excessive investments then generated huge amounts of non-performing loans which eventually choked the whole banking sector," Kim said.

'So it created a huge and long-term task for Asian governments and concerned authorities to clean the financial sectors which are loaded with heavy bad loans," he pointed out. (More)

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Prospect for Asian Economy "Very Optimistic:" ESCAP Chief (2)

....he pointed out.

The U.N. regional chief noted that some Asian economies have made certain progress in their financial sector reforms by setting up asset management companies and deposit insurance institutions as well as injecting public funds to reactivate ailing banks.

"There is a strengthening banking sector in Asia in general, however, the efforts are not enough, and the efforts should be doubled," he stressed.

Likening the importance of banking system to the whole economy to that of the blood vessels to a human body, he said: "We all in Asia must study carefully and think deeply how to revive our banking system, this can be the solution to our long-term future."

Furthermore, if Asia's banking sector is sound, functioning and able to provide loans to the economy, especially to the high-tech sectors, then the economy as whole can be revived, Kim added.

In other important areas for Asia's economic growth, he said export is one of the most powerful engines for the Asian economy. "If the export machine goes wrong, all other engines can be in trouble," he warned.

Praising China for having a "good engine" to boost economy growth through its strong export, the U.N. official said the country's export performance is "much better" than other countries in the region.

"China would be a major economic power in next 10 or 20 years if the present trend can be maintained," he noted.

As for Japan, the Asia-biggest and world-second economy, Kim said its current economic stagnancy is largely due to the fact that instead of investing domestically or within Asia, its citizens use most of their savings to invest in American and European financial and stock markets where the interest rates are much higher.

"When the majority of Japanese savings is not spent in Japan, their economy is just stagnated and the whole region is affected as well," he said, pointing out it was the huge amounts of Japanese savings that boosted the American stock market.

With a "wealth effect," the Americans now mainly don't create much production and tend to largely earn from the stock markets backed by Japanese savings, he said. "In 1980s, only 17 percent American bought stocks, but by 2000, 71 percent get involved in course," Kim noted.

Instead of sending out Asian capital outside, the economist suggested the Asian economic powers, namely, China, Japan and

South Korea, as well as all other Asian nations to recirculate their capitals within Asia through a regional monetary fund or some capital swap syste

"If Asian countries can cooperate well in the field, then when we face another short l quidity problem as in 1997, the market can be refinanced and recir ulated within Asian countries, and the crisis can be eased or voided, " the U.N. regional chief said.

In retrospect, he sa d, the recession is not all negative because it exposed that there are some "bubbles," or fundamental weakness in the region' economic structure that needs to be adjusted in time.

"So the current rea justment is good and timely for Asia economy, and it will be efit the more sustainable growth in the new century," he said.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that economic growth cannot be achieved without progress in the social well-being of the Asian people in the coming years.

Now Asians not only need "freedom from want," which represents the economic gains, but also require "freedom from fear," which is the social improvement, Kim said.

"Poverty is a major challenge the region faces in both economic and social dimensions. Nine hundred million or nearly 70 percent of the world's poorest population live in Asia, and the number is still increasing," he noted.

He cited globalizat on, e-divide, the disprivileged women, population aging, ille al labor migration, human trafficking, illicit drugs and AIDS as some of the other social tasks for Asian countries to deal with in the future.

"I believe in the n w century, with economic adjustment and social progress, the o erall picture in the region will be more and more bright," the U.N. official concluded. Enditem

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

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Kim for effective ESCAP

New executive secy talks to The Daily Star

By Shahriar Karim

New Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Kim Hak-Su has taken an initiative to restructure the organisation to help the member countries in their development effort in more efficient and productive way.

The initiative would be based on a report prepared by UNOPS that has been given the task to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of ESCAP. The report is expected by January next year.

"I have taken the initiative to ensure more efficient and productive ESCAP and do whatever is needed to ensure a bureaucratic-snag free organisation to play more effective role in member countries' development effort," said Kim in an exclusive interview with the Daily Star yesterday.

This is first such initiative by ESCAP after its birth to make the organisation come up with more sharpened and practical approach.

Sitting at his hotel suite, the new ESCAP chief, who is now in the city to attend the two-day ICC Asia Conference beginning today, talked about his vision for the development of this region and the areas where he wants to make some changes during his tenure.

High on his agenda is to ensure positive directions in key areas such as poverty alleviation, environmental issues and strengthening the negotiation skills of the developing nations in international forums for equitable and sustainable growth of the region.

"The developing and the least developed countries lack negotiation skills, and I want to focus on that area and would arrange training programmes for the member countries for strengthening their trade and environmental negotiation skills," Kim said.

He said that ESCAP would try to come up with

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From Page 12

more sharpened and practical approach based on the experiences of different countries and regions to wipe out poverty from the region.

He mentioned the effort of Grameen Bank and said he was keen to see one of its programmes during his five-day visit to Bangladesh.

He said the principal cross-sectoral challenges facing the Asia-Pacific nations in this century are policy reforms and its effective implementation, promotion of growth for poverty alleviation while safeguarding natural assets and countering negative impacts of globalisation.

Kim promised ESCAP would help the member countries, specially the least developed ones in this region to face those challenges in an effective way and also help them to build necessary institutions.

"I don't want to confine ESCAP in seminars and symposiums; rather I want to go beyond that and provide technical assistance in member countries' development effort."

Shedding light on the region's environmental degradation, the ESCAP executive secretary said they want to focus on urban environment problems as 13 dirtiest cities out of 15 are in Asia and urban population would be around 50 per cent in next 20 to 25 years.

"The environmental challenges of Bangladesh are not different from the overall regional problem, with exception of high population density, excessive pressure on natural resources and competing demand on financial allocation that often leads to focus on short-term goals at the expense of long-term possibilities."

Kim also mentioned the high frequency of natural disaster that Bangladesh face and, at the same time, pointed at the natural advantage of regeneration of natural resources due to abundant rain and fertile ground.

The ESCAP chief feels that environment in Dhaka has slightly improved since 1996, when he last visited Bangladesh although there still is a long way to go. Bangladesh can learn from the experiences of Japanese city Kitakyushu that has successfully got rid of severe pollution.

About the ICC Asia Conference, Kim said this event would play a positive role in bringing the government and private sector closer in the development effort of this region and also would give Bangladesh a better exposure to the world.

ESCAP launches programmes to bridge digital divide and income gap

BANGKOK, Nov. 16 (TNA) – The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will launch programmes to help bridge digital divide and income gap between developed and developing countries in the region, according to ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak Su.

In his address at the Faculty of Commerce, Chulalongkorn University here on Thursday, Mr. Kim, who is also U.N. Under Secretary General, said that ESCAP would develop programmes so that rural people could benefit from the digital or internet technology revolution.

Realizing that new technology offers people a chance to "leapfrog" earlier stages of development and to maximize access to new information networks, ESCAP would also help build digital bridges through its programmes, he said.

Programems on reducing poverty and helping countries to cope with the globalization would also be launched, he stated.

In Thailand, ESCAP would implement the Human Dignity Project, which will involve in five pilot community development projects, to alleviate poverty in urban areas of Bangkok through self-help and self-reliance by the local communities themselves, said Mr. Kim.

"Once proven successful, these pilot projects will be used as models for ESCAP members which are keen to replicate these interesting and innovative best practices", he noted.

ESCAP, which has 61 member countries ranging from powerful developed countries to tiny South Pacific nations, would also help developing countries to deal with the globalization by improving their relationship with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said the ESCAP top executive at the one-day forum, entitled "Asia-Pacific into the New Millennium". (TNA)

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Asias problemer ikke over

FNs øverste sjef i Asia advarer mot å ta for gitt at finanskrisen i regionen er over.

JOHN EINAR SANDVAND

Kriserammede asiatiske land var altfor lite flinke til å gjennomføre nødvendige reformer mens problemene sto på som verst for et par år siden.

Nå, når man igjen opplever solide vekstall, er reformene dessverre blitt skjøvet i bakgrunnen.



FN-mann. *Kim Hak Su*

Slik argumenterer Kim Hak Su, generalsekretæren i Den økonomiske og sosiale kommisjonen for Asia og Stillehavet (ESCAP), FNs regionale arm i området. Generalsekretæren er nå i Norge hvor han i går hadde samtaler med bistandsminister Anne Kristin Sydnes.

Kim, som tiltrådte som ESCAP-sjef i sommer, sier han frykter hva han kaller «tredjeårssyndromet», hvor to år med vekst etterfølges av ny krise.

Asia-krisen i 1997 og 1998 rystet en hel verden, og ga gjenklang også på børsene i USA og Europa. For land som Sør-Korea, Indonesia, Thailand og mange andre betød det en dramatisk nedgang i bruttonasjonalproduktet. Valutaene stupte, arbeidsløsheten skjøt i været og banker og storselskaper ble slått brutalt konkurs.



Panikk. *Den forrige finanskrisen utløste panikk blant småsparere i Asia som så sine sparepenger gå tapt.* ARKIVFOTO: ANAT GIVON/AP/SCANPIX

Men nå kan de tidligere kriselandene vise til meget solid økonomisk vekst. Sør-Korea har allerede kommet tilbake på det samme inntektsnivået som før krisen, mens Malaysia og Filippinene ikke er langt etter. Asia opplever nå i snitt en vekst på rundt 6 prosent.

Likevel: Mye av veksten har vært knyttet til at verdens økonomiske supermakt, USA, har tatt unna Asias eksport, ikke minst av elektroniske artikler.

– Men nå er USAs økonomi i ferd med å sakke. Veksten ventes å synke fra 4 til 2 prosent.

Samtidig har den høye oljeprisen en sterk virkning på Asias økonomier, påpeker generalsekretær Kim Hak Su i ESCAP overfor Aftenposten.

Risikoen er at de samme svakhetene ekspertene påpekte for to år siden nå igjen kommer til overflaten.

– For det ble gjort på langt nær nok for å løse de strukturelle problemene, sier Kim.

Han sier Asia-krisen, som andre kriser, gikk gjennom fire faser. Først kom sjokket, hvor verden med vantro var vitne til at Asias suksessøkonomier falt sammen. Dernest fulgte smertefasen, hvor arbeidsledigheten skyter i været og millioner på ny kastes ut i fattigdom. Fase tre var oppryddingen, før man til slutt nå er gått inn i en periode med ny oppgang og vekst.

For Asias del sviktet det i opprydningsfasen, ikke minst i finanssektoren, mener Kim. Han peker på at bankene i flere av landene fortsatt sliter med en stor mengde dårlige lån. Finansreformer ble motarbeidet eller sådende halvgjort, og da det igjen ble mulig å få solgt eksportvarene og tallene begynte å se hyggelige ut, ble mange av de gode intensjonene glemt.

– Derfor mener jeg de høye vekstallene vi har sett i år må tolkes med forsiktighet, og vi har allerede på slutten av året sett at de er blitt noe lavere, sier Kim Hak Su.

– For Asia hadde det vært bedre om man hadde gjennomført hele den opprydningen som var nødvendig i 1998 og 1999. En rask smerte er bedre enn en langvarig pine. Nå sitter man med uferdige reformer og dermed også tapte muligheter, sier han.

Kim Hak Su regner med at USAs økonomi nå går inn for en såkalt myk landing. Dette vil gjøre det vanskeligere for Asia å få solgt sine eksportprodukter.

– Jeg håper landene vil se disse problemene som en ny mulighet til å sluttføre finansreformene, sier han.

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PRESS CLIPPINGS

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Lover profitt i Asia



Alle asiatiske land ønsker investeringer i telekom og it velkommen, og avkastningen kan være dobbelt så høy som i Europa, lokker Kim Hak-Su, FNs visegeneralsekretær for Asia.

Av GEORG STÅLE BRØDHOLT, Oslo

Sør-koreaneren vurderer utenlandske direkte investeringer som den beste medisinen for å få Asias økonomi tilbake på skinner, og hån ser svært positivt på at selskaper som Telenor velger å satse i Thailand og Malaysia. Det betyr frisk kapital og bedre tilgang til moderne teknologi.

– Kim Hak-Su leder FNs økonomiske og sosiale kommisjon for Asia og Stillehavsområdet (ESCAP). Fra sitt hovedkvarter i Bangkok skal han ivareta interessene til 52 medlemsland fra Midtøsten til Tokyo, fra Australia til Nordpolen. Siste skudd på stammen er Burma, et land som foreløpig har vært lite interessant for vestlige investorer.

Menneskerettigheter

– Hvis man tar hensynet til menneskerettigheter avgjøre, kan jeg forstå at vestlige selskaper ikke velger å investere i land som Burma. Men utenlandske eiere setter gjerne en standard for arbeidsmiljø og ansattes rettigheter som blir retningsgivende for lokal virksomhet, noe som indirekte fremmer demokrati, understreker Kim Hak-Su.

Hensynet til menneskerettigheter har likevel ikke stanset utenlandske direkte investeringer i Kina, som håper å bli medlem av Verdens handelsorganisasjon (WTO). Midtens rike tilbyr politisk stabilitet og opplever en flodbølge av investeringer på bekostning av økonomisk urolige land som Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia og Filippinene – populært kalt de fire tigrene.

Ønsker investeringer. *FNs visegeneralsekretær for Asia, sørkoreanske Kim Hak-Su, er i Oslo for å ha samtaler med norske myndigheter om sosial og økonomisk utvikling. Han vil også ha flere norske investorer i Asia.* Foto SIGMJORN SANDSMARK

Stabilt i Kina

– Kina tilbyr stabilitet, men ikke nødvendigvis noe godt forretningsmiljø, og kunnskapene i engelsk kan være dårlige. Tigerøkonomiene derimot har et godt forretningsmiljø, men en ustabil økonomi, sier Kim Hak-Su.

I tigerøkonomiene sliter bankene fortsatt med misligholdte lån etter Asiakrisen i 1997. Aksjekursene ble halvert etter valutauro og middelklassen mistet både sine formuer og sitt arbeid.

– Myndighetene må raskt ta kontroll over problembankene og gjøre de misligholdte lånene om til aksjer. Deretter er det mulig å selge bankene til utenlandske interesser eller slå dem sammen med livskraftige nasjonale banker, sier Kim Hak-Su.

Japansk modell

Han er kritisk til at mange asiatiske land ensidig har kopiert Japans klassiske modell for masseproduksjon til eksport – deriblant Kina. Riktignok har denne strategien bidratt til å holde hjulene i gang etter at hjemmemarkedene sviktet, men svakheten er at endringer i etterspørselen fra høyteknologi-industrien i USA og høy oljepris kan få store følger – slik man har opplevd i årets tredje kvartal.

FNs visegeneralsekretær etterlyser i stedet en større nasjonal spesialisering og mer vekt på kvalitet og verdiøkning hos produsentene fremfor billig masseproduksjon og nevner Sveits som et eksempel.

– Japan har jo valgt å flytte billigproduksjonen ut og fremstår selv som en stor «think-tank», sier Kim Hak-Su.

Ikke Wall Street

FNs visegeneralsekretær for Asia etterlyser dessuten større japanske investeringer i eget nærområde, for japanerne sparer i dag mer enn de bruker. I tillegg investerer japanske pensjonsfond på New York-børsen, blant annet fordi det hjemlige rentenivået er så lavt. Dette bidrar til vekst i USA, mens Japans egen økonomi stagnerer.

– Japan burde investere sine pensjonsfond i Asia eller i hjemlandet for å skape ny økonomisk vekst. De må dessuten føre en mer konsekvent økonomisk politikk, for i dag vingler de altfor mye, hevder Kim Hak-Su.

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SystemWatch

Multidimensional Change and Regional Response

By Kim Hak-Su

At the dawn of the new millennium, there are undoubtedly high expectations in all corners of the globe as to what the United Nations, as the only universal assembly of Governments committed to the pursuit of peace and security, and economic and social progress, can achieve. The Organization's endeavours to bring about peace and stability in various "hot spots" will continue to be the cornerstone of its efforts. At the same time, dictated by the rapid pace of globalization, expectations will be high for the United Nations to play an ever greater role in the promotion of good governance and democratization, human rights, sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty and hunger.

As the regional arm of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be pursuing several of these concerns in the new century. Indeed, the terms of reference of ESCAP provide the Commission with a broad mandate to "initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activities in Asia and the Pacific, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world".

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations ...

... is a good example of the active search for new coalitions and forms of cooperation by the United Nations, *writes Dutch Minister Eveline Herfkens in her article on global alliances and multilateral policy on page 57.* Members of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, as its name suggests, coordinate their efforts in two areas. Instead of setting up yet another organization, its founders are trying to create a network of alliances. Such networks can help fill the gaps in global governance and get the private sector involved—philanthropic bodies, non-governmental organizations and the business world. In this way, greater pressure can also be exerted on Governments in individual States to adopt a more constructive attitude towards global public goods and, at the same time, provide a more effective United Nations apparatus with the sorely needed room to manoeuvre.

The United Nations mandate has evolved over time, from economic reconstruction and development in the immediate post-Second-World-War period to a broader orientation for development cooperation. It will no doubt continue to evolve, with the changing priorities and requirements of Member States. The countries of Asia are preoccupied with issues associated with rapid development, especially in the wake of the recent Asian economic and financial crisis. These concerns are likely to be further accentuated as the process of globalization gains momentum.

At the same time, it needs to be recognized that the levels of development among ESCAP's membership are diverse, encompassing developed countries, newly industrialized economies, and least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as well as countries in transition from centrally-planned economies to market economies. In order to respond to the diverse needs of its membership, ESCAP has been playing and will continue to play a catalytic role, through a mix of research and operational activities, in spreading the growth momentum from the more dynamic members to the rest of the region; to ensure that growth occurs in a sustainable manner and that wealth is more equitably distributed so as to improve the quality of life of the nearly 900 million of the region's poor.

Since the effects of change brought about by development are multidimensional and require multidimensional responses, there is a need for institutions that can initiate and cope with the multifaceted aspects of change. ESCAP, by virtue of its multi-disciplinary capability, will continue to do so.

The new century presents a golden opportunity for the UN to make a difference—as an organization designed to serve the world's people. As aptly noted by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report *"We, the Peoples"*, prepared for the Millennium Summit: "No shift in the way we think or act can be more critical than this: we must put people at the centre of everything we do. No calling is more noble, and no responsibility greater, than that of enabling men, women and children in cities and villages around the world to make their lives better. Only when that begins to happen will we know that globalization is indeed becoming inclusive, allowing everyone to share its opportunities." ❑

Kim Hak-Su is the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

PRESS CLIPPINGS TOTAL PAGE(S):

Press/Media: **Vereinte Nationen** Page(s):	Date: February 2001

REGIONALKOMMISSIONEN

Erstmals seit dem UN-Beitritt der beiden koreanischen Staaten im September 1991 ist ein Koreaner zu einem der Untergeneralsekretäre der Weltorganisation berufen worden. Dr. **Kim Hak-Su** aus der Republik Korea leitet seit Mitte vergangenen Jahres als Exekutivsekretär die Wirtschafts- und Sozialkommission für Asien und den Pazifik (**ESCAP**) in Bangkok. Den gegenwärtigen Aufgabenbereich dieser Regionalkommission der Vereinten Nationen hatte sein Vorgänger Adrianus Mooy aus Indonesien in dieser Zeitschrift dargelegt (Regionalkommission für drei Fünftel der Menschheit. Die ESCAP an der Schwelle des neuen Jahrhunderts, VN 3/1998 S.95ff.). Kim, der im ländlich geprägten Wonju geboren wurde, studierte in Südkorea, Großbritannien und den Vereinigten Staaten. Seine berufliche Laufbahn begann er 1960 als Volkswirt in der Zentralbank seines Landes; später war er im Privatsektor – unter anderem beim Autohersteller Daewoo – und bei internationalen Organisationen tätig.



Kim Hak-Su

For the first time since the accession of the two Korean states to the UN in September 1991, a Korean has been appointed one of the Under Secretary-Generals of the world body. Dr Kim Hak-Su of the Republic of Korea is leading since mid-year 2000the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as Executive Secretary in Bangkok. The present functions and scope of activities has been presented earlier in this publication by his predecessor Adrianus Mooy from Indonesia ("Regional Commission for three fifth of the world's population – ESCAP at the threshold of a new century", VN 3/1998, p. 95 ff). Dr. Kim, born in rural Wonju, studied in South Korea, the United Kingdom and the USA. He started his professional career in 1960 as economist at the Central Bank of his home country. Later, he worked in the private sector – inter alia at the car manufacturer Daewoo – and with international organizations.

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U.N.'s office in Bangkok announces ``re-engineering'' plans

Bangkok (dpa) - The United Nations' Bangkok-based regional office has launched a ``re-engineering'' programme that will entail trimming projects if not staff, U.N. under-secretary-general Kim Hak-Su said on Wednesday.

Kim, who is also Executive Secretary of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and Pacific (**ESCAP**), said the grouping's members had full endorsed his efforts to make the U.N. body more relevant and effective.

The 57th session of **ESCAP**, which attracted ministers from 61 of the member countries, concluded on Wednesday.

Kim, a former South Korean central banker, said he planned to ``re-engineer'' **ESCAP** by next year.

The process will involve refocusing the office, which has 24 divisions and more than 300 projects underway, on key areas on importance to the Asia-Pacific region.

Kim's priority areas will include - poverty alleviation, strengthening the least developed Asian countries to better cope with globalization and tackling social issues such as Asia's aging populations and the HIV/AIDS pandemic that has already affected 6.4 million people in the region.

While the new executive secretary intends to refocus **ESCAP**, he stopped short of suggesting staff cuts at the U.N. agency, which is notorious even within the U.N. system for its inefficiency and waste.

``If fact, staff cutting is very difficult in the U.N. system, but as the head of a U.N. organization I can redeploy the existing staff by refocusing on areas of priority,'' Kim told a press conference.

ESCAP, however, will undertake ``internal re-engineering,'' and has declined the suggestion that they use an international consultant such a PriceWaterhouse, said Kim.

He has asked all 24 **ESCAP** divisional chiefs to come up with new prospect proposals by the end of this year, in keeping with **ESCAP**'s new priorities, and to end all projects which are making no impact.

Kim said he would approach some ``non-traditional lenders,'' such as the Nordic countries, for more funding for **ESCAP**.

``And in July I'm going to visit the U.K., France, Germany and Italy to test the waters,'' said Kim. ``They don't know what **ESCAP** is doing,'' he said. dpa pj ms

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8 May 01 News/Media: Bangkok Post (Page 10, Opinion & Analysis)

ADDRESS / KIM HAK-SU

New man at the helm has a vision for Escap

The following was presented last week in Bangkok at the 57th session of UN/Escap by Escap executive secretary Kim Hak-su.

For several years, this region enjoyed an unsullied reputation for its economic dynamism. In the aftermath of the Asian economic and financial crisis in 1997, that reputation has been somewhat tarnished. Nevertheless, the region's economic performance continued to strengthen in 2000.

Several developing economies improved on their growth performance of a year earlier. Broadly speaking, a favourable external environment is an essential prerequisite to sustain the region's growth momentum and to complement national efforts in that regard.

Despite the generally improved economic growth performance of the region, uncertainties remain. A few months ago, a much more optimistic scenario was predicted. Uncertainties in the global environment have since tempered that scenario.

An increasingly unfavourable external environment, including the slowdown in the American economy and the lack of recovery of the Japanese economy, is likely to reduce the projected growth rates for 2001 indicated in the United Nations's economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific.

Several other factors are likely to impinge on the region's growth performance: volatility of oil prices; rising levels of public debt; the impact of demographic dynamics; a substantial increase in flows of international migration; and the "push-pull" factor in rural-urban migration and the impact of free-market economic policies.



Kim Hak-Su

Globalisation has served to accentuate the differences between our economies and societies. In an increasingly interdependent world, notions of responsibility and accountability appear to have been cast aside in favour of short-term gains. One has only to look at the development picture of this region to see that the advances made have not been all encompassing.

Widespread poverty in Asia remains endemic. Impressions of progress and prosperity ought to be seen in perspective, especially in terms of contrasts within the region.

At the United Nations Millennium Summit last September, world leaders pledged to eliminate extreme poverty by 2015. Taking the cue from the millennium declaration, I expressed my vision for the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific up to 2005 at a ministerial roundtable. It comprised the following elements:

◆ Transfer of proven best practices of poverty eradication in the region to developing member states, in different environments. There are several illustrations of proven best practices in the region including, among others, Saemaul Undong in South Korea and Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. It is my intention to test these models in, say, a least developed country, a Pacific island economy and a transitional economy to see if we can try to develop an Escap model on poverty eradication.

◆ Reversal of the weakening positions of developing member states arising from and along with the process of globalisation, and strengthening their negotiating position as a consequence of their weak negotiating capacity. Developing countries are being increasingly marginalised through the process of globalisation, liberalisation and rapid advances in information technology. Government officials in many instances are not familiar with the substance and implications of global agreements and conventions and protocols.

Escap, in co-operation with such

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UN ESCAP

News Clippings

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bodies as the World Trade Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) and the United Nations Environment Programme could organise training courses for developing country officials on accession to trade agreements and environmental conventions.

◆ Detection and the tackling of common and emerging social problems and issues in the region. These include, among others, the increasingly serious problem of HIV/Aids and issues relating to population ageing, migration and disability. Escap has a strong social development programme but the tasks ahead are enormous.

When I assumed my present office, I realised that Escap has both strengths and weaknesses. We need to capitalise on the strengths and remedy the weaknesses. I felt the need for an objective professional view and analysis of the situation. Following a series of consultations with United Nations headquarters and the United Nations Office for Project Services, Unops has been contracted to undertake a management consultancy to improve our efficiency and productivity through the introduction of modern management techniques. Let me point out here that several organisations, including Unctad, the UN Industrial Development Organisation, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, International Labour Organisation, Food and Agricultural Organisation and World Health Organisation, have gone through a similar reforms in order to make themselves more relevant in a fast-changing world.

It is clear that Escap cannot go on doing everything. Times have changed. New regional organisations have emerged with their own expertise and areas of competence.

While the first phase of the management consultancy has been largely driven by considerations of "process change", I intend to undertake a broader and more comprehensive organisational change. This will focus on re-engineering Escap's programmes, conference and secretariat structures. I have decided to establish a more systematic and regular impact monitoring system in the secretariat with the results to be used to further enhance the relevance and effectiveness of Escap's programme of work.

It is clear that Escap cannot go on doing everything. Times have changed. New regional organisations have emerged with their own expertise and areas of competence. We need to introspect and ask ourselves some tough questions. Can we claim to be the repository of Asia-Pacific thinking? Can Escap make a difference?

We need to hone in on those areas in which we can claim to have the comparative and competitive advantage, specially in light of resource constraints. We need to adopt more innovative approaches to address issues such as information and communications technology, both internally within the secretariat as well as in helping countries to bridge the digital divide.

Efforts are under way to formulate bigger and better projects involving two or more divisions within the secretariat. I recognise that resource constraints pose a problem but with well-prepared, efficiently managed and good project profiles, I plan to visit the capitals of several non-traditional donor countries as part of a resource mobilisation effort. Eventually, I hope we will be in a position to tap private sector resources. This would be a logical extension of our attempt to reach out to the private sector. I am also engaged in setting up a private sector advisory group, comprising private sector CEOs from the region, to assist and advise me in carrying forward the work of Escap.

Similarly, with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the UN Development Programme, steps have been taken to promote a true sense of partnership.

I am convinced of the need to work more closely with our partners in development, both within and outside the UN system.

05/07/2001 00:28:24

FEATURE: New boss fights to make ESCAP visible

By Peter Janssen, dpa

Bangkok (dpa) - Last November Kim Hak-Su asked an audience at Bangkok's prestigious Chulalongkorn University if anyone in the auditorium had heard of **ESCAP** and knew where it was headquartered.

A few timid hands were raised, but the vast majority of Thai college students were stumped by his questions.

ESCAP, or the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, has been based in a 16-storey building in Bangkok for the past five decades, but most taxis still don't know where it is and few people understand what it does.

ESCAP's new Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su hopes to change that. ``Kim wants to improve the visibility of **ESCAP**,'' said Yoshitaka Kitazawa, Japan's Bangkok-based deputy permanent representative to **ESCAP**. ``We 100 per cent support his ideas and vision.''

ESCAP is the main U.N. agency based in Asia - covering a huge and diverse area that includes Iran, India, China and the Pacific islands - and the only forum for the opinions of 60 per cent of the world's population within the U.N. system.

Kim, whose past career included stints at South Korea's central bank and the giant Daewoo Corp, was appointed **ESCAP** Executive Secretary in June 2000.

Since taking his post Kim has vowed to ``re-engineer'' **ESCAP**, jokingly called ``Sleepy Hollow'' by Bangkok-based diplomats.

His first success came last month, when the new executive director succeeded in persuading the 57th commission session to endorse his ``re-engineering'' efforts and to approve his vision to refocus all **ESCAP** projects to concentrate on three priority areas.

Kim's new focal points include poverty alleviation (appropriate in

a region that claims 800 million of the world's poor), managing globalization for marginalized countries and identifying emerging social issues for the Asia-Pacific, a catch-all that covers a host of challenges such as human trafficking, coping with HIV/AIDS, paedophilia and drug-trafficking.

Kim's first challenge is to illicit enough donor interest to attract new funding for new projects in his priority areas.

ESCAP, one of five such regional U.N. commissions worldwide, receives an annual budget from New York of 28.5 million dollars, 80 per cent of which goes to paying its 171 profession staff and about 200 locally-hired hands such as guards, receptionists and cleaners.

Another 8 million dollars comes from donors to sponsor projects, of which there are about 300 ongoing in a plethora of areas such as transport, geology, environment, pesticides and help for the disabled.

ESCAP's top donors are Japan, the Netherlands and South Korea, but contributions have stagnated over the past decade due to economic constraints and growing reservations about **ESCAP**'s efficiency.

Former donor countries such as Australia, essentially stopped significant contributions to the regional U.N. body a decade ago.

``To create our own new programmes we need money, either from non-traditional donors or from the private sector,'' Kim told Deutsche Presse-Agentur, dpa. He estimated that the commission needs another 2.5 million dollars per annum in donations to implement his new programmes.

To drum up donor support, Kim plans to take his new **ESCAP** vision on a roadshow to Europe, starting next weekend when he attends the 3rd Convention on Least Developed Countries (LDC) in Brussels on May 13.

After the meeting, at which Kim will stress **ESCAP**'s new role in ``managing globalization,'' or assisting the world's most marginalized countries in coping with challenges such as joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), Kim will visit Sweden, Finland, Denmark and The Netherlands in the hopes of persuading

them to contribute to some of his new ``social issues'' projects.

After hitting the Nordic bloc, Kim plans to visit England, France, Germany and Italy in July on another ``sensitization'' tour.

``European countries are more social-issues oriented,'' Kim said, explaining why he's targetting new European donors.

Kim's got his work cut out for him, diplomats said. European embassies in Bangkok have hesitated to provide their full support for Kim's tour in light of **ESCAP**'s past reputation for sloth and inefficiency, while it still remains to be seen if Kim can succeed in making the commission a leaner, meaner, social-economic developing machine.

``New donors would be required to take a great leap of faith,'' commented one Western diplomat.

An Asian diplomat noted, ``For the past ten years, one got the impression that before Kim's arrival **ESCAP** staff were standing in tepid water. They were lazy.''

Kim insisted he will be able to phase out 40 per cent of the existing **ESCAP** senior staffers over the next four years, just through retirements.

As for the rest, he ackowledged, ``Our professionals are actually under-utilized. They are involved in too many small things. My idea is redeployment in my three priority areas.''

``We welcome the change, but it's too early to say whether or not he can do it,'' said one **ESCAP** representative. dpa pj js

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联合国 广播处

华语专题节目

2001 No. 21

联合国与汉城合作反贪
(UN and Seoul Promote Anti-Corruption System)

联合国专家谈香港人权
(UN Expert on Hong Kong Human Rights)

亚太经社委员会执行秘书的改革方案
(ESCAP to Refocus Its Work)

Written, produced and narrated :	Hak-fan LAU/Yongmei Yao/Wei CHEN
Assisted by :	Wei Chen
Duration :	14'52"

****MUSIC BRIDGE****

Narrator: Young people of the Asia and Pacific Region who are not receiving the right education may turn into a lost generation in economic terms and, unless proper support systems are created, they will also be a socially lost generation. So warned Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. At this year's recently concluded annual session, the Executive Secretary called for ESCAP to be more relevant and effective. A revitalization of the agency, he said, is what's needed:

Kim: I call it revitalization rather than reform because ESCAP is doing many areas, economic and social matters, but the outside world has changed and also in the region there are many competing and emerging agencies doing similar works. So I would like to focus our areas of competence in several areas so we can make value added activities.

Narrator: Mr. Kim pointed out that of half the world's1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty, two thirds live in Asia. Poverty, therefore, is one of the three main areas on which he plans to focus:

Kim: The first area I'm focusing on is poverty alleviation. That is all UN system wide priority. In fact our Secretary-General Kofi Annan also prioritized this poverty alleviation to reduce absolute poor by half by 2015. The second area is managing globalization. There are many developing countries marginalized and positions weakened from the process of globalization. How can ESCAP help the developing countries in preparation for trade and environment negations and also ICT areas. Third area will detect quickly and tackle also properly the emerging social issues in our region such as population ageing, child sex, trafficking of people and labour migration. New programmes should be focused in the framework of the next five years.

Narrator: The theme of ESCAP's 57th annual session was *Reducing Disparities: Balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within the countries of the Asia and Pacific region.* The introduction of ICT, that is information and communications technologies, in rural areas, was another topic of discussion. ESCAP members felt ICT could go a long way in bringing about sustainable development and pledged to strengthen ESCAP's activities in this area.

Press/Media: BANGKOK POST
Page(s): OUTLOOK P. 2
Date: 2 JUNE 2001

Rotary lunch

Dr Kim Hak Su, executive secretary of Escap Bangkok, will be the guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Bang Kapi luncheon meeting this Tuesday, discussing "Incentives to Increase Domestic Exports, Niche Products, Niche Markets".

The meeting will be held from noon to 1:30 pm at the Siam Inter-Continental Hotel. Lunch coupon costs 350 baht per person. The lunch is open to the public.

For details contact Mr D. N. Azad on 01-825-3257 or Achara on 01-928-6611.

Press/Media: PRAVDA Page(s):	Date: 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

15:26 2001-09-12

UN DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL SUGGESTS ESCAP-RUSSIA COOPERATION FUND

Kim Hak Su, UN Deputy Secretary-General and executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, has proposed to Russia's Foreign Ministry that a cooperation fund between Russia and the ESCAP should be set up. He was speaking at a news conference in RIA Novosti on Wednesday.

He noted that money from this fund could be used to support Russia's trade with ESCAP countries. In his opinion, export of space technology could prosper. Besides, some of the rouble sums could be used to train personnel in CIS countries for work in this sphere.

RIA 'Novosti'
RosBusinessConsulting
Russian Stock Market
Business - Reuters
Dollar-to-Ruble Currency Rate

Pravda.RU:Economics



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